

MINUTES

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60 (Peace River North)

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 16, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Present: Helen Gilbert, Chair – Board of Education (Area 5)
Madeleine Lehmann, Vice-Chair (Area 1)
Ida Campbell, Trustee (Area 4)
Nicole Gilliss, Trustee (Area 3) *(via Zoom)*
David Scott-Moncrieff, Trustee (Area 2)
Bill Snow, Trustee (Area 5)
Tom Whitton, Trustee (Area 5)

Stephen Petrucci, Superintendent of Schools
Angela Telford, Secretary-Treasurer
Leah Reimer, Recording Secretary

(Guests/Media)

Michele Wiebe, PRNTA President
Deborah Johnson
Gwen Bourdon

Regrets: None



This Regular Board Meeting will be recorded and uploaded to our district website

Disclaimer: The definitive documentation and decisions are recorded in the approved meeting minutes

Call to Order Chair Gilbert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Acknowledgement that today's Board Meeting is being held within the traditional territory of the Dane Zaa and Treaty 8.

Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Motion #115-23

Scott-Moncrieff/Whitton
THAT the agenda be accepted as presented with the following additions:

Other Reports - BCSTA

Advocacy Day Update

Unfinished Business

NIB Update

CARRIED.

Presentations/Delegations

None

Trustee Engagement/Celebrations

At this time, opportunity was given for Trustees to report on activities undertaken and/or information of interest:

Trustee Campbell

- Delivered apples to liaison schools. While delivering at two smaller schools, students asked why I was there and why I didn't just come and visit other times, so I went back at recess another day
- DPAC/SUPAC meeting
- Taylor School Open House
- NIB Meetings in Prince George
- Taylor School Strong Start – very well attended this year because the preschool in Taylor is not running. They would like another day added.

Trustee Gilliss

- *Not present at this time*

Vice-Chair Lehmann

- Delivered apples to liaison schools
- Strategic planning – the kits are coming together...excited about what is happening
- NIB Meetings in Prince George
- DPAC/SUPAC

Trustee Scott-Moncrieff

- Upper Pine run
- Delivered apples to liaison schools. Had a walkthrough at Wonowon School...it was good to see the students and hear about the new middle school program
- Pancake breakfast at Prespatou
- Had conversations with Upper Pine and Buick Creek schools

Trustee Snow

- Elementary Soccer Tournament
- Delivered apples to liaison schools
- Helped serve lunch at Bert Bowes
- Kearney PAC meeting
- NIB Meeting in Prince George
- Visited liaison schools
- Had an impromptu opportunity to speak with some students in their classroom about what we do and answered their questions

Trustee Whitton

- Bert Bowes PAC meeting – great attendance
- Serving lunch to kids at Bert Bowes along with school administration and some members of City Council
- Delivered apples to liaison schools

Chair Gilbert

- DPAC Executive lunch
- Chamber of Commerce AGM –Interesting speaker spoke on trades in Canada
- Terry Fox Run at Baldonnel
- PAC meetings at three liaisons schools
- Delivered apples to liaison schools and touched base with administrators
- CM Finch story walk
- NIB Meeting in Prince George

Trustee Gilliss joined the meeting @ 5:38 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting

Approval of the Minutes

Motion #116-23

Campbell/Whitton

THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023 be adopted.
CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:

None

Approval of Excerpts

Motion #117-23

Scott-Moncrieff/Whitton

THAT the excerpts from the June 19, 2023 In Camera Meeting Minutes be approved and appended to these Regular Meeting Minutes.
CARRIED.

Announcements & Reminders

October 19	BCSTA Advocacy Day		Victoria
October 20	NID Day (Pro-D Provincial)		
October 20/21	BCSTA Provincial Council		Vancouver
October 24	SUP-PAC Meetings (<i>Snow/Scott-Moncrieff</i>)	12:00 p.m.	Board Room
November 2/3	BCPSEA Symposium		Vancouver
November 6	COTW Meetings	12:30 p.m.	Board Room
November 6	NPAA Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Dr. Kearney
November 13	Remembrance Day		
November 20	Board Meetings	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
November 20/21	Elementary Volleyball Tournament		ARYES
November 22/23	Early Dismissal		
November 23-25	BCSTA Trustee Academy		Vancouver
November 24	NID (Parent-Teacher Interviews)		
November 28	SUP-PAC Meetings (<i>Lehmann/Whitton</i>)	12:00 p.m.	Board Room
December 1	District Staff Christmas Dinner & Dance		Pomeroy Hotel
December 4	COTW Meetings	12:30 p.m.	Board Room
December 8	NPAA Meeting	5:00 p.m.	TBD
December 18	Board Meetings	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
December 25 to January 5	Christmas Vacation		

Senior Staff Reports

Superintendent's Report

A written and electronic report was presented. Topics discussed and reported included:

Human Resources Summary for Teachers & AO's

- For information purposes

Superintendent's Report

- Report was presented and questions from trustees answered

Community Coaches

- See motion below

Out of District Field Trips

- See motion below

Motion #118-23

Snow/Lehmann

THAT the Board accept the Superintendent's Report with the exception of Community Coaches and Out of District Field Trips

CARRIED.

Motion #119-23

Campbell/Snow

THAT the Board of Education accept the Community Coaches as presented.

CARRIED.

Motion #120-23

Snow/Scott-Moncrieff

THAT the Board of Education accept the Out of District Field Trips as presented.

CARRIED.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

A written report was presented. Topics discussed and reported included:

Finance Report to September 30, 2023

- Reviewed and answered questions from trustees
- Provided clarification that the "Other Professional" line item is made up of 12 month employees and that 25% is on target
- Superintendent - Offshore Tuition – our target is 50 FTE and we're getting close
- Ministry of Education Grant – funded minimally over the summer and then it increases over October and November
- Enrollment – 6,010 was projected and we're coming in very close to that
ACTION: Secretary-Treasurer to provide more detailed information in regards to enrollment once the 1701 results are in
- Food Grants are reported as a Special Purpose Fund and won't show up in the Operating Financial Report
- Alberta Students – has the money been received? Secretary-Treasurer – not yet, once 1701 is done, we can then invoice for those students

Hudson's Hope Childcare Update

- YMCA will be using sharing the current Strong Start space at Hudson's Hope School to run a Before and After School Care program. Strong Start will continue to use the space during the school day
- Secretary-Treasurer – in this current climate, best use of space is a shared space and most cost effective
- Waiting for the license from Northern Health to be granted and then hoping to start up by the end of the October. Northern Health has not historically done two licenses for one space but they are moving forward with it; it's something new for them to facilitate
- Trustee Gilliss – why is the YMCA managing instead of district staff? Secretary-Treasurer – the YMCA has ability to find staffing within the community, whereas we don't at this time
- Superintendent – in regards to licensing timelines, this could be a question or advocacy piece as this is a conversation going on around the province
- Discussion around the potential length of the contract and whether we would staff it with district staff in the future and provide opportunity for additional hours for current staff
ACTION: The Secretary-Treasurer will get back to the Board on the length of contract once that information is available
- Discussion is ongoing on in the Hudson's Hope community for additional childcare options

Human Resources Summary Report

- For information purposes

Motion #121-23

Whitton/Lehmann

THAT the Board accept the Secretary-Treasurer's Report.
CARRIED.

Reports of Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting

Approval of the Minutes – October 3, 2023

Motion #122-23

Campbell/Snow

THAT the Board accept the Regular Committee of the Whole minutes of October 3, 2023 and its recommendations

CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:

None

Policy Committee

Policy 4035 Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)

Motion #123-23

Lehmann/

That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 4035 Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA).

CARRIED.

Motion #124-23

Policy 4028 Teachers Professional Development Committee

Snow/

That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 4028 Teachers Professional Development Committee.

CARRIED.

Other Reports

BCSTA

Virtual Orientations – Planning for Student Success (November 16)

NEW – Advocacy Day Update

- Chair Gilbert is attending this week in Victoria
- Focus & key asks (*Attachment*)
- BCSTA has committed to include a focus on issues for northern districts

BCPSEA

Symposium Agenda

- Trustees Snow and Whitton will be attending and will be reporting back to the Board
- Chair Gilbert – would like to hear back on the breakout session on Governance for Trustees – Panel Discussion, as our Board will be doing something similar at the Trustee Academy in November
- Trustee Campbell – they've included a lot of Pro-D this year, which is good to see after it being less the last couple of years

Board Pro-D Committee

Correspondence

Down Syndrome BC Letter

- For information purposes to build understanding of the needs of different groups

Minister Rachna Singh to Mayor Lilia Hansen - Letter

- The Mayor met with the Education Minister at the UBCM conference and then the Minister responded back to her
- Trustee Lehmann – it is good for the City to advocate for schools, but wondering about the details of the conversation
- Chair Gilbert – don't know what her asks were when she was speaking on behalf of the district
- Trustee Gilliss – feel it's a case of everyone doing their part to advocate for the needs of their communities
- Superintendent – it would be good for the Board to meet with the City and other surround districts to discuss what is happening is currently happening in our district
- It was suggested that Chair Gilbert contact the Mayor to have a conversation

ACTION: Chair Gilbert will reach out to the Mayor to discuss the contents of the letter and provide more information

Unfinished Business

The following unfinished business arose from the previous meeting minutes:

Strategic Planning

- Urban Matters has created engagement kits geared towards students

- Thursday, November 30 is the tentative date for the Open House
- Staff workshops will also be planned for the next few weeks
- The committee will look at the kits and make plans to meet with the schools
- Urban Matters is also putting together an online survey for those who can't attend meetings
- By November 30, would like to see "all hands on deck". Want to make it meaningful engagement. With the kit, we can offer public meetings in other locations as well. Perhaps trustees can pair up with district staff to go out to other locations

NIB Update

- Four trustees attended the joint meeting with the NW
- Vice-Chair Lehmann – felt it was worthwhile. Lee Brain spoke about Advocacy...focus on one big priority rather than many little ones. There were a couple of presentations on Accessibility in regards to the Accessibility Act requirements.
 - Superintendent – we have an Accessibility committee in place, which is requirement #1
ACTION: The Superintendent will continue to follow up on what we are doing in the area of Accessibility...this is a three-year process
- Trustee Campbell – was good to have both branches there (NE & NW). Feel we are on the same page in a few different areas (ie. media campaign, communications, etc.)
ACTION: Chair Gilbert will forward the report once it's available and will help with future advocacy
- Trustee Snow – toured the new Shas Ti Kelly Road School...it was very impressive. It appeared attendance at the NIB from other districts was low
- Trustee Campbell – they talked about "smudging"...wherever you are from, you use a different material. What do we use here? Trustee Whitton – there is no smudging here, however they burn different things to ward off viruses, etc. Some other traditions have evolved over time
- Chair Gilbert – it was discussed that the BCSTA Learning Series will potentially be moved to a one-day meeting for the whole region on May 4, 2024. Inquiry is being made as to why the change from more area meetings in the past.

New Business

Remembrance Day Ceremony – Trustee Representation

- District of Taylor – Trustee Scott-Moncrieff will attend with Trustee Campbell potentially joining if she is able, due to health reasons
- District of Hudson's Hope – Trustee Gilliss (will need to confirm) or Chair Gilbert
- City of Fort St. John – Trustee Whitton and Chair Gilbert (if not at Hudson's Hope ceremony)

PRNTA Update – Michele Wiebe, President

- Pleased to see Board Policy 4028 is being reviewed as it hasn't been since 2012, which was my last year as Pro-D Chair. Thank you.

CUPE Local #4653 Update – Jennie Copeland, President

Not present

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Report – President

Not present

Questions from Press/Public

At this time, opportunity was given for questions from the press:

Deborah Johnson: Has Northern Health always issued licenses for BASC, daycare, etc. and not the City of Fort St. John? Secretary-Treasurer – that's correct. The City issues business licenses.

Suspension & Move into In-Camera Meeting

Motion #125-23

Snow/Whitton

THAT the Board suspend the Regular Meeting and move into the In-Camera Meeting.

CARRIED.

Motion #126-23

Snow/Whitton

THAT the Board resume the Regular Meeting and those Motions made In Camera be brought forward for implementation.

CARRIED.

Adjournment

Motion #127-23

Campbell/Snow

THAT the meeting be adjourned. (7:41 p.m.)

HELEN GILBERT, CHAIR,
BOARD OF EDUCATION

ANGELA TELFORD,
SECRETARY-TREASURER



Student outcomes

KEY ASKS

- Improved data collection and tracking for Indigenous students
- Better data for tracking and monitoring the education of children with disabilities, diverse abilities, youth in care, refugees, English Language Learners, at-risk students and priority populations
- Equity of opportunity for rural and remote districts
- Additional resources and funding to implement strategies to improve student outcomes

Improved tracking and reporting of educational outcomes for Indigenous children and youth, students with diverse abilities, youth in care, newcomer refugees and English language learners and other priority population students, are areas of concern for boards of education.

Better tracking, monitoring and stronger accountability and reporting systems would be particularly invaluable when working to improve **student outcomes** among these groups, and we hope the ministry will continue to work with us to improve data tracking and collection.

Indigenous students in B.C. have a 75 per cent school completion rate, compared to a general completion rate of 91 per cent.

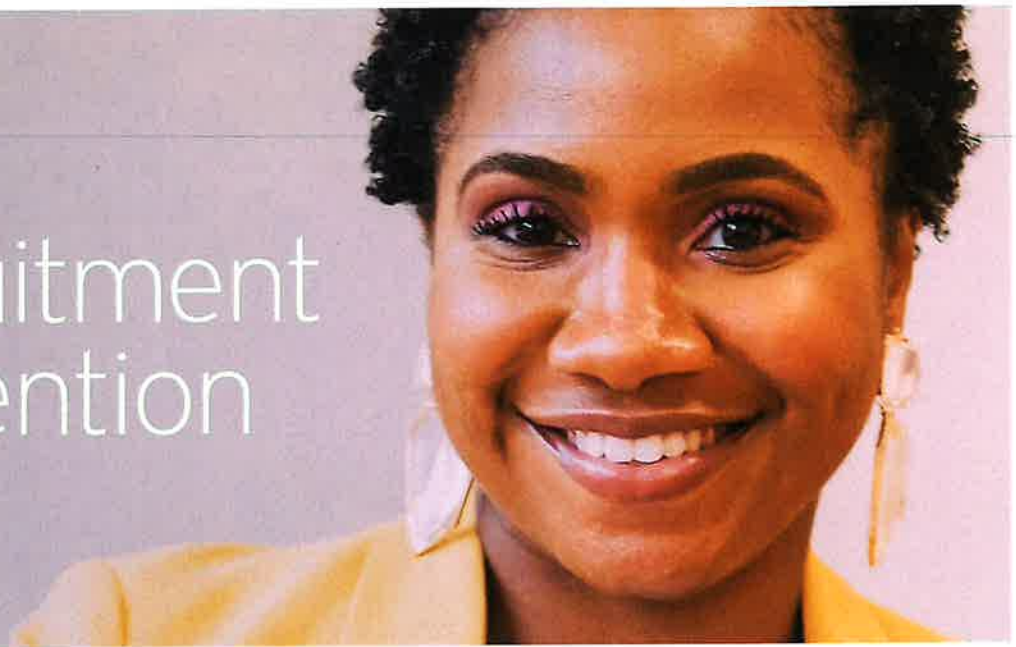
While this rate has been increasing over time, there is still much work to be done to close the gap between Indigenous and other learners.

Steps must be taken to improve numeracy and literacy scores. Provincially, BCSTA sees that there are opportunities for growth and this is particularly the case in rural areas. Learning supports and specialized staff are not always readily available in rural communities. Access to post-secondary learning comes at a greater cost for rural students. Equity of both outcomes and opportunities for students in rural, remote and isolated communities is a priority for BCSTA.

QUESTIONS FOR BOARDS

- What specific data measure would help students in your district?
- Can you identify any illustrative examples from your district?
- Who are the at-risk and priority populations in your community?

Recruitment & retention



KEY ASKS

- Incentives for educational staff to work in rural and remote areas
- Expanding loan forgiveness for staff in the public education sector
- Housing affordability and availability

The recruitment and retention of staff has been a challenge for school districts across the province, especially in rural districts. Competing with urban markets is particularly challenging for rural areas looking to recruit long-term staff.

The teacher shortage has led to an unsustainable reliance on uncertified teachers to fill urgent needs. BCSTA has received member [motions](#) that have proposed several strategies the province could introduce to help attract teachers to rural districts. These include offering incentives, such as student loan forgiveness or housing and travel allowances, to encourage employees to work and stay in rural communities long-term.

B.C.'s loan forgiveness program, in particular, could bolster the public education sector employees in the province. BCSTA has asked the province to

expand program eligibility to include all certified teachers working with children at publicly funded schools.

The shortage of education assistants is a challenge province-wide. Recruiting and training education assistants is crucial to ensuring that students with disabilities and diverse abilities receive the in-classroom support they need and deserve.

BCSTA supports [work](#) that can take place with teaching universities to open up additional spaces as well as supporting opportunities to train educators in their communities.

BCSTA is aware that affordable housing availability is a barrier and supports any actions to address this issue.

QUESTIONS FOR BOARDS

- What specific obstacles to recruitment and retention are you facing in your district?
- Can you identify any examples of how staffing shortages in your district have negatively impacted student outcomes?

Capital & deferred maintenance



KEY ASKS

- **Increased Annual Facilities Grants**
- **Funding for maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure**
- **Funding for new builds and additions required due to growth**
- **Funding for climate adaptations in buildings**
- **Allow boards to carry operating fund contingencies**

Deteriorating school buildings and funding for new buildings are a concern for districts and families across the province.

In 2021, BCSTA produced [The Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding](#), highlighting the need for funding for deferred maintenance. Unfortunately, this issue has yet to be adequately addressed.

The Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) must be increased by inflation, an amount equivalent to the annual contribution necessary to implement the detailed life cycle plan for new buildings, and a minimum 15 per cent annual “catch up” allocation. There must be clearer transparency around the formula used to determine each district's allocation.

We have also requested that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Board discontinue the practice of requiring

that boards use operating funds towards supported capital projects that should be fully funded by the province. Maintaining contingency allocations or reserves is necessary in order for boards to cover unforeseen, unbudgeted costs and fund local priority initiatives.

Funding for seismic retrofitting remains a priority, with many schools still waiting for seismic upgrades.

Funding is also required in order for districts to implement the energy efficiency upgrades required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in the government's CleanBC plan. All capital streams of funding must have a common standard that reflects CleanBC targets along with provincial investment standards.

QUESTIONS FOR BOARDS

- **Is building maintenance or growth an issue in your district?**
- **How can you tell the story of how a lack of funding for maintenance or a lack of capital for new schools has affected student learning?**