

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

**Board:**

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

**Student Trustees:**

M. Andersen, LVR (*via video conference*)  
K. Keyes, MSSS (*via video conference*)  
L. Kinnear, JVH (*via video conference*)  
G. Klassen, KRSS (*via video conference*)

**District Staff:**

T. Smillie, Superintendent  
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer  
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education  
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent  
C. Kerr, Director of Operations  
S. Bruszkowski, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:**

D. Lang  
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources

**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 – Nil**

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-042  
**THAT** the Agenda for this April 14, 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:** 25/26-043

**THAT** the minutes from the March 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. Cultural and Identity Development Continuous Learning Report

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Director Carriere who presented an overview of the Cultural and Identity Development Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026, highlighting the district's commitment to inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive learning environments. She reported that the district prioritized promoting positive student identity through Indigenous Education, diversity initiatives, and anti-racism efforts, supported by community partnerships and guidance from the Indigenous Education Council.

In response to questions from Trustees and Student Trustees, Director Carriere outlined the role of Academic Reviews in supporting the strong graduation rates of Indigenous students within SD8, which exceed provincial completion rates. She noted that the district collaborates closely with local Elders and develops locally created Indigenous Education resources that are shared with SD8 staff. Trustees emphasized the importance of continuing to prioritize Indigenous Education.

B. National Day of Mourning

Superintendent Smillie reported to the Board on the National Day of Mourning and its recognition across the district, as outlined in the agenda package.

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

A. 2026-2027 Preliminary Draft Budget Discussion

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the Preliminary Draft Budget 2026-2027 to the Board. The presentation outlined the process which is based on enrolment projections and the funding allocations from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, which form the basis of the district's operating funds. In alignment with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act and the School Act, the preliminary budget is focused on enhancing educational resources in alignment with strategic priorities, while taking into account the expected enrolment changes in order to maintain a balanced budget.

Discussion focused on projected enrolment trends and their implications for future spending, including potential cost-saving measures and the equitable delivery of services. Trustees expressed their appreciation for the Secretary-Treasurer’s work in presenting a well-supported preliminary budget, noting the strength of the financial projections despite a decline in student enrolment.

**B. School Fees**

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented to the Board on the proposed 2026-2027 school fees, noting that fees apply only to optional materials, activities, and programs beyond the core educational program. She highlighted that fees must remain reasonable, school-based, and not create barriers to participation, with financial hardship provisions in place, and recommended approval as outlined in the agenda package.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-044

**THAT** the 2026-2027 school fees **BE APPROVED** as proposed.

The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Capital Budget Bylaw 2026-2027**

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented to the Board on the 2026–2027 Capital Budget Bylaw, outlining approved minor capital projects including plumbing upgrades at Trafalgar Middle School and HVAC upgrades at Hume Elementary. She noted that additional bus acquisitions are planned, with funding to be confirmed, and that all projects must be completed by March 31, 2027. She recommended approval of the Capital Bylaw and requested unanimous consent to proceed with all three readings in one evening, as outlined in the agenda package.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-045

**THAT** the Board of Education proceed to conclude three readings in one evening for the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD8-01.

The motion carried unanimously.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-046

**WHEREAS** in accordance with section 142 of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (hereinafter called the “Board”) has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the “Minister”) and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,

**NOW THEREFORE** in accordance with section 143 of the School Act, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:

- (a) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;
- (b) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (c) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,
- (d) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Board enacts as follows:

1. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2026/27 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent dated March 27, 2026, is hereby adopted.
2. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27- CPSD8-01.”

**READ A FIRST TIME** the 14th day of April 2026;

**READ A SECOND TIME** the 14th day of April 2026;

**READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** the 14th day of April 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

## 12. Governance and Policy

### A. Approve Policy 171: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for Field Testing

Superintendent Smillie presented draft Policy 171 to the Board for approval to proceed to field testing.

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

25/26-047

**THAT** Policy 171 **BE APPROVED** for Field Testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

## 13. Human Resources – Nil

## 14. Trustee Verbal Reports

### A. Student Trustees

- **KRSS (Student Trustee Klassen)**

Student Trustee Klassen, representing Kootenay River Secondary School, reported on recent school activities including student engagement following spring break and preparations for graduation. He highlighted hands-on learning through a

salmon-raising initiative supported by the local Rod and Gun Club, as well as ongoing food programs and student leadership initiatives such as announcements, spirit week, and planning for a spring dance.

- **JVH (Student Trustee Kinnear)**

Student Trustee Kinnear, representing J.V. Humphries Secondary School, reported on recent school activities including class and graduation photos, as well as an Outdoor Education session featuring guest presentations from forest firefighters. She highlighted student participation in learning about the physical and mental demands of firefighting, including completing a related fitness test.

- **MSSS (Student Trustee Keyes)**

Student Trustee Keyes, representing Mount Sentinel Secondary School, reported on recent school activities, including strong participation in spring athletics such as badminton, ultimate, and rugby, alongside continued engagement in arts programming through the Academy trip to Vancouver and preparations for the annual grad showcase. She highlighted student involvement in upcoming academic planning and trades programs, as well as school-wide initiatives for Earth Month, including environmental learning, community clean-up efforts, and a wellness run, reflecting a continued focus on student engagement and well-being.

- **LVR (Student Trustee Andersen)**

Student Trustee Andersen, representing L.V. Rogers Secondary School, reported on recent school activities including upcoming participation in the BC Interior Jazz Festival and ongoing preparations for the grad talent show. She highlighted student engagement in athletics and wellness initiatives, including rugby practices and Foundry Fridays, as well as the transition into the final term and upcoming report cards.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Blackmore attended the British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) AGM in Vancouver.
- Vice Chair Bremner attended the BCSTA AGM and several Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meetings, and highlighted upcoming Earth Day events in Nelson this month.
- Trustee Trenaman reported attending the Joint Safety Advisory Committee (JSAC) meeting, the Policy Review Committee meeting, and the BCSTA AGM.
- Trustee Shunter attended the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting.

C. Chair

Chair Chew reported attending the BCSTA AGM in Vancouver, as well as the Policy Review Committee meeting.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Shunter reported attending the BCSTA AGM in Vancouver where the BCSTA budget was approved.

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

Trustee Gribbin reported that he would be attending the BCPSEA meeting on April 15 to review the framework agreement with CUPE.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

The next DPAC meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2026.

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 May 12, 2026.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

  
Board Chair

  
Secretary-Treasurer

Board Meeting	Resolution #	Resolution Summary	Resolution	Assignment	Action Taken w/ Date	Complete
<b>Resolutions in Progress</b>						
February 26, 2019	18/19-092	Properties Sell or Defer	<p>WHEREAS there are nine Board owned properties under consideration for sale in the existing 2016-2026 Facilities Plan, which the Board has previously resolved to sell;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board is currently in the process creating a new facilities plan (the "2019-2029 Facilities Plan"), for which it is currently consulting with stakeholders and has contracted Baragar Systems to provide long-range enrolment projections and demographic analysis;</p> <p>Moved by Trustee Lang , seconded by Trustee Chew:</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</p> <p>THAT in line with past Board resolutions, the following property interests be sold forthwith:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Former Crawford Bay maintenance yard;</li> <li>2.Retallack land;</li> <li>3.Former Yahk Elementary, and;</li> <li>4.Ymir Land;</li> </ol> <p>THAT the sale of the following property interests be deferred until the Board adopts the new 2019-2029 Facilities Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Former Al Collinson Elementary;</li> <li>2.Former Gordon Sargent Elementary;</li> <li>3.Kin Park in Creston, and;</li> <li>4.Salmo tennis court &amp; pool land</li> </ol>	Secretary-Treasurer	As of April 2023, the following properties have not sold: - Former Crawford Bay maintenance yard; - Retallack II; - Ymir Land - Salmo Tennis Court & Pool Land	In Progress
<b>Standing Resolutions</b>						
<b>Completed Resolutions</b>						
April 14, 2026	25/26-047	Approve Policy 171 for Field Testing	THAT Policy 171 BE APPROVED for Field Testing.			Complete
April 14, 2026	25/26-046	Approve Capital Bylaw	<p>WHEREAS in accordance with section 142 of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (hereinafter called the "Board") has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 143 of the School Act, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;</li> <li>(b) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each project substantially as directed by the Minister;</li> <li>(c) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,</li> <li>(d) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.</li> </ol> <p>NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2026/27 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent dated March 27, 2026, is hereby adopted.</li> <li>2. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27- CPSD8-01."</li> </ol> <p>READ A FIRST TIME the 14th day of April 2026; READ A SECOND TIME the 14th day of April 2026; READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED the 14th day of April 2026.</p>			Complete
April 14, 2026	25/26-045	Conclude Capital Bylaw Readings	THAT the Board of Education proceed to conclude three readings in one evening for the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD8-01.			Complete