

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

- Board:** S. Chew, Chair (*via video conference*)
J. Bremner, Vice Chair
M. J. Blackmore
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin
D. Lang (*via video conference*)
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter
L. Trenaman (*via video conference*)
- Student Trustees:** L. Catherall, MSSS (*via video conference*)
- District Staff:** T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (*via video conference*)
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
A. Houshamdi, Manager of IT
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
K. Tamblyn, District Principal
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant
- Regrets:** B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

1. Call to Order

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

In response to a Trustee's question, Superintendent Smillie explained that under AP3309: Student Suspension, if a family does not agree with a suspension, a variety of strategies may be used to navigate the situation, which may include support from partner agencies.

Regarding AP5900: Board Owned Vehicles, revisions were made to align SD8's administrative procedure with practices used in other districts across the province.

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-032

THAT the Agenda for this March 10, 2026 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:** 25/26-033

THAT the minutes from the February 10, 2026 Meeting of the Board Held in Public **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking – Nil

10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and District Principal Tamblyn presented the Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026, highlighting the district's commitment to fostering compassionate learners through social-emotional learning and the promotion of physical and mental well-being. Assistant Superintendent Holitzki noted that the report aligns with SD8's strategic priorities, including creating welcoming and accessible learning environments, strengthening student well-being, building social-emotional skills, and ensuring students feel safe and a sense of belonging at school.

In response to Trustees' questions, Assistant Superintendent Holitzki noted that success indicators continue to be refined at both the school and district levels through ongoing data review. The ERASE reporting tool allows anonymous reporting of bullying, harassment, or threats. Classroom and enrolment data help identify when students leave school, with staff following up with families to understand reasons and maintain connections. The district also ensures privacy compliance when using AI-supported data analysis. Training in trauma-informed responses is provided to bus drivers, custodians, and other staff.

B. Accessibility Plan

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and District Principal Tamblyn presented an overview of SD8's Accessibility Plan and its requirements under the Accessible British Columbia Act. The Assistant Superintendent outlined the district's work to establish an Accessibility Committee, develop the plan, and implement a feedback process. The plan focuses on identifying and removing barriers to improve accessibility and participation for people with disabilities across the district.

C. 2024-2025 Five-Year and Six-Year Completion Rates

District Principal Malloff presented the 2024-2025 Five-Year and Six-Year Completion Rates for SD8 and shared historical trends for comparison. She reported that completion rates have increased over the past five years, with SD8 achieving its highest six-year completion rate to date and continuing to perform strongly compared with the provincial average. She noted that targeted supports, graduation planning, and partnerships with post-secondary institutions contribute to improved outcomes for all students, including Indigenous students and students with diverse abilities.

In response to Trustees' questions, District Principal Malloff and Superintendent Smillie outlined the district's efforts to support more students in graduating with a Dogwood Diploma, recognizing it provides greater post-secondary opportunities than an Adult Graduation Diploma. Increased graduation rates were attributed to academic reviews, new programs such as dual credit, and the ongoing work of district and school teams.

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

A. 2026-2027 Trustee Remuneration

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the annual report on trustee remuneration for 2025–2026. As required per Policy 131: Trustee Indemnity, the rates will be increased by 1.7% in alignment with the change in the BC CPI between December 31, 2024 and December 31, 2025.

B. 2025-2026 Information Technology Annual Report

Manager of IT Houshmandi presented the Information Technology Annual Report. He highlighted key work over the past year, including infrastructure upgrades, cybersecurity improvements, and expanded technology supports for schools and classrooms. He noted that the department continues to focus on maintaining reliable systems, supporting digital learning, and strengthening data security across the district. In response to Trustees' questions, Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur and Manager of IT Houshmandi outlined the department's focus on replacing aging devices with supported and secure technology. Decisions on whether devices are retired, recycled, or refurbished, and device distribution is based on the condition of the devices, cost of repairing vs. buying new devices, and school needs.

C. 2026-2027 Enrolment Projections and Projected Revenue

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2026–2027 enrolment projections for SD8. She reported a projected decline of 109 student FTEs (2.4%), resulting in an estimated reduction of approximately \$983,000 in operating grant funding. She noted that enrolment decline funding and funding protection will partially offset the decrease and that the projections will inform the development of the 2026-2027 budget. The public feedback survey that will feed into the next budget was posted on the website the day of the meeting.

D. Quarterly Capital Update - Spring 2026

Director Kerr presented the Capital Operations Plan Quarterly Report. He provided an update on capital projects and maintenance work underway across the district. He noted that the report supports ongoing planning to maintain safe, functional, and well-maintained school facilities.

In response to Trustees' questions, Director Kerr provided an overview of technical considerations related to lighting upgrades and the charging of electric buses.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Approve 2028-2029 School Calendars

Superintendent Smillie presented the 2028-2029 School Calendars to the Board for approval. Feedback from the public field testing was shared in the agenda package.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-034

THAT the 2028-2029 school calendars **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approve and Rescind Policies

1. Approve Policy 610: Financial Planning and Reporting

Superintendent Smillie presented draft Policy 610, previously titled *Fiscal Management*, to the Board for approval, noting that no feedback was received during the field-testing period.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-035

THAT Policy 610 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Rescind Policy 615: Board Signing Authority

Superintendent Smillie noted that this policy has been incorporated into Policy 610: Financial Planning and Reporting and recommended that the Board rescind the policy in accordance with the Policy Review Committee's recommendation.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-036

THAT Policy 615 **BE RESCINDED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Rescind 620: Budget Development, Monitoring and Reporting

Superintendent Smillie noted that this policy has been incorporated into Policy 610: Financial Planning and Reporting and recommended that the Board rescind the policy in accordance with the Policy Review Committee's recommendation.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-037

THAT Policy 620 **BE RESCINDED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve Policy 611: Capital Planning

Superintendent Smillie noted that this new draft policy was created to provide clarity around the capital planning process.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-038

THAT Policy 611 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Rescind Policy 640: Acquisition and Disposal of Board Assets

Superintendent Smillie noted that this policy has been incorporated into Policy 611: Capital Planning and recommended that the Board rescind the policy in accordance with the Policy Review Committee's recommendation.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-039

THAT Policy 640 **BE RESCINDED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approve Policy 612: Fees, Deposits and Financial Hardship

Superintendent Smillie noted that this policy has previously been published as Policy 430: School Fees

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-040

THAT Policy 612 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Approve Policy 650: Disposal of Real Property and Improvements

Superintendent Smillie noted that this policy had previously been revised as part of the regular review cycle. No feedback was received during the field testing period and she recommended that the Board rescind the policy in accordance with the Policy Review Committee's recommendation.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-041

THAT Policy 650 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

• **KRSS (Student Trustee Catherall)**

Student Trustee Catherall, representing KRSS, reported on recent and upcoming school activities. The school's drama club presented a play and talent show showcasing student talents in acting, singing, and music. The outdoor-focused YETI program has resumed, and a spirit week is currently underway with student council leading morning announcements and implementing a new student feedback tool. Upcoming events include a student and staff breakfast, a spring dance following spring break, and continued fundraising for student-led activities, including a French class trip to Quebec in May. Updates were also shared regarding the yearbook and scholarship applications.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Lang reported attending the Policy Review Committee, several provincial meetings of BCPSEA, and the LVR basketball provincials in Langley, which were live streamed.
- Trustee Nazaroff reported attending the Accessibility Committee meeting and noted literacy support initiatives in the Slokan Valley.
- Vice Chair Bremner reported attending several Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meetings and acknowledged the effort and dedication of committee members.
- Trustee Shunter reported attending the DPAC meeting, where discussion took place regarding the hot lunch program, and observing the Policy Review Committee meeting.

C. Chair

Chair Chew reported attending several Board-related meetings, including a BCSTA session with Superintendents, Secretary-Treasurers, and Board Chairs that included updates from the Ministry. Chair Chew also participated in a BCSTA call with Board Chairs and the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure regarding budget-related information.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Shunter reported attending the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting. Highlights included discussions on diverse learners and inclusion, with a letter of appreciation sent to the Ministry acknowledging increased funding while noting that additional support is still needed as part of ongoing advocacy efforts. Updates were also shared regarding Indigenous learning and reconciliation. BCSTA will be hosting a Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) event in Whistler.

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

Trustee Gribbin reported on recent BCPSEA meetings regarding the provincial agreement between BCPSEA and the BCTF. The agreement was ratified by teachers with a 91% vote, followed by a Board meeting and BCPSEA ratification the next day. The agreement is for a four-year term.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

The next DPAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 12, at 6:00 pm.

G. Other - Nil

15. Comments or Questions from the Public – Nil

16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer