

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Board:

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

Student Trustees:

Nil

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction -
Innovative Learning
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
J. Tichauer, Assistant Superintendent
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
H. Kerr, 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:** 26/27-001

THAT the Agenda for this September 8, 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

8. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-002

THAT the minutes from the June 9, 2026 Meeting of the Board Held in Public **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking

10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Temporary Superintendent Succession Designate 2026-2027

Superintendent Smillie provided information regarding temporary superintendent succession for the 2026-2027 school year in accordance with [Policy 190 Temporary Superintendent Succession](#). She reported that Assistant Superintendent Jason Tichauer has been designated to assume the responsibilities of Superintendent on an emergency basis should the Superintendent be suddenly unable to fulfil her responsibilities.

B. School Food Programs

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki reported to the Board on the 2025–2026 school food program. She noted that SD8 will receive \$589,425 in Feeding Futures funding along with \$183,350 from the new National School Food Program, which together will expand support for vulnerable students. She noted that approximately 85% of district students accessed food equity programs in 2025-2026. She outlined continued priorities related to equitable food access, Indigenous student food security, local food partnerships, and expanded school food programming.

Additional information was provided to answer trustee questions regarding accessibility of food in the schools and what cultural food offerings are in place.

C. Student Trustee Program and the District Student Voice Framework

Director Eaton provided an overview of the Student Trustee Program and District Student Voice Framework and their role in incorporating student perspectives into district decision-making. He highlighted opportunities for student participation at the Board, district, school, and classroom levels, including the District Student Voice Council and Student Trustee Program. He also highlighted some of the accomplishments of the students in the 2025-2026 school year including the Student Leadership Conference, Mental Health Matters. He noted that connections between Student Trustees and the District Student Voice Council would continue to be strengthened in 2026-2027 to support student input into district planning and continuous improvement.

D. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Director Carriere provided an overview of district activities and guiding principles for recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 29, 2026 at all SD8 schools. She highlighted consultation with the Wuqanqankamik Education Council, which emphasized honouring survivors, strengthening relationships with local Aboriginal communities, including student voice, and ensuring Truth and Reconciliation learning

continued throughout the year. She noted that schools would continue to provide assemblies, learning activities, resources, and community-based opportunities informed by the Council's guidance.

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

A. 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur reported that KPMG had presented School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) with a clean audit opinion. Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented financial results for the year ended June 30. The financial reporting covered the financial results for the operating, special purpose, and capital funds and the Statement of Financial Position.

She noted that the financial statements included a further appropriation within the operating fund of \$1,689,775, bringing the internally restricted operating surplus from \$4,398,277 to \$6,088,052 and the unrestricted operating surplus to \$3,143,944. The district remains in a strong financial position, with unrestricted accumulated operating surplus levels aligned with [Board Policy 621](#) and ministry guidelines. Superintendent Smillie outlined that unrestricted will be used to support student programs and services over the next few years. Trustees' questions were answered, including clarification on the unrestricted surplus, and the Superintendent thanked Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur and her team for their work.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-003

THAT the appropriation of the accumulated surplus for the Operating Fund be increased by \$1,689,775 from \$4,398,277 to \$6,088,052 as stated in note 19 of the audited financial statements of the year ended June 30, 2026, **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-004

THAT the Audited Financial Statements and Financial Discussion & Analysis for the year ended June 30, 2026, **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2025-2026 Statement of Financial Information

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2025–2026 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) to the Board. She explained that the SOFI, required under the Financial Information Act, must be submitted by December 31, 2026, and includes audited financial statements, debt schedules, remuneration and expense reporting, and vendor payments. She confirmed that the report will be posted to the SD8 website.

C. Quarterly Capital Plans Update

Director Kerr presented the quarterly capital plans update, as outlined in the agenda package. In response to Trustees' questions, Director Kerr provided information on Salmo Elementary HVAC costs, Jewett fire smart project funding and described what was involved in the fire smart plan.

D. 2027-2028 Minor Capital Plans Submission

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the district's draft 2026/27 Minor Capital Plan to the Board as outlined in the agenda package. A submission is required annually by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and requires Board approval prior to submission to the ministry. She outlined proposed projects totaling \$1,864,250 million.

Director Kerr answered inquiries regarding the lifespan of diesel buses compared to electric busses and the process of obtaining them and applying for busses.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-005

THAT the Board of Education conclude three readings at this meeting for the approval of the submission of the Minor 2027/28 Capital Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-006

THAT the 2027/28 funding request of \$50,250 for kitchen equipment under the Food Infrastructure Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-007

THAT the 2027/28 funding request of \$1,000,000 for sprinkler upgrades under the School Enhancement Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-008

THAT the 2027/28 funding request for \$402,000 for HVAC upgrades under the School Enhancement Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-009

THAT the 2027/28 funding request of \$412,000 for the HVAC upgrades under the Carbon Neutral Capital Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 26/27-010

THAT the 2027/28 funding request for 8 buses be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 8th DAY OF September 2026.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. Governance and Policy – Nil

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees - Nil

B. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman attended the Crawford Bay Graduation Celebration in June with three graduates. It was a lovely celebration of community and family. She offered accolades to the staff and community for the success of the event.
- Trustee Gribbin made mention that Vern Ronmark passed away this week. He was a mentor for many educators in the Creston area.

C. Chair

Chair Chew thanked Trustee Shunter for attending the Salmo graduation ceremony in her place in June. She completed an audit inquiry questionnaire over the summer for the district audit. Coming up she has a Chair's call with BCSTA and BCPSEA, and Student Trustee Orientations.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) - Nil

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

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) - Nil

G. Other - Nil

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

Superintendent Smillie responded to further questions and comments from the public regarding Mount Sentinel Secondary School's foods course, the French immersion teacher posting at Canyon-Lister Elementary, purchase of diesel buses, and student trustee engagement with the IEC.

16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

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

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer