



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 27, 2021 ELECTRONIC FORMAT VIA: ZOOM 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2021
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – March 23, 2021
- 5) Administration Report M. McDiarmid Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports:
 - a) Operations Committee L. Kearns Report Attached
 - b) Policy Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
 - c) Trustee Report
 - F. Farrell x 2 Reports Attached
 - F. Krishan x 2 Reports Attached
 - L. Kearns Report Attached
 - J. Williams Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
 - 8.1) 2021-2022 Draft Annual Budget
 - 8.2) Annual School Calendar Policy
- 9) Other Business
 - 9.1) Expenditure Summary – March 31, 2021

10) Reading File

Ltr. Frm. CSBA to Minister Cullen (Manitoba) re: Elimination of Boards of Education
Ltr. Frm. Minister Kang to BCSTA re: Funding for Trades Students
Ltr. Frm. HSS re: 2021 Commencement Invitation
Ltr. Frm. BVTU re: Stakeholder Comments to the Board of Education
Ltr. Frm. Minister Whiteside to BCSTA re: Action on Anti – Black Racism
Ltr. Frm. SD33 to Minister Whiteside re: Educational Services in Correctional Facilities

- 11) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 25, 2021 in Smithers, BC, commencing at 7:00 p.m. *NOTE: Location &/or meeting delivery is subject to current Provincial Health Orders in place.
- 12) Adjournment
- 13) Public Remarks**

NOTES:

****Public Remarks:** Just a reminder to everyone that this portion of the meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for members of the public to make comments to the Board. Public remarks must be relevant to items on the approved board agenda. The Board will listen respectfully to comments but not respond to questions during this time.

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. (Board Policy # 1.190)

https://www.sd54.bc.ca/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1098428&type=d&pREC_ID=1358978



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (Bulkley Valley)
MARCH 23, 2021
Smithers Secondary School – Library**

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, L. Kearns, F. Krishan, J. Williams, J. Krauskopf
Regrets: P. Michell
Trustee Absence: E. Quinlan
Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent
M. Monkman – Assistant Superintendent
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Williams commented that it was nice to see everyone in person and hoped that everyone had a restful spring break. Trustee Michelle sent her regrets.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Krauskopf.*

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2021. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the Student Achievement updates to the Board. 20 District /Authority Scholarships will be handed out again this year and the presentations will take the week of May 10th – 14, 2021. The MOE informed the District that they are planning a for a full return to classes in September. Currently the Ministry of Health is ahead of schedule in terms of vaccinations in our area. Houston staff have already received their first vaccinations. We are expecting an exposure notice to be sent into the Board Office tomorrow. The District has now

partnered with Contact North to support on-line post-secondary courses for adults in Houston. HSS students will also be eligible to access this program. A new Social Media and Communications Officer has been hired. Ms. Faye Brownlie will be returning to the District in April. Administration has noticed an increase in teacher participation in professional development sessions during this COVID times, due to sessions being held on Zoom.

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district and school-based innovations and initiatives report to the Board. Student Led Conferences will take place on April 22 & 23rd. High School Basketball has recently wrapped up for the season.

Operations:

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm announced that the district staff is working through the budget and staffing for the 2021-2022 school year and the District is projecting a slight decrease in funds received from the Ministry next year.

6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the March 9th, 2021 committee meeting. One items will be moved to the Unfinished Business portion of the current board meeting.
- **2021 Trustee Stipends** – The Committee makes no recommendations to the Board in regards to a trustee stipend increase. This allows for a 1% increase to the trustee stipend as of July 1, 2021.

MOTION: Trustee Krishan / Motion was not seconded.

"That the Board NOT accept the 1% increase stipend as of July 1, 2021."

- The Board had a robust discussion on the Trustee stipend increases past and present.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 @ 5:00pm

6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's report from the March 9th, 2021 committee meeting.
- **Policy 10.300 Child Care Facilities** – The Committee recommended that the draft Policy 10.300 Child Care Facilities and be sent out for stakeholder consultation.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Krishan.

"That the Board approve the draft Policy 10.300 Child Care Facilities be sent out for stakeholder consultation."

CARRIED

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 @ 3:00pm

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were no trustee reports this month.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.2) Draft 2021-2022 District Calendar – The Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed draft 2021-2022 District Calendar.

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Krauskopf.*

"That the Board approve the draft 2021-2022 School Calendar as outlined.

4 Approved
1 Recused

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business this month.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business this month

10. READING FILE

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Farrell .*

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

CARRIED

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Closing Remarks – Next regular Board Meeting will be held on April 27, 2021, commencing at 7:00 p.m. The meeting location or meeting delivery method will be subject to current Provincial Health Orders in place.

12. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Approved by:

Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education

Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
April 27, 2021

Student Achievement

- **COVID Update** – Houston schools received an exposure notification for April 7-13th. Staff and students should be watching for symptoms until April 27th. Thus far we have no reports of illness staff or students.
- **Staffing** - District staff have been working on staffing for 2021-2022 based on enrolment projections. The process also includes the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF) which deals with the return of 2001 CA language. Tentatively, we believe staffing levels will be very similar to the past year but with a small reduction in enrollment, there will be a small reduction in staffing. We continue to receive applications from a number of certified teachers moving to the area and interested in position for the upcoming school year.
- **District / Authority Scholarships** – SD54 has 20 District / Authority Scholarships to award this year. Presentations have been scheduled for the week of May 10th -14th, 2021. If trustees can find the time, sitting on the panel is one of the most rewarding experiences that anyone involved in education can have. The presentations are great, and a real showcase of some of our most talented students.
- **BCSSA Spring Forum** – A group of Smithers Secondary teachers and District Administrators spent the morning of Thursday the 22nd listening to Kevin Lamoureux, a nationally recognized speaker on Reconciliation. His title for the session was "***Imagining Schools as Places of Healing through Truth and Reconciliation***". The staff left the session with many ideas to support Indigenous students.
- **Strategic Plan**- As the District moves through budgeting and staffing for next year, priorities in the strategic plan are providing direction. Support for vulnerable students, District teacher time, Social Emotional support for students, Outdoor learning, physical literacy and flexible learning are all being supported for next year.
- **Physical Literacy** – The Ministry of Health's Physical Activity/Physical Literacy in Schools initiative has been moving forward in district elementary schools. Contracted experts came from Prince George to conduct initial assessments of K-7 students' abilities in five core skills. The results of that data were shared with administrators April 19th and will be used by school physical literacy leads to shape the work of classroom teachers in building student competence and confidence in this area.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

Innovation / Initiatives

Student Based Initiatives

- **Graduation Ceremonies** – Graduation dates for Houston Secondary and Smithers Secondary are June 11th 2021 and June 26th, respectively.
- **Student led conferences**- On April 14/15 teachers arranged the annual student led conferences with parents. The sessions went well with many creative solutions to holding them during COVID restrictions.
- **District track meet**- The district will not be hosting this annual event but we are encouraging individual schools to hold events adhering to COVID rules. The planning is currently underway.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips require approval by the Board of Education:
 - **WPS – 53 +/-** Grade 6/7 Students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel to the Smithers Rod and Gun Club on May 26, 2021. The purpose of this trip is to support the Career Education, Outdoor Education curriculum and for a proper introduction to gun safety and proper operation of firearms. Licensed instructors and RCMP members will be onsite to lead and instruct the students. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

Operations

- The Silverthorne Daycare Project is on track to reach substantial completion by 30 June. Specific activities are as follows:
 - Interior finishes are complete
 - The majority of the millwork is complete and in storage
 - The first of the flooring is scheduled for installation starting on 26 April – flooring will continue as spaces are vacated
 - The government-funded heating and ventilation project is underway and will be leaving the daycare wing by 25 April
 - The sprinkler contractor is largely complete
 - A civil engineering firm has been retained to start the design of a new bus loop and angled parking in front of the school.
 - The envelope of the Wing has been upgraded to meet current standards and will be installed in summer
 - The Wing will feature new keyless access for all interior doors and entrances

This schedule will allow the tenants to starting moving their possessions into the Daycare wing over the summer months with programs to start-up by 1 September

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

April 13th, 2021

5:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
L. Kearns, Chair J. Krauskopf, Alternate P. Michell	M. McDiarmid, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
J. Williams (ex officio)	
Regrets	

The meeting was conducted from 5:09 pm to 5:29 pm. (VIA: Zoom)

Welcome: *"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 Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

REPORT

1. Draft 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Margerm provided the initial draft 2021-2022 Budget and Bylaw to the committee. A few general highlights were presented to the committee. The draft 2021-2022 Budget and public presentation will be held in May for stakeholder consultation.

Motion: *Committee recommends proceeding with the first two readings of the 2021-2022 Budget Bylaw as outlined at the April Board meeting.*

2. 2021-2022 Capital Plans Response

Mr. Margerm provided an update to Ministry funded capital plans for the 2021-2022 year. The District has received a response letter from the Ministry authorizing the funding of \$731,406 towards the new HVAC system at Silverthorne Elementary. The District has also applied for additional funding through a Carbon Neutral grant.

