

# “PROVISIONAL” MINUTES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60 (Peace River North)

## REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 18, 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)  
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)*

Deborah Johnson  
Gwenn Bourdon



*Regrets:*

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

**Disclaimer: The definitive documentation and decisions of the Board are recorded in the meeting minutes**

**Any use of an electronic device such as a computer or cell phone is related to the business of the meeting**

The core values that guide the work of the school district are *RESPECT, COMPASSION, HONESTY, RESPONSIBILITY, and RELATIONSHIPS.*

**Call to Order** Chair Gilbert called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 #142-23

Scott-Moncrieff/Snow  
THAT the agenda be accepted as presented.

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 (Area 4)

- Strategic Planning Open House
- Visited three liaison schools

### Trustee Gilliss (Area 3)

- Hudson's Hope PAC local bingo fundraiser
- Strategic Planning - Local Governments
- Will be attending a pancake breakfast and a Strategic Planning session in Hudson's Hope
- Will be volunteering in the baking room for a school fundraiser in Hudson's Hope

### Vice-Chair Lehmann (Area 1)

- BCSTA Trustee Academy
- Strategic Planning – Local Governments
- Chamber of Commerce Luncheon – promoted Strategic Planning
- PAC meeting and Christmas Concert at Clearview
- NPAA Christmas Dinner
- District Staff Christmas Dinner & Dance
- Dorothy Edwards Retirement Party

### Trustee Scott-Moncrieff (Area 2)

- BCSTA Trustee Academy
- Strategic Planning sessions – MMMCS, Buick & Prespatou
- Connected with all three schools
- Upper Halfway gym is almost there

### Trustee Snow (Area 5)

- BCSTA Trustee Academy
- NPSS Entrepreneur Class where they set up businesses. Had conversation with a teacher and then took part in two “shark’s den” presentations where students present to Admin to get a loan for a project.
- Have been putting on my suit and have visited some students
- Visited with the admins at Bert Ambrose, Dr. Kearney & ELC
- NPAA Christmas Dinner
- Volleyball tournament
- Strategic Planning - DPAC/SUPAC
- Strategic Planning - Senior Alternative class
- Strategic Planning - Open House
- Strategic Planning – Local Governments
- District Staff Christmas Dinner & Dance

### Trustee Whitton (Area 5)

- Helped with Central School Bazaar ...very successful
- School District Christmas Dinner & Dance
- Strategic Planning – Local Governments

Chair Gilbert (Area 5)

- ARYES & MMMCS PAC meetings
- KLC is trying to get a PAC going...have a different audience
- NPSS Spamalot - loved the comradery amongst students and sense of community
- Volleyball Tournament
- BCSTA Trustee Academy
- District Staff Christmas Dinner & Dance – Board contributed two baskets as door prizes
- NPAA Christmas Dinner
- Dorothy Edwards Retirement – thank you to staff who organized the event. She is a long time custodian who is retiring at 87 years, which is not the norm. Dorothy shared her age, so I can say it. She was proud to have worked for the district since 1972
- Strategic Planning – Open House
- Strategic Planning – Local Government
- Strategic Planning - Prespatou
- Strategic Planning - Indigenous Education Council
- Two radio interviews re: Strategic Planning: 1) Community Roundup and 2) Moose Talk on Friday. The perceived need for a new high school came up – referenced the Capital Plan, the fact that enrolment at the high school has been higher and that we will be looking at statistics as part of tonight’s regular meeting. As well, the public can access the agenda package and minutes on our website

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting**

Approval of the Minutes

Motion #143-23

Snow/Lehmann  
THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023 be adopted.  
CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:

*None*

**Approval of Excerpts**

Motion #144-23

Campbell/Whitton  
THAT the excerpts from the November 20, 2023 In Camera Meeting Minutes be approved and appended to these Regular Meeting Minutes.  
CARRIED.

**Announcements & Reminders**

December 25 to January 5	Christmas Vacation		
January 15	COTW Meetings	12:30 p.m.	Board Room
January 15	NPAA Meeting	4:45 p.m.	TBD
January 22	Board Meetings	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
January 23	SUP-PAC Meetings ( <i>Snow/Scott-Moncrieff</i> )	12:00 p.m.	Board Room
January 25	BCPSEA AGM		Virtual

February 2	Prespatou Graduation		Prespatou
February 2	NID Day Pro-D (District – Semester Turnaround)		
February 2/3	Northern Interior Branch (NIB) AGM		Prince George
February 9	Partner Liaison Meetings		Vancouver
February 5	COTW Meetings	12:30 p.m.	Board Room
February 19	Family Day		
February 20 (Tues)	Board Meetings	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
February 27	SUP-PAC Meeting ( <i>Campbell/Gilbert</i> )	12:00 p.m.	Board Room

## 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**

- For information purposes
- Bill 40 Discussion
  - It was noted that we have staff on the Indigenous Education Council
  - In the process of LEA renewals. When complete, will bring back to Board
  - Trustee Whitton inquired as to whether he would be “in conflict” when LEA's come forward, if the Board was needing to vote on something,” as he is employed by an Indigenous band. Chair Gilbert – depending on what the situation is, will need to keep that in mind
  - School of Choice – have been accommodating the few cases on a family-by-family basis, where and if there are options

### **Security Issues in Schools**

- Information gathered from school administrators from September to the end of November on three areas (ie. drug paraphernalia, tent/camps erected, interaction with unwelcome strangers)
- In regards to Central School, the information gathered allows us to be proactive in our response to any issues (eg. lighting, fencing and security cameras have already been installed)
- Trustee Snow provided input on activity happening in the evenings and/or weekends. Superintendent - the attached information from administrators has been provided in order to look at the impact on the school during school operations
- Staff perspective is, outside of the central block (ie. Central, KLC, Bert Bowes & Facilities), it seems manageable
- Board Chair – have heard that some other districts have had issues with people coming and looking to find a plug in for cell phones, etc.

**ACTION:** Board would ask that school administrators continue to keep track during the year in order to see any trends. The Superintendent will bring back an updated in report in June 2024. Going forward, to bring back a summary to the Board a couple of times a year (eg. December and June)

### **Bill 40 Policy Related to Indigenous Education**

- For information purposes
- Bill 40 is about consistency around the province...as a district, we are in good stead

### **Historical Enrolment Data at NPSS**

- Provided in response to some public concern about the potential of over-crowding
- Staff provided a rationale as to why it's not a priority on our Capital Plan
- Prior to 2001, NPSS was running a "flex" block system to accommodate the number of students. In August 2001, 10 classrooms were added, increasing the capacity to 280 additional students. As well, in 2011, the Energetic Learning Campus opened for Grade 10 students
- In the last five years, we've gone up a total of 31 students at the main campus
- It was noted that there are no portables at NPSS and they have two gyms. They could, however use more food classes, due to popularity of this class
- Has there been an increase in staffing numbers? The student to teacher ratio has increased due to remedy
- Discussion around utilization of space. Buildings are static but different demands arise on usage of space as times change
- The Long Range Facilities Plan indicates that 1,035 is the nominal capacity plus the ELC
- Ministry has been clear they're not approving new senior secondary schools. We would have to double our capacity in order to discuss with Ministry the possibility of an additional high school
- Secretary-Treasurer – some of these students are going to the college for dual credit and apprenticeship programs and are not in class at NPSS

### **Destination Canada Experience Brief**

- For information purposes

### **Community Coaches**

- See motion below

### **Out of District Field Trips**

- See motion below

#### Motion #145-23

Scott-Moncrieff/Snow

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

CARRIED.

#### Motion #146-23

Snow/Gilliss

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

CARRIED.

#### Motion #147-23

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 Update to November 30, 2023**

- Continue to look more at projections due to constant shifting and movements of staff...students continue to enroll and we are able to do more hiring.
- In the new year, will then be able to do a deep dive and get ready for the Amended Budget
- Discussion around the absenteeism of students and staff in schools due to illness and coverage issues around that

**Hudson's Hope Before and After School Care**

- Will be opening in January 2024
- The community is very excited
- Discussions are taking place between the YMCA and District of Hudson's Hope about future childcare. We are part of the discussions, but not sure of the details at this point and how much involvement we will have
- There are 11 students needing BASC (will have 12 spaces), however, there are 28 families needing childcare

**Human Resources Summary Report**

- For information purposes

Motion #148-23

Whitton/Lehmann

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

**Reports of Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Approval of the Minutes – December 4, 2023

Motion #149-23

Gilliss/Whitton

THAT the Board accept the Regular Committee of the Whole minutes of December 4, 2023 and its recommendations with the following edit:

*Trustee Campbell sent regrets for the meeting, but was recorded as present*  
CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:

Policy Committee

Motion #150-23

**Policy 1010 Trustee Code of Conduct**

Scott-Moncrieff/

That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 1010 Trustee Code of Conduct.  
CARRIED.

Motion #151-23

**Policy 3008 Ordinarily Residence**

Whitton/

That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 3008 Ordinarily Residence.  
CARRIED.

Motion #152-23      **Policy 2012 Student Withdrawal**  
Campbell/  
That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 2012 Student Withdrawal.  
CARRIED.

Motion #153-23      **Policy 7018 Child Care Policy**  
Lehmann/  
That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 7018 Child Care Policy.  
CARRIED.

Motion #154-23      **Policy 4035 Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)**  
Campbell/  
That a Notice of Motion be issued for Policy 4035 Public Interest Disclosure Act.  
CARRIED.

## Other Reports

### **BCSTA**

#### Provincial Council – February 24, 2024 (virtual)

- Have one voting member, however all trustees are welcome to attend as observers
- Registration opens January 23, 2024
- February 16, 2024 is the deadline for substantial motions. Trustees are asked to consider any advocacy topics that could be submitted.

#### Northern Interior Branch – February 2/3 (Prince George)

- It was noted that the February 2 date conflicts with the Prespatou graduation

#### Trustee Academy Report Outs

##### *Trustee Snow*

- attended the overdose presentation given by a trustee who had children affected by drug overdose and a police officer. Spoke with the officer afterwards and arranged to go down a day early before the AGM to meet to discuss youth issues
- Blanket session – always good and different depending on who is presenting
- Morning session – fish bowl was good
- Dawson Creek presentation for student voice. They gave suggestions on problems in schools (ie. lighting, heating, etc.) based on an environmental scan
- Spoke with someone from the Stikine district around how isolated they are, travel restrictions with roads, staffing, etc.

##### *Vice-Chair Lehmann*

- Keynote speaker was Rose LeMay from Cecil Lake
- Who Are We – storyteller session. No agenda but telling stories. Bridging the gap between traditional and modern world
- Was part of our district's panel discussion
- Overdose session – the police officer presenter was very impactful...she spoke about three teachers who impacted her life

##### *Trustee Scott-Moncrieff*

- Enjoyed all of the sessions

### *Chair Gilbert*

- Pre-conference had two fish bowls:
  - 1) MECC, MNBC, FNEESC, Indigenous trustees
  - 2) Matriarchs – grandmothers telling their stories and what they thought was important for their children/all children. One had been in residential schools. It was a hopeful perspective.
- Where we were, where we are, where we are going – Amelia Washington
- Michael Kusugak Inuit Storyteller – changes in his lifetime
- Student Voice sessions
- Received good feedback on our panel presentation. Then went to Delta’s panel in the afternoon...a different approach and interesting comparison of differences in our districts
- I Hope Book – Monique Gray Smith – purchased for my grandchildren. Braided Sweetgrass is available at our local museum
- John Tyler Binet – Science Behind Being Kind, Cultivating Kindness “An Educator’s Guide”. He has done a lot of research around acts of kindness and how it reduces stress for students and bolsters a sense of well-being (ie. food drives, PJ drives, packages for seniors, etc.)

### **BCPSEA**

- AGM January 25, 2024 – will be virtual due to local bargaining starting prior to the next AGM that will be done “in-person”
- Vice-Chair Lehmann and Trustee Whitton are registered to attend
- One voting member but any “not in conflict” trustees are welcome to attend

### **Board Pro-D Committee**

#### National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education & CSBA Congress – July 3-5, 2024

- Trustee Gilliss is wanting to attend this conference when registration becomes available

#### NSBA Virtual Conference

- All sessions are online if trustees are interested in watching
- In listening, there are some things that we have in common with rural districts in the USA.

## **Correspondence**

*None*

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Strategic Planning**

- Survey closes on January 26, 2024...have 500 responses to date
- Reach out to Taylor, Hudson’s Hope, Wonowon, Clearview and schedule to do sessions during PAC Meetings
- Vice-Chair Lehmann – presented at Chamber of Commerce luncheon
- Trustee Scott-Moncrieff – connected with Rotary
- Sports Council is in limbo so won’t be able to connect
- Northern Lights College – Board Chair sent an email to the Admin Assistant and is awaiting a response



- CDC & Community Bridges – Chair Gilbert will reach out
- CCRR – Trustee Scott-Moncrieff will reach out
- Association for Community Living – Superintendent will send survey link to the CEO
- Fireman’s Council
- Legion – Trustee Scott-Moncrieff
- Petroleum Club
- Oilmen’s Wives
- Taylor Council – Trustee Campbell will reach out as there was a conflict of meetings for the Local Government session
- Vice-Chair Lehmann – translated the survey and questions into German for those in Prespatou.
- There was a strong community presence and voice at the Prespatou session...approximately 70 people

**Northern Health Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) FAQ**

- For information purposes

**New Business**

*None*

**PRNTA Update – Michele Wiebe, President**

*No report – not present*

**CUPE Local #4653 Update – Jennie Copeland, President**

*No report – not present*

**District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Report – President**

*No report – not present*

**Questions from Press/Public**

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

Gwenn – in regards to the security issues at schools reporting, it may be beneficial to put out to the Bert Bowes student council and ask for their input and to show that we care about them. Also, sometimes members of the community clean up around the school but you never hear from them

- Board Chair – this information is what has been provided by the administrator with input from staff
- Superintendent – we have annual surveys we put out to students around do you feel safe around school and they have an opportunity to respond but will take your suggestion under advisement

Deborah – Northern Health FAQ. Have you heard of Ibogaine? It is a compound derived from a shrub in Africa to help ease symptoms of drug and alcohol overuse. One of our Zoom calls, mentioned it and it sounds hopeful.

Board Chair – it hasn't come up at the Community Advisory Committee meetings as they are focused on responding to our concerns regarding safety and awareness. There is an open house tonight where they are taking committee members through the OPS site and warming center. Due to the size of the committee and the capacity of the site, they will be doing more than one open house.

**Suspension & Move into In-Camera Meeting**

Motion #155-23                      Whitton/Snow  
   THAT the Board suspend the Regular Meeting and move into the In-Camera Meeting.  
CARRIED.

Motion #156-23                      Campbell/Lehmann  
   THAT the Board resume the Regular Meeting and those Motions made In Camera be brought forward for implementation.  
CARRIED.

**Adjournment**

Motion #157-23                      Snow/Lehmann  
   THAT the meeting be adjourned. (8:09 p.m.)

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HELEN GILBERT, CHAIR,  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ANGELA TELFORD,  
SECRETARY-TREASURER