



# 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: October 23, 2024 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: Little Prairie Elementary School – Chetwynd, 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 – 1:04 PM

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2024-10-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the October 23, 2024 Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

## 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

### R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-10-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting September 25, 2024 approved as presented.

### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – September 25, 2024

(2024-10-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting September 25, 2024 approved as presented.

## 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

## 3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

## 4.0 PRESENTATIONS

### R4.1 Student Voice Presentation - CSS

Students, Laila Gentry and Mara Mamic from Chetwynd Senior Secondary presented to the Board of Education about Student Voice. The students talked about the SOAR process they did last year to assist in providing the *students' voice* in developing the new strategic plan. The students also discussed how Student Voice would like to expand to include elementary students in the group as well.

## 5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

R5.1 – From: Ministry of Education and Child Care – Thank-you re: updating Trustee Code of Conduct

(2024-10-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) accept the September 6, 2024 letter from the Ministry of Education and Child Care as received.

CARRIED

R5.2 – To: Bernier-Invitation to meet with Board of Education – K-12 Education

R5.3 – To: Bigsby-Invitation to meet with Board of Education – K-12 Education

R5.4 – To: Neufeld-Invitation to meet with Board of Education – K-12 Education

(2024-10-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Mounsey

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) accept the invitations to local candidates as received.

CARRIED

R5.5 – CC: Ministry of Education and Child Care to District of Tumbler Ridge – Incentives for Rural and Remote School Districts

(2024-10-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) accept the carbon copy of the October 2, 2024 letter sent to the District of Tumbler Ridge from the Ministry of Education and Child Care as received.

CARRIED

R5.6 – From: Village of Pouce Coupe – Official Community Plan

(2024-10-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurman

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) move for discussion the email dated October 9, 2024 from the Village of Pouce Coupe requesting feedback on its Official Community Plan.

CARRIED

Areas brought forward by the trustees included mention of use of the school/district, school buses, and expansion of daycare and after school care.

(2024-10-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

That the Board Chair to reply to the request for feedback on behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) addressing the areas listed in the draft Official Community Plan that are under the direction of the School District.

CARRIED

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- South Peace Elementary students are learning about poems. The students created an acrostic poem about October.
- Moberly Lake Elementary enjoyed a pizza party!
- Schools throughout the district recognized Truth and Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day.
- McLeod Elementary held a successful meet the teacher night where staff hosted a BBQ for all families.
- Many schools (both elementary and secondary) partnered with BC Elections and held their own mock vote. The results mirrored the provincial election.
- Canalta Elementary participated in team building activities. The school is excited to have three student teachers. The primary students are doing theme work in literacy and the intermediate students enjoyed a fall field trip to Swan Lake.
- Chetwynd Secondary School students made new mural made out of cloth which was unveiled at the school's Truth and Reconciliation assembly.
- High schools are hosting post-secondary institution fairs.

- Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus had over 100 students in grades 8 & 9 come out for the school’s volleyball teams.
- Ecole Frank Ross administrators joined in on some fundraising. The students had a great time taping Mrs. Haugen (aka Spiderwoman) to the wall and dying Mr. Henry’s hair pink!
- The Student Representative Club (SRC) at Don Titus Montessori hosted a Friendship Soup on the Friday before Thanksgiving. The SRC also hosted a leaf pile contest for all classes. Students were given a designated area to collect leaves from and then had 20 minutes to build the biggest pile they could.

R6.2 [erase \(Expect Respect and Safe Education\) website](#)

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has refreshed the [Expect Respect and a Safe Education \(erase\) website](#). The new website features a streamlined design with improved access to information and resources for students, adults, and school staff.

R6.3 [Jackson Award Arbitration](#)

In 2019, Arbitrator Marguerite Jackson issued an award finding that references to special education designation categories in restored teacher collective agreement language held the meanings attributed to them at the time the language was removed. The Jackson Award particularly impacted current designation categories G and Q (formerly G and J, respectively).

The District reviewed students with designation of Category Q and G to determine if they met the language from 1995 to determine if they should be included in remedy as part of the review.

7.0 [REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER](#)

R7.1 [2023-2024 Executive Compensation Report](#)

The 2023-2024 Executive Compensation Disclosure report was presented. The report is an annual reporting requirement and includes the compensation philosophy of the district, including labour market comparators, cash and non-cash compensation, compensation administration and accountability. The disclosure includes the executive level decision makers with compensation over \$125,000. The report is reviewed by both BCPSEA and PSEC.

(2024-10-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) receive the 2023-2024 Executive Compensation Report as presented.

CARRIED

R7.2 [Monthly Financial Report – September 2024](#)

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for September 2024. As of October, budgets on a 12-month cycle should have 75% left and 10-month budgets should have 90% of their budget remaining.

R7.3 [2024-2025 Budget Change Report](#)

The Secretary Treasurer presented the budget change report, indicating changes from the Preliminary Budget approved in May 2024. The Secretary Treasurer noted there has been a reduction in enrolment from February projections.

R7.4 2024-2025 Final Preliminary Enrolment

Final enrolment count is 3690 FTE, an increase of 15 FTE from the preliminary report presented in the September board meeting; however, the District had overall decrease of 44.9 FTE from the projections submitted in the Annual Budget. The Secretary Treasurer stated there was a significant over projection in Kindergarten numbers for fall enrolment and a reduction in enrolment in grades 11 & 12 that attributed to the decline in enrolment.

R7.5 Secretary Treasurer Report – October 2024

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

R7.6 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

The engineer is creating a rendering of the front and back of the building to share with school and community members. The engineer and Director of Operations met to discuss the retaining wall and drainage around the building.

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

Both sites have been surveyed and the project team has reviewed and discussed final details of the design with the architect. Heating options were selected, and plumbing details are being reviewed by the team.

8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R8.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA.

The trustees and Superintendent attended the Northern Interior Branch Meeting & Leadership Series in Prince George on October 4 & 5, 2024.

*Upcoming BCSTA Events:*

BCSTA Provincial Council – October 25-26, 2024 – Vancouver (Alternate Trustee Gulick will attend)

BCSTA Academy – November 21-23, 2024 – Vancouver

A new Minister of Education will be appointed once the new cabinet is sworn in on November 18, 2024.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek Indigenous Council focussed on community members and roles within their organizations. The Council is also preparing for the upcoming enhancement meeting.

Trustee Hillton reported the Chetwynd Indigenous Education Council reviewed the enhancement agreement and LEA's. The council was presented with the Orange Shirt Day activities and looked at grad rates from last year. LEA meetings will be held with Sauleau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee reported it is reviewing older policies to determine if updates are required.

The following policies are being reviewed:

- 4270 – District Scholarship Awards (2000)
- 4330 – Early Dismissal of Students (1986)
- 4660 - Retention and Destruction of Records (2000)
- 4180 – Grading Practices ( 2013) - review to make sure it aligns with new reporting order and includes a section on fair assessment
- 4585 – Media in Schools (2013)

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 – November 27, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

(2024-10-013)

MOVED – Hilton

THAT, the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2024 be terminated. (2:27 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original signed by: \_\_\_\_\_