



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59 (PEACE RIVER SOUTH)

11600 – 7TH Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

Open Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 18, 2024 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:
C. Anderson (Chair)
R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)
C. Hillton
S. Mounsey
A. Schurmann
C. Wards
T. Jones

C. Fennell, Superintendent
K. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Nil

Called to Order – 1:03 PM

The Board Chair acknowledged that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2024-12-006)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Hillton

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the December 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-12-007)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting November 27, 2024 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – November 27, 2024

(2024-12-008)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting November 27, 2024 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Winter themed activities and student artwork are evident through the schools during the month of December. Christmas Concerts and Turkey Dinners are also being held during the last week of school before Winter Break.
- Rik Leaf from Tribe of One visited many schools in the district where he led classes in music creation and video production.
- Mr. Schilds' class at Ecole Frank Ross is working on a numeracy project that tracks the weight and quantity of food donations from classes in the school for to St. Marks Food Bank.
- Students and staff at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus held a Fill the Bus campaign. They raised over \$10,000 in money and food donations for local families and food banks!
- Primary classes at Canalta Elementary are engaged in literacy centres that are focussing on working memory skills. The Intermediate classes are working on letter writing and focussing on building vocabulary. The Intermediate students created story displays, and the teacher used use AI to create movies from each project.
- The Tumbler Ridge Secondary School basketball team won all their games and took home 1st place in the basketball tournament held at Chetwynd Secondary. Senior athletes and Student Voice students hosted a Winter Formal for elementary students where the students were divided up by grades to participate in the dance parties.
- Little Prairie Elementary students are having fun developing projects with electromagnetic magnets, static electricity and making slime!

- Staff at Devereaux Elementary held Secret Spirit Days. It didn't take the students long to figure it out and they were excited to come to school each day to see what the staff were up to! The Spirit Days included Monochromatic Day, Anything But a Cup Day, Socks with Sandals, Mix-Match Prints, and Black-out Day.

R6.2 International Field Trips

The Superintendent provided the following international field trip updates:

The May 2025 French Immersion field trip to France, previously approved in principle by the Board of Education in March 2024, has been cancelled due to low number of students signed up for the trip.

Director of Instruction, Paul Chisholm, has granted approval for Dawson Creek Secondary School to continue planning the international student trip to Europe in March 2025. The trip fundraising is well underway, with all field trip planning requirements met. A final approval request will be brought forward to the Board in January 2025.

R6.2 Kindergarten Registration

Elementary schools will be accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2025-2026 school year starting January 7, 2025.

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Statement of Financial Information

The Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report was provided. The annual report is required by all public institutions and publishes the names, salaries and related expenses of employees earning over \$75,000, vendors paid over \$25,000, and elected officials' income and expenses. The report is available for viewing on the school district website.

(2024-12-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) adopt the Statement of Financial Information as presented.

CARRIED

R7.2 Secretary Treasurer Report – December 2024

The Secretary Treasurer's report for December was provided for information.

R7.5 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

The following activities have occurred since the November board meeting:

- Receipt of tender package from Engineer for the modular construction portion of the project for staff review
- Modular construction project was posted on BC Bid
- Advised Ministry modular construction posted to BC Bid
- Director of Operations and Facilities Manager quarterly meeting with City for projects update
- Director of Facilities and Ministry scheduled project update meeting

Tentative Schedule for Tender Process:

- December 9, 2024 - Post on BC Bid
- Mid December 19, 2024 - Bidders optional site visit
- January 6, 2025 – Tender close and award

Updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Capital-Projects).

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementaries

The following progress has been made since the November Board Meeting:

- A meeting was held involving Director of Operations, the Architect, and the Engineer to discuss foundation options for the project.
- For both childcare facilities, the draft Class A cost estimate for traditional stick-build construction is currently under review by the Architect.
- The Class A cost estimate for the modular construction option is still being completed by the cost estimate consultant.
- Coordination of site conditions for both facilities with the City of Dawson Creek and the District of Tumbler Ridge is still ongoing.
- Structural and civil engineering coordination remains in progress.

Next Steps:

- Review the final costing once it is received and integrate any necessary adjustments into the design plans.
- Continue with detailed design work to ensure all elements are resolved and ready for the next phase.
- Maintain open communication with city representatives to ensure regulatory compliance and alignment.
- Finalize the Class A cost estimates for both construction options.
- Confirm site-specific requirements, including fire hydrant locations, in coordination with the City of Dawson Creek.

Updates are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Capital-Projects).

8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R8.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Provincial Council in February will be held online. The AGM will be held in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025.

R8.2 SD59 Presentation to Tumbler Ridge Mayor and Council

Board Chair, Superintendent and Director of Instruction Chisholm attended the Tumbler Ridge Council Meeting on December 2, 2024 as a delegation to present information on teacher recruitment and retention, and to provide information on the process of the hiring incentives provided to the district from BCPSEA.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Both Councils gathered in December for their annual celebratory lunch/dinner.

10.0 DIARY

11.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

12.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question-and-answer period was provided.

13.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.1 - Regular Board Meeting – January 22, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

(2024-12-010)

MOVED – Hillton

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of December 18, 2024 be terminated. (1:42 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed by:
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed by:
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer