



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: January 22, 2025 – 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 – 1:02 PM

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2025-01-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Hillton

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the January 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-01-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting December 18, 2024 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – December 18, 2024

(2025-01-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting December 18, 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:

- Literacy blitzes are the focus of many schools around the district. The targeted activity provides students a fun environment in which to practice literacy skills they have learned through previous literacy centre participation. The literacy blitz helps students to become fluent in their reading and writing skills.
- Schools in all communities are enjoying outdoor activities, including snowshoeing, tobogganing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and skating.
- Students at Ecole Frank Ross are learning Social Emotional Learning strategies by focusing on 'things in my control', which include learning about their own thoughts, emotions, reactions, behaviors, communication style, self-awareness, self-regulation, goal setting, decision-making, and how they choose to respond to situations and people around them. Students are also learning about local First Nations and has made a bulletin board all about Saulteau First Nations. The school initiated a 'Seek 'n Find' door decorating contest and Ms. Major's class is having fun with 'Beaver on the Shelf'.
- Windrem Elementary presented the ceiling tile designs they have been working on to the Chetwynd Indigenous Council.
- Tumbler Ridge StrongStart students were excited to visit the fish farm at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. The students got to feed the fish and learn how fish can provide nutrients to plants to help them grow. Mr. Noronha's class used a 3D printer to create manipulatives to reconstruct the earth's continents to learn about how they were formed and broke apart. The students reconstructed the earth and moon which are being used in grade 7 science with the use of telescopes.

- Devereaux students had fun building inukshuks out of clay as part of their learning about Inuit communities.
- As part of a school wide initiative, students at Canalta Elementary helped set the school's goal for 2025 - 'We have Drive in 2025'. Canalta is part of the Classroom Champions program which partners the school with a world class athlete who provides mentorship to the students and encourages growth mindsets and inspire positive classroom culture. Mr. Haberstock's class is teamed up with Canadian National Ski Cross Team Athlete, Antoinette Tansley.
- McLeod Elementary and Little Prairie Elementary teamed up to play basketball. Each school hosted a basketball game allowing the teams to travel and play a game outside of their community.
- South Peace Elementary invited the RCMP for a visit. Students and families enjoyed learning about the RCMP and the services they offer.
- The District is participating in Preventure Training, an evidence-based program developed by Clinical Psychologist and Professor Dr. Patricia Conrad. The program uses personality targeted interventions to promote mental health and reduce the risk of substance use for youth.
- Dianne Lowe has been appointed as Vice-Principal at DCSS - Central Campus in a temporary position from February 3rd to June 30th.

R6.2 International Field Trip

Dawson Creek Secondary School requested final approval for their international student trip to Europe in March 2025.

(2025-01-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Jones

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) grant final approval to Dawson Creek Secondary School for the international field trip to Europe from March 19th to 30th, 2025.

CARRIED

R6.3 Early Years Health Fair

The District is partnering with local agencies to host an Early Years Health Fair on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The event is a project by the Ministry of Education and Child Care Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT).

R6.4 Feeding Futures Update

The Superintendent presented data for the Feeding Futures program for the September to December period.

As part of the Feeding Futures program, the District supported families and students with care packages in the month of December to provide extra support over the winter break.

R6.5 Enhancing Student Learning Feedback

The Superintendent shared the 2024 Annual Review Feedback Report from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR) submitted to the Ministry for the 2023-2024 school year. The feedback report provides constructive feedback allowing the district to adapt strategies to focus on areas of growth and to make continuous improvements to enhance student learning.

R6.6 2025-26 Proposed School Calendar

The Superintendent presented the proposed school calendar for the 2025-26 school year. The proposed calendar reflects the current collective agreement language around start, end, and break times with special provision for the two-week spring break. The Superintendent also noted that the 2025-26 school year will have two consecutive non-instructional days in October to allow for the professional development conference which occurs every three years.

The calendar will be circulated for feedback. The consultation period allows for public feedback before the calendar is adopted by the board and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care before March 31st.

(2025-01-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve to circulate the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar for feedback

CARRIED

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Monthly Financial Report – November 2024

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for November 2024.

R7.2 Monthly Financial Report – December 2024

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for December 2024. Twelve month budgets should have 50% remaining and ten month budgets should have 60%.

R7.3 Budget Change Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the budget change report, indicating changes from the Preliminary Budget approved in May 2024.

R7.4 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since December 16, 2024 the following have occurred:

- December 17, 2024
 - Addendum # 1 added to posting on BC Bid
 - Closing date of tender was extended to January 13, 2025
 - Electronic bids will be accepted due to uncertainty around Canada Post strike.
- December 19, 2024
 - Optional site visit for interested contractors of which two attended.
- January 8, 2025
 - Addendum #2 added to posting on BC Bid
 - Closing date of tender extended to January 20, 2025 as per multiple contractors' requests.

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 Elementary

Updates since the December Board Meeting:

- Review the final costing once it is received and integrate any necessary adjustments into the design plans.
 - awaiting civil and structural drawings from Engineer.
- Continue with detailed design work to ensure all elements are resolved and ready for the next phase.
 - proceed to building permit submission once costing completed above.
- Maintain open communication with city representatives to ensure regulatory compliance and alignment:
 - City of Dawson Creek, currently ongoing. The proposed plans for Tumbler Childcare have been coordinated with the District of Tumbler Ridge and design has been confirmed.
- Finalize the Class A cost estimates for both construction options:
 - Class A cost estimate will be completed once all documents have been reviewed.
- Confirm site-specific requirements, including fire hydrant locations, in coordination with the City of Dawson Creek:
 - Contact made; awaiting response from the City.

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

R7.5 Secretary Treasurer's Report – January 2025

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

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 Northern Interior Branch Advocacy Priorities

The board discussed advocacy priorities in preparation for the Northern Interior Branch Meeting scheduled in Prince George on February 7-8, 2025.

Board advocacy discussion points:

- Letter of Permission to be district wide not specific to a designated school and to be approved for longer than a year.
- Representative from each branch on the BCSTA board and the member terms are staggered.
- Childcare facility maintenance funding.
- Increased capital bus replacement funding to cover 100% of cost.
- Accessibility upgrade funding.
- Move timeline of FSAs from fall to another time in the year.

- Alignment between MOECC career program initiatives such as dual credit, health career expansion/experiential projects, and other programs, and availability of post-secondary seats in related fields.
- StrongStart funding increase.
- Improving teacher education programs through transparency and process of BC Teachers Council.
- Approval of UNBC Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education Program Proposal.
- Funding for Northern Student Teacher Bursary Program.
- BCSTA board meetings open or available by recording; weighted voting on certain motions.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

The Chetwynd Indigenous Council met on January 21, 2025. Council received a presentation on the grade 7 transition experiences, including testimonials from students. Windrem Elementary presented the ceiling tile designs they have been working on. Council also received an update on the planning for the May 5th Truth and Reconciliation non-instructional day.

The Dawson Creek Indigenous Council will be holding their meeting on January 28, 2025.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee brought forward two policies for adoption that were being circulated for feedback.

(2025-01-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Jones

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) adopt policy and regulation 4270 District Authority Scholarship Awards as presented.

CARRIED

(2025-01-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) adopt policy and regulation 4330 Dismissal of Students as presented.

CARRIED

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 – February 19, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

(2025-01-011)
MOVED – Jones
THAT the Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2025 be terminated. (2:36 PM)
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed by:
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed by:
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer