



# School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59 (Peace River South)

11600 – 7<sup>TH</sup> Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

### Open Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 15, 2024 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:  
C. Anderson (Chair)  
C. Hillton (Vice-Chair)  
R. Gulick  
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

(2024-05-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

## 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

### R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-05-008)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting of April 24, 2024 approved as Presented.

### R1.2 Special Open Board Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-05-009)

The Chair declared the minutes of the special open meeting of May 8, 2024 approved as Presented.

### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – April 24, 2024

(2024-05-010)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting of April 24, 2024 approved as printed.

## 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:

- Students at Dawson Creek Secondary School have been immersed in Project Based Learning. The students have been studying cells, types of energy, hydraulic arms, seismology and plate tectonics, electricity and circuits, and dissection. The grade 9 students visited Northern Lights College to tour the campus and learn about all the programs offered. English classes learned the art of storytelling with Wayne Lariviere. An online and social media safety presentation by Safer Schools was well attended by students.
- Parkland Elementary students completed their annual community cleanup and then celebrated with an outdoor music concert!
- Crescent Park Elementary participated in a community clean-up sponsored by Ovintiv and enjoyed the smile cookies also donated by Ovintiv.
- Dawson Creek Secondary South Peace Campus students created a mural to honour Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and participated in a walk to city hall. South Peace Student Council visited the Dawson Creek City Council.

Fourteen students completed the Youth Explore Trades program at Northern Lights College and another group of students participated in a 3-day program highlighting Adventures in Health Care – a program organized in partnership with the local Rotary Club, UNBC, NLC, Northern Health, SD59, SD60, and SD81.

- Amazing student artwork continues to come out of Tumbler Ridge Senior Secondary. Project K.A.R.T.S. is in full swing as students are in the final weeks of preparing for the big race day on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Don Titus Elementary students love the Pokémon-themed cooking program. Students are enjoying field trips to Gwillim Lake and the Sauleau Forest Walk.
- Chetwynd Secondary School held a Lucky Charms cereal eating contest and Hungry Hippos challenge with local RCMP members participating. The drama class presented an interpretive dance, the Food's class is busy preparing snacks for the Feeding Futures program which has been a great success at the school.
- Peace View Elementary School is practicing emergency preparedness drills.
- Moberly Lake Elementary students participated in tree planting reclamation project at Sauleau First Nations.
- Ecole Frank Ross students visited Rotary Manor as part of the grandbuddies program. The students are learning how to play disc golf. A local female hockey athlete Morgan La Fleur-Hamann, shared her experience of training, trying out and playing in the National Aboriginal Hockey Tournament and then the class made Indigenous themed hockey pucks.
- Canalta Elementary students are learning about digestion. Based on reviewing the school's SOAR data the school determined students wanted access to non-sport extra-curricular activities, so a Lego Club was started. Lego Club is a structured club where students are challenged to complete specific Lego designs.
- Devereaux Elementary students are enjoying harvesting crops of lettuce to make into salads. A delivery of smile cookies was a big hit and the students had fun getting creative about the spirit-themed day to use "Anything but a Backpack." Students used wagons, toolboxes, purses, buckets, cereal boxes, and bags to carry their items to school.
- Tremblay Elementary School had a presentation from Ms. Danica Spittal to learn more about the MMWIG campaign. Students are also participating in Jump Rope for Heart.
- May 16th is Moose Hide Campaign Day - a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called to join to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for a collective journey of reconciliation.

#### R6.2 Integrated Child and Youth Teams

The District was selected to implement an integrated Child and Youth (ICY) program. ICY is a provincial strategy for improved mental health and substance use care in BC. The program is a team approach that has collaboration and support from team members employed through health authorities, school districts, Ministry of Children and Family Development, as well as other organizations. The multi-disciplinary approach expands the diversity of mental health supports so children and youth may access services when needed.

#### R6.3 Childcare BC New Spaces

A May 6, 2024 media release announced the District was successful in its application to the ChildcareBC New Spaces Fund. The District has secured \$7.95 million through the federally and provincially supported fund for the creation of 74 new childcare spaces in Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge. The application was in partnership with the YMCA which currently

provides before and after school programs in the district. The full media release is posted on the district website, [Child Care Facilities | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](#).

#### R6.4 Truth and Reconciliation District Day

District staff participated in the second Indigenous-focused Non-Instructional Day. This year, individuals were able to continue their journeys by gathering to listen, to learn, and take action towards personal commitments toward Truth and Reconciliation. The District was honoured to have Jo Chrona, author of *Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education* as the keynote. Jo Chrona led staff through learning to unpack individual biases and recognize our role in reconciliation as employees of the Peace River South School District. Staff were challenged to think about creating an education system that embodies anti-racism and provides equity for all learners.

Denise Augustine, the Superintendent for Indigenous Education for the Ministry of Education and Child Care also shared the day with the District. Denise Augustine reminded staff of the important work we all do in impacting the lives of children, and how reconciliation means all of us working together to make our schools welcoming places.

#### R6.5 Graduation Ceremonies

The Superintendent reported on the graduation events for each high school. Earlier in the school year, the high schools connected with the local Indigenous Councils to ask for permission to hold graduation ceremonies on National Indigenous Peoples Day, in result, the Indigenous Councils moved their celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day to June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### 7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

#### R7.1 2025-2026 Five-Year Annual Capital Plan-DRAFT

The Secretary Treasurer presented the draft plan of the major and minor capital projects. Capital funding from the provincial government covers most of the capital costs for site acquisition, new school construction, and school additions or renovations. Minor capital submissions include Carbon Neutral Capital Projects, Playground Enhancements, School Enhancement projects, and Bus Acquisition.

A final copy of the major and minor capital submissions will be presented to the Board in June for approval.

#### R7.2 2024-2025 Budget Process Debrief

Trustees and senior staff reflected on the 2024-2025 budget process, discussing what worked well and what improvements could be made for the 2025-2026 budget cycle.

#### R7.3 Secretary Treasurer Report – May 2024

The Secretary Treasurer's report for May was provided for information. An update was provided on the Crescent Park Expansion Project. Geo tech testing is scheduled for May 11, 2024, and the engineer is completing the existing building design confirmation and a conceptual design. More information on the District's capital projects can be found at [Crescent Park Expansion Project-UPDATE-May 15, 2024 | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](#)

## 8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

### R8.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Trustee Knowledge Series is available in the trustee portal.

### R8.2 – UNBC Teacher Program – C. Hillton

In September 2023, the Board supported UNBC in its application to create a Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education Program. The Board was disappointed to learn the application was denied by the BC Teachers Council as the Board has been advocating for an online and locally accessible teacher education program in BC. Trustee Hillton moved the Board write a letter to express the Board's disappointment that the program was not approved.

(2024-05-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) write a letter to the BC Teachers' Council in regard to the denial of the Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education program through UNBC to express the Board's disappointment with the Council's decision and the impact the decision has on northern school districts in efforts to staff our schools;

AND FURTHER, to seek information on what the BC Teachers' Council is doing to address the teacher shortage in BC through its approval process.

CARRIED

### R8.3 – BC Rights Commission Report – C. Hillton

Trustee Hillton brought forward the following concerns about the misinformation and inaccuracies of the BC Right Commission Report:

- Land Acknowledgement was not appropriate.
- The District tracks all student attendance, not only Indigenous students.
- The report is based on the input of 39 individuals.
- All School Districts receive targeted Indigenous funding based on Indigenous student FTE, from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Students self-identify as Indigenous ancestry time of school registration.

### R8.4 – Conflict Declaration – C. Anderson

Trustee Anderson declared a family member is now a member of UFCW Local 247.

## 9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

The Indigenous Education Councils debriefed the Truth and Reconciliation Day that was held for district staff on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Northern Lights College presented on the programs and services available to students. Coach Mentor staffing updates were provided and as well as information about the new Integrated Child and Youth Care program and ChildcareBC New Spaces Fund announcements. Councils also discussed year-end celebrations which will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> in honour of National Peoples Day (June 21<sup>st</sup>). The celebration will include a barbeque, cultural events, and student achievement awards.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee brought forward the following policies and regulations:

(2024-05-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

THAT, the Board circulate Policy and Regulation 5190 Use of School Facilities for feedback for a minimum period of thirty days.

CARRIED

Regulation 2205 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Recognition was provided to trustees for information. The maximum allowance for tipping was changed from 15% to 18-20%.

The Policy Committee will be developing a policy to address the use of digital devices by students as per the ministry guidelines that were issued to school districts.

10.0 DIARY

11.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

12.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.1 – Regular Board Meeting – June 19, 2024

ADJOURNMENT


(2024-05-013)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick

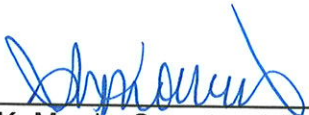
THAT, the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2024 be adjourned. (3:00 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



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C. Anderson, Board Chair



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K. Morris, Secretary Treasurer