

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

## REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2026  
5:30 p.m.

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

Stephen Petrucci, Superintendent of Schools *(via Zoom)*  
Wade Hart, Assistant Superintendent  
Leah Reimer, Recording Secretary

*(Guests/Media)*

Ruth Prarthana Stephen Albert, Energetic City  
Gwenn Bourdon

*Regrets:* Angela Telford, Secretary-Treasurer



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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 documented 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 5:32 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 #01-26

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

Other Reports

BCSTA Board Chair Call - January 15, 2026

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)

- Will attend PAC meetings at liaison schools starting this week
- Safe School presentation

### Vice-Chair Gilliss (Area 3)

- Checked in with Administrator at Hudson's Hope
- NPSS & MMMCS for club volleyball

### Trustee Lehmann (Area 1)

- Policy Committee meeting
- BCPSEA Budget & AGM material review
- Forwarded the BCPSEA Sector Call information to trustees via email
- Connecting with some parents at Clearview

### Trustee Scott-Moncrieff (Area 2)

- Will be connecting with administrators at liaison schools

### Trustee Snow (Area 5)

- Visited liaison schools

### Trustee Whitton (Area 5)

- Attended French Advisory Committee; there was discussion around the new preschool being put in place which will have a partially French program. Talked about retention of students for French Immersion programs. Good discussions and how students of various ages can work better together
- Visited Ecole Central

### Chair Gilbert (Area 5)

- Baldonnel – organized crafts as part of Mingle Jingle night in December
- Two meetings relating to the Rural & Remote working group
- Labour Management Meeting
- Meetings/communications around the response to student tragedies
- District Joint Health & Safety Committee
- Board Chair Call
- French Advisory Committee
- BCPSEA Sector Call
- Planning for NIB; sent out information to trustees via email

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting

### Approval of the Minutes

Motion #02-26

Snow/Lehmann

THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025 be adopted.  
CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:  
*None*

**Approval of Excerpts**

Motion #03-26

Scott Moncrieff/Whitton  
THAT the excerpts from the November 17, 2025 In Camera Meeting Minutes be approved and appended to these Regular Meeting Minutes.  
CARRIED.

**Announcements & Reminders**

January 23/24	NIB Meeting		Prince George
January 27	SUP-PAC Meetings <i>(Lehmann/Scott-Moncrieff)</i>	12:00 p.m.	Board Room
January 29	BCPSEA AGM		Vancouver
January 30	Prespatou Graduation	3:00 & 6:00 p.m.	Prespatou School
January 30	NID (District Turnaround)		
February 2	COTW Meeting	2:30 p.m.	Dr. Kearney
February 9	Board Advance	8:30 a.m.	Board Room
February 9	NPAA Meeting	4:45 p.m.	Dr. Kearney
February 16	Family Day		
February 17 (Tues)	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
February 19	Indigenous Council Meeting		
February 20	Provincial Council		Virtual
<del>February 23</del>	<del>Board Advance</del>	<del>9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Board Room</del>
February 24	SUP-PAC Meetings <i>(Snow/Campbell)</i>	12:00 p.m.	Board Room
February 27	NID Day (Report Writing)		
March 2	COTW Meeting	2:30 p.m.	Bert Bowes
March 4/5	Basketball Tournament		Charlie Lake
March 9	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Board Room
March 11/23	Early Dismissal Day		
March 16	Spring Break		
- March 27			

**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**

<https://togetherwelearn.pn.bc.ca/2026/01/14/superintendents-report-january-2026/>

- For information purposes

**Out-of-District Field Trips**

- Discussion around helmets being mandatory for all students and staff for ski trips

- There is fundraising and funds being allocated for the International field trip
- See motion below

**Community Coaches**

- See motion below

Motion #04-26

Whitton/Lehmann

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

CARRIED.

Motion #05-26

Scott-Moncrieff/Campbell

THAT the Board approves the Out-of-District Field Trips as presented.

CARRIED.

Motion #06-26

Campbell/Lehmann

THAT the Board approves the Community Coaches as presented.

CARRIED.

Motion #07-26

Scott-Moncrieff/Thomas

THAT the Board appoints Stephen Petrucci as Secretary-Treasurer in Angela Telford's absence

CARRIED.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

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

**Finance Update to December 31, 2025**

- For information purposes
- The lower enrolment funding will become part of the Amended Budget in February
- Noted that the interest rate was higher than expected

**Operating Budget Consultation Process 2026-2027**

- For information purposes

**Ministry Funding Update 2025-2026**

- For information purposes

**Human Resources Summary Report**

- For information purposes

Motion #08-26

Whitton/Snow

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

CARRIED.

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

Approval of the Minutes – January 12 2026

Motion #09-26

Lehmann/Whitton

THAT the Board accept the Regular Committee of the Whole minutes of January 12, 2026 and its recommendations

CARRIED.

### Business Arising from the Minutes

The following business arose from the above noted Minutes:

*None*

### Policy Committee

- Chair Gilbert shared that during the most recent Board Chair Call some districts are adding mandatory professional development around bullying & harassment in their bylaws
- Discussion around adding trustee Criminal Record Checks being done by candidates prior to them being allowed to put their name forward as a candidate

### Motion #10-26

#### Bylaw 4/26

Whitton/Campbell

That the Board of Education adopt the First Reading of Trustee Bylaw 4/26  
CARRIED.

### Motion #11-26

#### 3006 1012 Aboriginal Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Campbell/

That the Board of Education issue a Notice of Motion for the adoption of Policy 3006 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee  
CARRIED.

### Motion #12-26

#### 3007 Indigenous Education First Nations

Scott-Moncrieff/

That the Board of Education issue a Notice of Motion for the adoption of Policy 3007 First Nations  
CARRIED.

## **Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Updates**

*None*

## **Other Reports**

### **BCSTA**

#### Provincial Council Meeting (Virtual) – February 20, 2026

- Let District Staff know if you want to attend as an observer by February 2, 2026

#### Board Chair Call – January 15, 2026

- International Certification wait has been cut from 9 months to 4 months
- As they realize attendance across the province is a concern, FNEC is working on gathering absentee data and working out processes; access to that data is coming soon.
- Ombudsperson Person Report is coming out this month
- Gordon Li has been reviewing regional representation motion that came out of the NIB meeting. They've held five board meetings in the last six months. A report has been circulated to trustees; they are looking at doing other things besides structural reform (ie. board chair calls and branch meetings). They are looking for feedback. The report has come out now because anything related to changing the BCSTA bylaws is an extraordinary motion with a deadline of January 29, 2026.
- Carolyn Broady spoke to policy work being done; in some cases, policy has been created on ministerial orders that are actually admin procedures. The committee is working on definitions in this regard. They pulled exemplars from 18 districts; they know that everybody is in a

different place regarding their district's policies. They are asking all boards to take a good look at their policies around the role of the board, the role of the Superintendent and delegation of authority before the elections in October. They realize there is local autonomy but they are trying to show best practice.

- The Legislation Committee is looking at modernizing foundational statements and updating language. They have run some of the changes by the Indigenous Education Advisory Council and hope to have something out by January 29, 2026.
- Trustee elections are coming up in October 2026. Boards are required to have their Election bylaws adopted by July 24, 2026 as well as publicly share where the polling stations will be.
- Additional provincial parties are stepping forward saying they want to run candidates in all school districts.

#### **BCPSEA**

- BCPSEA website has the public updates on the teacher collective bargaining

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

- Knowledge Keepers Presentation – Monday, March 9 @ 4:30 p.m.
- CSBA – July 5 – 8, 2026 – Registration is open January 22 – June 2, 2026 <https://bcsta.org/csba-gathering-2026/>

### **Correspondence**

#### **Volunteer Thank You Letter (M. Little)**

- A thank you letter was also sent to Stephen Petrucci, Superintendent and other North Peace Secondary and ELC staff

### **Unfinished Business**

The following unfinished business arose from the previous meeting minutes:

#### **Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Follow Up**

- Program has been expanded to include a number of occupations that are helpful to us however, Educational Assistants have not been included.
- In the past, School District #5 asked to put forward a joint motion in this area. Would like to reach out to them to see what their interest is in moving forward with a motion around adding Educational Assistants to the forgiveness program.
- Trustees were in support of this

**ACTION:** Chair Gilbert will proceed with advocacy in this area and bring back further information to the Board

### **New Business**

#### **Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal**

##### Motion #13-26

Campbell/Snow  
THAT the Board agrees to renew their membership with the Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce

CARRIED.

### **Community Response to Youth Tragedies**

- The letter attached in the agenda package was sent out through the school district on January 9, 2026
- Working with RCMP, Safer Schools Together and Northern Health; we have been given clear direction from these partners on what school districts should be doing in schools for students and for their families
- Chair Gilbert - there is a short-term dealing with things, then middle-term and longer term; this is based on what comes out of the original events and when things have started to settle. This information comes from the professionals in the field and those working with students and families

### **Succession Planning**

- Superintendent Petrucci has indicated he has a plan to retire
- As the Superintendent is the employee of the Board, we are to review what process we want to follow and steps to take to hire a replacement for this position.

### **Ministry of Transportation Follow Up**

- After attending the Labour Management Meeting, Chair Gilbert wanted to bring forward concerns expressed at the table about snow removal, conditions of roads and bus routes. There had been a reach-out to Dawson Road Maintenance around some cases where bus runs were cancelled due to road conditions and not necessarily the extreme weather. There was a sense of the difficulties that the professional driving team has been experiencing due to the road conditions.
- In the past, the Board sent a letter to Ministry of Transportation and Dawson Road Maintenance around seeing improvements
- We haven't had this degree of snowfall in the area for a long time but is there a plan that are we ready to do better if/when this happens again
- Trustee Campbell – As trustee we have in the past and should continue to advocate to the Minister of Transportation that our bus routes need to be passible in order for our students to get to school
- Trustee Whitton – we need to also look at doing better in taking care of our school district roads, parking lots, etc. Everyone was struggling.
- Superintendent – frustration was shared at the meeting by our Transportation Supervisor on the condition of the roads. Let's start with the Ministry of Transportation regarding what roads are being triaged and prioritized

### **PRNTA Update – Donna Bulmer, President**

*No report, not present*

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

*No report, not present*

### **District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Report – Athena Andritz, President**

*No report, not present*

## Questions from Press/Public

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

*Gwenn Bourdon* – In reference to the Superintendent’s Report and the Words Matter poster, it gives locations and time but no date. Superintendent – these are generally ProD opportunities for staff and have a registration process. It is included in the report to make trustees and the public aware of the people development going on in the school district.

*Ruth, Energetic City Reporter* – In the Superintendent Report around International trips, it was mentioned they will be having fundraisers? Would like more information around what and when they are taking place and what they hoping to achieve. Superintendent – you’re welcome to connect with the school organizer with your questions. It’s early but they need a lot of leeway. Check in with the school in the spring, they will have more concrete details

2026-2027 Budget Consultation Process – Chair Gilbert - those are the steps and stages; district staff gather information and then it comes back to us as a board and we prioritize what we’re doing based on the needs that emerge.

## Suspension & Move into In-Camera Meeting

### Motion #14-26

Snow/Lehmann

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

CARRIED.

### Motion #15-26

Campbell/Snow

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

CARRIED.

## Adjournment

### Motion #16-26

Campbell/Lehmann

THAT the meeting be adjourned. (8:21p.m.)

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HELEN GILBERT, CHAIR,  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ANGELA TELFORD,  
SECRETARY-TREASURER