



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 15, 2016 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Tradional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2016
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – February 16, 2016
- 5) Administration Report C. van der Mark Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports
 - a) Community Relations / Education Forum Committee D. Hanson Report Attached
 - b) Operations Committee J. Williams Report Attached
 - c) Policy Committee L. Collingwood Report Attached
 - d) Trustee Report D. Hanson Report Attached
 - e) Trustee Report F. Farrell Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
 - 8.1) 2016 – 2017: Draft School Calendar
 - 8.2) Lake Kathlyn Consultation Update
- 9) Other Business
 - 9.1) Expenditure Summary – February 29, 2016
- 10) Reading File

February 2016 Enrolment Figures	Ltr. Frm. CPF re: SSS French Humanities Request
Ltr. frm. SD05 to Mayors and Council from Cranbrook, Ferne, Sparwood and Elkford re: Control of Ungulates	
Ltr. frm. SD19 to M. Bernier & J. Iker re: Curriculum Implentation	
Ltr. frm Rob Flemming re: Gov't Dismisses Water Contamination	
Ltr. frm SD40 to Boards of Education re: Corinne's Quest – Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada to be repealed	
Ltr. frm. J.Jennings re: Proposed Closure of Lake Kathlyn School	
Ltr. frm. D. Turton & A. Baxter re: Proposed Closure of Lake Kathlyn School	

- 11) Closing Remarks - Next Board Meeting will be held on April 19th, 2016 at the Multi-Plex in Moricetown, commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 12) Adjournment
- 13) Public Remarks**

NOTES:

Delegations: This item is intended to provide an opportunity to members of the public to make a presentation to the Board. Individuals wishing to be included on the agenda must submit a written request to the Secretary Treasurer at least one week prior to the meeting stating the subject of their presentation and including any background information to be considered by the Board.

****Public Remarks:** this item is intended to provide an opportunity to members of the public to make comments to the Board.



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
FEBRUARY 16, 2016
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C.**

PRESENT: Trustees: B.J. Beaubien, L. Collingwood, F. Farrell, J. Williams, D. Hanson, P. Michell

Regrets: L. Kearns

Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

2. OPENING REMARKS

- Vice - Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are conducting our meeting on the traditional territory of the Witsuwit'en'.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed the local presidents and the large contingent from Lake Kathlyn. Trustee Kearns sends his regrets. Chairperson Williams expressed that she was very happy with the number of people that attended the first public consultation meeting at Lake Kathlyn. The information given and received was done in a very respectful manner and hopes this continues at the second public consultation meeting on March 8th in Moricetown.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Michell and seconded by Trustee Beaubien.*

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 19, 2016 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of January 19, 2016. There being none, the minutes of January 19, 2016 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of January 19, 2016 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the student achievement report to the Board. The first curriculum implementation early dismissal day took place on January 21st. All of the elementary schools took part in "Maker Dayz", thanks to Monica Strimbold for leading this. SD54 high school students will be travelling to Terrace to take part in the annual Skills Canada Competition. Big Band Dance was held on February 13th.

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the innovations and initiatives report to the Board. Ms. Faye Brownlie will be returning on February 26th to continue her work on the Early Primary Reading Assessment. SD54 has submitted a proposal to BCCIE to host up to 20 Chinese students as a part of a cultural exchange in August 2016. February's Education Forum on social media and internet safety will be held on February 29th at 5pm at the SBO. EMAP and Intro-to-Trades wrapped up another very successful session recently.
- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives report to the Board. Early notice incentive program for teachers continues this year. Twain Sullivan and Silverthorne will co-host the elementary basketball tournament on March 10th at HSS. Grade 4&7 students will be writing FSA's this month. Parents & students in grades 4, 7, 10, 12 will be completing the Provincial Satisfaction Surveys between now and April.
- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives report to the Board. The *breakfast and books* programs at WPS and MME are having strong turnouts this year. SSS theatre and music programs will be presenting "Beauty and the Beast" Feb 25-28. To promote family literacy day, TES held a *Pancakes, PJ's and Parents event*. Silverthorne Elementary has been enjoying fresh salads from their tower garden project. MME wrapped up their *Carnaval* celebrations with past week.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – Grade 8 & 9 Students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on Feb 11, 26, March 3 and 17, 2016 (two days for each grade respectively) for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SIL** – Grade 4-7 Students from Silverthorne Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 19 and March 11, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TES** – 17 Grade 6-7 Students from Telkwa Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 4th, 9th and 16th, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 40 Grade 8-12 Students from Houston Secondary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 8th, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

Operations

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided the enrolment projects for 2016-2017. Projections are estimated to be equal to the current 2015-2016 school year, ranging from 2,067 - 2,080 student FTE.

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Hanson provided a review of the January Education Forum on coding and invited everyone to the February Education Forum where the topic of internet safety and social media will be discussed.
 - Next Meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 4:00pm.

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Williams presented the Operations Committee's Report from the February 2, 2016 meeting.
 - **2016-2017 Draft Calendar:** The Committee recommended that the 2016-2017 Draft Calendar be sent out for public consultation.
 - **Canadian Parents for French:** The Committee recommended that the Board approve the letter of response provided at the committee meeting and send.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Michell.

"The Board approve the draft response letter to the Canadian Parents for French."

CARRIED

-
- Next Meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 5:00pm.

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee Report from the February 2, 2016 meeting.
- **Public Participation in Building Planning – Policy 6.270:** The committee recommended that the Board approved the revised draft policy as outlined.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Hanson.

“The Board approve the revised draft Policy 6.270 – Public Participation in Building Planning, as outlined.”

CARRIED

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- **Facility Review Cycle :** The committee recommended that the Annual Facility Review process be conducted in the fall.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Beaubien.

“The Board approve that the Annual Facility Review Process shall be conducted in the fall.”

CARRIED

-
- Next Meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 3:00pm.

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- No Trustee Reports this month.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business was submitted this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Lake Kathlyn Consultation Update** - Superintendent van der Mark expressed his appreciation for everyone who attended the first public consultation meeting and commented that the meeting was conducted in a respective nature by all parties. Mr. van der Mark informed the Board that the answers to the “125 sticky” questions will be posted on the School District website shortly. The Trustees then proceeded to have a discussion about the first consultation meeting, questioned the format for the second consultation meeting and asked questions to the senior administration that they needed clarification or answers to.
- **8.2) 2015-2016 Amended Annual Budget-** The operations committee recommended that the Board give all three readings to the 2015-2016 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw. Mr. Margerm provided a brief synopsis of the amended budget.
 - Vice-Chairperson Williams asked for unanimous consent to do all three readings for the 2015 – 2016 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw. Unanimous consent was not given.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Beaubien .

“The Board proceed with two readings for the 2015 – 2016 Amended Budget Bylaw.”

CARRIED

- Vice – Chairperson Williams asked Trustee Hanson what information she required to approve the 2015-2016 Amended Budget Bylaw. A discussion took place between senior administration and the Trustees, answering questions about the Amended Budget that was presented. At the conclusion of the discussion Trustee Hanson said that all of her questions had been answered.
- Vice-Chairperson Williams once again asked for unanimous consent to do all three reading tonight for the 2015 – 2016 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw. Unanimous consent was given.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Beaubien.

“The Board proceed with three readings for the 2015 – 2016 Amended Budget Bylaw.”

CARRIED

9. EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- The January 31, 2016 expenditure summary was included in the Trustee Board packages.

10. READING FILE

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Beaubien and seconded by Trustee Michell.

“That the information contained in the Trustee Reading File be received and filed.”

CARRIED

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Vice – Chairperson Williams reminded everyone present that the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office.

12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers.

13. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Approved by Les Kearns, Chairperson
On behalf of Jennifer Williams, Vice-Chairperson of the
Board of Education

Dave Margern
Secretary Treasurer



SYNOPSIS
OF
IN-CAMERA MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT #54 (Bulkley Valley)
JANUARY 19, 2016
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:07pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the In-Camera meeting minutes of January 19, 2016. There being none, the In-Camera meeting minutes of January 19, 2016 declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Administration reported on routine staffing issues.
- The Operations Committee reported on a real property matter.
- The reading file was received and filed.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:21pm.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
March 15, 2016

Student Achievement

- **Rugby** - HSS Student Denae Grange has just returned from playing wing for BC's "Elite Girls 7s – U18" rugby team at the Lake Vegas Invitational which claims to be "the largest rugby tournament in North America". The team came out with a record of 3 wins and 2 losses, playing in +29 degree weather! The BC Elite Girl's 7 Program was launched in the summer of 2015 with the goal of developing elite female rugby players aged 14-18 who have the potential to represent Canada at future Olympics Games and on the World Rugby 7s Circuit.

District Based Initiatives

- **Faye Brownlie** - Ms. Brownlie and Ms. Lynn Rutley lead SD54 primary teachers through an assessment workshop and the effective use of the Early Primary Reading Assessment.
- **Collaboration Rounds** - On Thursday and Friday, March 10th & 11th teachers from Walnut Park and Telkwa will be demonstrating lessons that are co-developed and co-presented. These learning rounds present outstanding opportunities for educators to share their practice, learn from others and add to their professional tool kit through observing others.
- **February Education Forum** – The February education forum explored common themes around the topic of Social Media and Internet Safety. Due to its popularity and content, a second forum will be held in Houston.
- **Skills Canada competition Northwest Community College** - Students placed in the following competitions:
 - Veronica Portsch – Gold in Culinary
 - Calvin Turko – Silver in Welding
 - Kyle Steigleder – Silver in Automotive
 - Philip Gust – Silver in Carpentry
 - Zach Schweitzer – strong showing in Carpentry
 - Dylan Conlon – strong showing in Automotive

Ms. Portsch will head to Abbotsford in April to take part in the provincial Skills Canada competition, representing School District #54 in the culinary competition. The Skills Canada competition is a unique competition that celebrates and rewards students for excellence in their mastery of skilled trade & technology skills in a manner that directly involves industry in evaluating student performance and that keeps training relevant to employers' needs. The second feature that makes the competition unique is that it creates an interactive and engaging environment for the thousands of young people who attend the competitions as spectators. A big thanks to Ms. Monica Strimbold for her continued excellent leadership in the trades and skills portfolio.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

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- **District Dogwood Scholarships** – The District Dogwood Scholarships have been increased to \$1,250 this year. We are planning to have presentations the week of May 9-13th. The quality of presentations has continued to rise over the past few years and we look forward to more outstanding grade 12 scholarship candidates.
- **Grade 4 Feast**— On March 9th, grade 4 students from across the district will gather from across the district to participate in the annual Learning Feast in Moricetown. The students participate in and learn about the clan system.
- **Staffing:** Schools and district staff have begun working on potential staffing levels for the 2016-17 school year.

School Based Initiatives

- **Anti-Bullying Day:** On Wednesday, February 24, schools across the District participated in initiatives focused on bring awareness and an end to bullying.
- **SSS Drama** – SSS theatre and music program performed an amazing production of Beauty and the Beast to 5 sell-out crowds. Big thanks to the dedication of students and staff for pulling together such quality community entertainment!
- **SSS Jr. Girls' Basketball**—Continuing their success from last season, the Jr. Girls won the North West Zone Championships and are off to Langley from March 2-6!
- **SSS Sr. Boys' Basketball**—Won the NW Zone (AA) and are off representing the North West for the first time in 22 years! They will be in Langley March 9. Good luck boys!
- **SSS Curling** – The SSS curling team placed third at the Winter Games and placed second at the BC School Sports High School Curling Championships!

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **TSE** – Grade 4-7 Students from Twain Sullivan Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 7th and March 14th, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** - One (1) Grade 9 student to travel to Burnaby to take part in a seminar during period of April 4-10th, 2016. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip require approval by the Board of Education:
 - **TES** – 17 Grade 6/7 Students to travel to Bear Claw Lodge for their year-end celebrations on June 23-26, 2016. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
March 1st, 2016 4:00 PM School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
D. Hanson, Chair L. Collingwood, Alternate F. Farrell L. Kearns (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer
Regrets:	C. van der Mark, Superintendent

Welcome: I would like to acknowledge that we are conducting our meeting on the traditional territory of the Witsuwit'en.

REPORT

No Report

Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 5th, 2016 @ 4:00pm

Type: New, Revision, Deletion
Status: In-committee, on-going, approved
Consultation Yes, Not required, Complete



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

Education Forum Report

February 29, 2016

Impact of Social Media—Implications for parents and teachers as young people “live their lives online”.

While there are many benefits to technology, there are drawbacks that parents and educators need to be aware of. Matthew Monkman, District Principal of Technology, facilitated the February Education Forum and shared some video clips and resources, and there was a great group discussion that followed.

As a combination, accessible technology (such as smart phones) and social media have some serious implications for brain development, socialization and safety for children. The frequent use of devices can seriously impact the amount of time spent ‘doing nothing’. It’s during daydreaming and when brains are at rest that empathy develops. Brains also need time to focus and relax in order to move information from short term memory into long term, called memory consolidation. Without memory consolidation, you can’t create links between information and develop new ideas.

Social media reinforces being connected and sharing—friends can comment and like what you are doing, which results in feeling pretty good. It can be so rewarding that it becomes a cycle of ‘doing and posting’ in order to get feedback. It’s important for parents and teachers to ensure that children are also having face to face interactions and real world experiences that foster connection.

Safety was a key concern for parents at the Education Forum. Social media has broadened horizons, but it’s also made it challenging to retain privacy and make mistakes without everyone knowing about it! Mr. Monkman shared that when he is presenting to students he asks them “Would you do this in the line-up of the grocery store?” If the answer is no, then don’t post it or share it! There is the illusion of privacy when you are at home, but everything that is done online is public. Once posted or sent, you can’t get it back. Some key things that adults can do to help keep kids safe are:

- talk to kids—a lot and repeatedly
- don’t judge—you might be the safe space for them to make a mistake
- use social media yourself and model positive behaviour
- be the adult—set limits, be firm, say no

Here are some videos and resources from the forum:

- CBC The National: How social media is affecting teens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QWoP6jJG3k>
- What the internet is doing to our brains
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKaWJ72x1rI>
- Common Sense Media—Parent Questions and Answers
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>

Dawn Hanson
Chair, Community Relation Committee
School District #54 (Bulkley Valley)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

March 1, 2016

5:00PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
J. Williams, Chair B. Beaubien, Alternate P. Michell L. Kearns (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer
Regrets:	C. van der Mark, Superintendent E. Hildebrandt, Director, Facilities and Maintenance

The meeting was conducted from 5:02-5:50 pm

Welcome: I would like to acknowledge that we are conducting our meeting on the traditional territory of the Witsuwit'en.

REPORT

1. 2016-2017 Draft Calendar Update

Mr. McDiarmid updated the committee on the 2016-2017 Draft Calendar. The calendar has been sent out to the public and stakeholders for consultation. There have been no responses requesting changes. ***The committee recommends approval of the 2016-2017 School Calendar.***

2. Trustee Stipend

Mr. Margerm reviewed the policy concerning the annual decision by the Board to allow for an increase to trustee stipends. ***The committee recommends the motion that the trustee stipend not be increased for the 2016-2017 year.***

3. Water contamination issues in BC

Mr. Margerm updated the committee on the letter from the Deputy Minister concerning the importance for school districts to ensure water quality within all schools complies with *Water Management Best Practices* and the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. Our schools were tested between 2006-2010 with no evidence of lead, even schools built prior to 1989. Mr. Hildebrandt will be ordering new general water testing in the immediate future to bring our records up to date.

4. Format for Lake Kathlyn Public Consultation in Moricetown

Mr. McDiarmid reviewed the proposed agenda for the Lake Kathlyn public consultation meeting in Moricetown. The committee discussed the necessity to focus on the Moricetown community speaking at this public consultation. Others would be provided the opportunity to speak at the third consultation meeting at Lake Kathlyn School on Thursday, April 7, at 6:30 pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 5th, 2016 @ 5:00pm

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 1st, 2016 3:00 PM School Board Office

Voting Members L. Collingwood, Chair F. Farrell, Alternate D. Hanson L. Kearns (ex officio)	Administration M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer
Regrets:	C. van der Mark, Superintendent

The meeting was conducted from 3:12-4:22 pm

REPORT

Welcome: I would like to acknowledge that we are conducting our meeting on the traditional territory of the Witsuwit'en.

PREVIOUS MEETING OF February 2th, 2016

Policy	Description	Type	Status
6.270	Student Trustee	New	In-Committee
	Public Participation in Building Planning (Trustee Hanson)	Revision	
	Annual Facility Review Process Timing	Revision	Approved

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Consultation
1.185	Traditional Welcome Trustee Professional Development–return to Committee Trustee School Visits (D. Hanson)	Revision	Yes

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

1. Traditional Welcome

The Committee makes the recommendation that the following language for the Board's First Nations Acknowledgement be approved:

"Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the _____."

Smithers opening: Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan

Houston opening: Likhsilya - Small Frog Clan

Morictown opening: Likhsilya - Small Frog Clan

2. Policy 1.185 Trustee Professional Development

The Committee recommends that the following revisions in Note 1 to Policy 1.185 be approved and sent out for public consultation.

3. Trustee School Visits

Trustee Hanson proposed a process by which trustees would have the opportunity for school visits where school plans are reviewed. An email communication was supplied by Trustee Hanson from Trustee Christine Younghusband describing SD46 process for school visits by trustees. Trustee Hanson described her reasons for allowing trustees the opportunity to visit schools.

Trustees and senior administration spoke against this idea outlining several concerns. The committee concluded there was no basis for making a recommendation to the board.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 5th, 2016 @ 3:00pm



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

Trustee Report

SD57 Professional Development Day—Northern Aboriginal Education Symposium February 25th and 26th, 2016

I attended the 3rd Biannual NAES hosted by SD57 (Prince George). Thursday was an evening of welcoming the over 700 participants, sharing a meal and enjoying the comedy of Howie Miller.

