

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

Board:

J. Bremner, Vice Chair
M. J. Blackmore (*via video conference*)
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin
D. Lang (*via video conference*)
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter
L. Trenaman

Student Trustees:

M. Andersen, LVR
I. Hamilton, CBESS
K. Keyes, MSSS

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (*via video conference*)
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
C. Makeiv, District Teacher Coordinator
T. Malloff, District Principal – Innovative Learning
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Regrets:

S. Chew, Chair
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources

1. Call to Order

In absence of Chair Chew, Vice Chair Bremner chaired the meeting.
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda – Nil

4. Consent Package Questions – Nil

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

25/26-016

THAT the Agenda for this December 9, 2025 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Receiving Public Presentations – Nil

7. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda – Nil

8. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-017

THAT the minutes from the November 4, 2025 Meeting of the Board Held in Public

BE ADOPTED, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking

10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and District Teacher Coordinator Makeiv presented the *Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026*, outlining the district's goals to improve K-3 literacy and numeracy and support priority learners. She noted that the report reviews key assessment data and describes initiatives, professional learning, and resources used to strengthen early learning. She confirmed that the report aligns with SD8's strategic priorities and the ministry's *Educated Citizen* mandate.

In response to Trustees' questions, Assistant Superintendent Holitzki outlined that early registration supports effective planning and staffing, and communication with families occurs through flyers, social media, and newspapers. Data also shows that parents reading to their children has a significant positive impact on academic success.

B. Child Care Provision Update

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the *Child Care Provision Update* and summarized SD8's licensed child care programs and initiatives for 2025-2026. She highlighted the mix of district-operated and third-party child care centers, ongoing collaboration with community partners, and the identified need for additional child care spaces in several communities. She noted that SD8 plans to apply for ChildCareBC New Spaces Funding in 2026 to support expanding child care options on school grounds.

In response to Trustees' questions, Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and Superintendent Smillie provided information related to \$10 per day child care and initiatives around expanding childcare in the region.

C. Graduation Ceremonies 2026

Superintendent Smillie presented the *Graduation Ceremonies 2026* memorandum and shared the upcoming ceremony dates for all secondary schools. She noted that trustees were invited to attend and that a trustee representative would speak at each ceremony.

11. Operations and Finance – Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer

A. Quarterly Capital Update

Director Kerr presented the *Quarterly Capital Update* and outlined progress on projects within the Minor Capital Operations program, the Annual Facility Grant, and the Food Infrastructure Program. He highlighted ongoing work such as lighting upgrades, HVAC

improvements, water system updates, and district-wide initiatives including charging station installations and flagpole replacements.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Announce Committee Representatives

Vice Chair Bremner announced the appointments of committee representatives and alternates:

- Accessibility Committee: Trustee Nazaroff (Rep), Trustee Etheridge (Alternate)
- Joint Safety Advisory Committee: Trustee Trenaman (Rep 1), Trustee Shunter (Rep 2)
- Policy Review Committee: Trustee Etheridge (Chair of Policy, Operations and Finance Committee), Chair Chew (Board Chair), Trustee Lang (Trustee appointment)

13. Human Resources

A. SD8 Recruitment and Retention Framework

Superintendent Smillie presented the *SD8 Recruitment and Retention Framework* and outlined strategies the district adopted to address ongoing challenges in recruiting, retaining, and engaging staff. She highlighted key initiatives underway across focus areas such as training, leadership development, and employee engagement.

Trustees were informed that the district made extra recruitment efforts for bus drivers.

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

• MSSS (Student Trustee Keyes)

Student Trustee Keyes reported that Mount Sentinel hosted the Senior Girls A Provincials, where students supported ceremonies, game operations, and media production, giving many a chance to develop leadership skills. Students created a festive school atmosphere through Christmas activities, including a large school tree and a student-run Christmas market to support the grad class. The Academy PM program earned notable provincial film nominations, recognizing students' hard work, creativity, and dedication.

• LVR (Student Trustee Andersen)

Student Trustee Andersen reported that LVR's arts programs were active with fundraisers, performances, and collaborations, including jazz band, dance, drama, and senior art classes. Sports activities continued with the Junior Boys Basketball invitational and the launch of a new student-led cheer squad. The Health Hub remained busy and that students and staff worked to complete coursework ahead of the winter break.

• CBESS (Student Trustee Hamilton)

Student Trustee Hamilton reported that the school focused on reducing its environmental impact in November following an assembly from local recycling staff, implementing improved sorting systems that successfully cut garbage output by half. Students were preparing enthusiastically for the upcoming Christmas play and beginning rehearsals for the larger annual production.

B. Trustees

- Trustees Nazaroff, Trenaman, Shunter, and Blackmore shared their learnings from attending the BCSTA Trustee Academy.
- Trustee Trenaman was involved in the PVP Pool interview process and gave a shoutout to DPAC for their work.
- Trustee Shunter attended 2 Remembrance Day ceremonies. Learning for Sustainable Future (LSF) sponsored a BC knowledge mobilization session.
- Trustee Blackmore attended a Remembrance Day Assembly.
- Trustee Lang attended a student led Remembrance Day ceremony. She attended the BCPSEA Symposium together with Trustee Gribbin and noted the upcoming BCPSEA AGM in January which will be held online to reduce travel costs.

C. Chair

Vice Chair Bremner attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy and highlighted the role of advocacy for public education in BC. She attended Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meetings and acknowledged all the work IEC members put in, some of them as members of multiple IECs.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Shunter reported that the next Provincial Council meeting will be February 20, 2026 on Zoom.

E. British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)

Trustee Gribbin informed the Board of the BCPSEA symposium which was held virtually and thereby reduced costs and carbon footprint.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Vice Chair Bremner reported that DPAC had their AGM, congratulated the DPAC Chair Michelle Harris to her re-election and expressed her gratitude for the DPAC's efforts towards student success.

G. Other – Nil

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

Superintendent Smillie informed a member of the public that information related to financial reports are published on the district website.


16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders


A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.


Board Chair


Secretary-Treasurer