Shelly Niemi, Aboriginal Education Department Manager for SD57, started Friday morning being thankful for everyone attending, for coming together to strengthen the learning community and being willing to learn and grow together in order to support Aboriginal students in achieving success.

Dr. Marie Battiste spoke about eurocentrism, the dominant, colonial world view fostered through laws and education, and how it did not value diversity while fostering a culture of superiority of some over others, resulting in great harm and trauma to First Nations. As we move forward we need to be aware that there are 2 parts to decolonizing education. The first is deconstruction—exposing inadequacies of colonialism and culturalism in education. The second is reconstruction—embracing diversity as a norm and developing appreciation for indigenous knowledge, capabilities and strengths. "Education can either maintain or liberate. It can be the place of replication or creation."

SD57 premiered 'Crow Brings a Message', a documentary exploring aboriginal education within the district and highlighting what they had learned through their participatory action research into the question "Why do some students graduate and some don't?" It was well narrated by a young student from the district and featured teachers, students and elders.

Dr. Cindy Blackstock was an incredible speaker, highlighting champions who have advocated for equal rights for First Nations, starting with Dr. Peter Bryce in 1904, to youth Shannen Koostachin, to the FN Caring Society and their lawsuit against the federal government. She spoke of the power of young people when they learn the history of Canada as it was for all peoples, and the impact they can have in advocating for equality and justice, such as Shannen did. Dr. Blackstock shared the story of a young person defining discrimination as when 'the government doesn't believe you are worth the money'. The entire room of 700 people was silent as she said this. She encouraged attendees to critically examine injustices and be witnesses, rather than feel that we aren't able to do anything. Resources she shared include: www.trc.ca; www.fnwitness.ca; www.fncaring.society.com; www.shannensdream.ca; and www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory/eBook.pdf.

I also really enjoyed the open discussion session at our table with a group of teachers from HSS who also attended. It was a great conversation, very insightful and thoughtful, that I was privileged to be part of.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend this event and broaden my learning.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trustee D. Hanson
School District #54(Bulkley Valley) Trustee



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting February 20-21, 2016

On February 20-21, 2016 I had the honor and opportunity to represent School District 54 at the BCSTA Provincial Council. The sessions were broken into three components. The Friday evening plenary with representatives of the Office of the Auditor General, along with the Saturday morning business session and the afternoon question and answer session regarding auditing within your districts offered councilors the opportunity to delve into these issues, with their provincial counterparts.

The Friday evening session consisted of Auditing practices of The Office of the Auditor General as it relates to school districts in British Columbia. Both Sheila Dodd's and Malcom Gaston, both members of the "executive team", offered their insight in the different types of financial and performance audits that their office conduct on a regular basis. In addition their presentation was meant to harness feedback from Provincial Councilors in what auditing practices are beneficial in the future. The presenters listened to a number of questions regarding where to continue with their work, including in areas like Special Needs audits of program delivery along with auditing of private schools in the same manner as Public Schools.

The Saturday morning session, held at the parliamentary like Morris J. Wosk Centre, was devoted to the business session including Oral Reports from President Teresa Rezansoff, CEO Mike Roberts and the Finance, Aboriginal Education, and Legislative committees. Written Reports from the Board of Directors, Education, Aboriginal, Finance and Legislative Committees were tabled. Themes included the need to advocate for our District Administrative teams who are investments in leadership. Moreover, attention was focused on the stressful decisions that many districts have to make in potentially closing schools and budgeting woes in ensuring student achievement is maximized. In addition a draft budget for the association was examined, with revenue down seventy nine thousand with core services and office expenditures dropping to combat the lost revenue. The final portion of the morning was the debating and voting on motions brought to Provincial Council. All passed except the disputed one regarding recommending BCSTA urge the Ministry of Education develop a marketing strategy and public relations exercise to communicate why and how the new K-12 curriculum works. Many were weary of the wording and thought that funding would be better spent in the classroom. Even with wording amendments the motion was defeated.

The afternoon session consisted of discussion of questions brought forward to Districts with regard to the auditing process. This session offered great insight on Districts across the province using precious administrative resources in finding data in short periods of time. Moreover, questions about the criteria and volume of audits were posed as well. All in all, the feeling was that while much information can be derived from the audits, the time and energy to find similar results as conventional auditing are troubling to many districts.

The session and council ended at 3pm on Saturday. For more information you can contact the BCSTA and the Office of the Auditor General of BC websites.

Respectfully submitted by:

Frank Farrell
Trustee /BCSTA Provincial Council Representative
School District #54(Bulkley Valley)