3. Walnut Park Rebuild Update

Mr. Margerm provided a short update on the Walnut Park rebuild. The project continues to be within budget; though, costs are increasing given change orders and new requests for additional work. The project is still on schedule and expected to be completed by the end of July 2021.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

4. Walnut Park Totem Pole

Mr. McDiarmid updated the Committee on the proposed totem pole at the Walnut Park rebuild. The District is continuing to work with community partners in order to raise funds for the new totem pole, which at this point seems quite positive. The cost of the pole and installation is expected to be approximately \$300,000. Ms. Markert is working with a formal proposal with regards to creating support for funding from other organizations. The District has ordered two C-cans and Koralta will install them with roof system in order to create a carving shed with storage.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: May 11th, 2021.

School District 54 (Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 13th, 2021

3:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
F. Farrell, Chair F. Krishan, Alternate E. Quinlan J. Williams (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
Regrets:	

Welcome: *"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 Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

AGENDA

PREVIOUS MEETING OF March 9th, 2021

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
10.300	Child Care Facilities	New	In-committee	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
1.180	Trustee Code of Conduct District Calendar	Revision New	In-committee In-committee	Complete Yes

Date & Time of Next Meeting: May 11th, 2021 at 3 pm

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



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TRUSTEE REPORT
BCSTA Provincial Council
VIA: ZOOM
February 20, 2021

On Saturday February 20th, 2021 I attended the BCSTA Provincial council meeting via zoom. The event was an important opportunity to meet electronically with fellow trustees across the province and get a feel of education going forward with a new government with new ministers up to speed with their portfolios.

The first set of agenda items included reports from the President, CEO, CSBA and standing committees. BCSTA President Stephanie Higginson provided a report which delved into the association activities since December. Included was the declaration that the plan for government is for a stage 1 reopening of schools in September. Essentially a reopening which may be modified and tailored to the needs and realities of covid at that time. Moreover, it was indicated that many of the communications from the previous provincial council, to government, was delayed to allow government time to adjust to a new administration.

Next it was the CEO report with Mike Roberts on a leave the duties are performed with the help of Silvia Russell, recently retired Superintendent of School District 42 Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows. From there Vice President Carolyn Broady gave the CSBA report which outlined challenges to school boards across Canada. This overview was amplified by the Government of Manitoba's decision to eliminate democratically elected school boards and replace with 15 regions run by one appointed central authority. The pressures to maintain publicly elected school boards continues.

We heard the reports from the standing committees which delved into the future learning opportunities and agendas for the upcoming AGM in April ... Additionally, the Finance Committee provided and updating the upcoming budget including a modest increase in per-diem for travelling members.

There were 7 action items voted on by provincial councillors. Of note was 9.2 Covid -19 Vaccine priority to all workers in the Public Education Sector. Which was passed unanimously. The voting for the motions was through a new system that allowed for amendments and other procedural actions to be used. It was experimented at this meeting with success through education. This system will also be used at the AGM as there are 42 motions on the agenda.

After the business session concluded, President Higginson stayed to answer questions in a more informal basis. Meeting finished at 3pm. With the next meeting at the April AGM.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Farrell

Provincial Councillor



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA AGM 2021

April 15th - 17th, 2021

On April 15th -17th I participated in both the BCSTA Provincial Council and AGM via zoom online. It was the first full scale AGM program since 2019. Like last year when the AGM consisted of a two hour Zoom Provincial Council meeting, we were unable to meet in person due to ongoing COVID restrictions.

The opening Thursday afternoon session consisted of a Provincial council meeting that passed the 2021-22 BCSTA annual budget along with the renewal of auditors Smythe LLP for the upcoming year. Also, on Thursday we had the BCSTA directors' candidate's forum. It was certainly a new dynamic listening to the candidates online. Nevertheless, the medium was masterful in distinguishing the candidate's strengths and weaknesses. President Stephanie Higginson and Vice-President Carolyn Broady were acclaimed previously.

On Friday, the session included addresses from President Higginson along with Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside. I was impressed with the Ministers comments as she is a champion for inclusion and student achievement even during these times we are in. Also, in the afternoon former Finance Minister Carole James spoke about the role of Trustees in shaping the dialogue of supporting students. I was touched by her humble mention of her beginnings as a Parent, PAC leader , Trustee, BCSTA President and her role in government in the provincial level. She mentioned to state what is the success of what you are doing while lobbying for funding for the future needs that exist.

The bulk of the Friday and Saturday sessions included the debate voting of 42 total motions of a wide range of topics within the association and in advocating to government on behalf of students. Two motions, changing the terms of office of BCSTA Directors from one to two years, along with lobbying government to support student assessments at a faster rate drawn some of the most passionate discussion. From the vantage point of being both a Trustee, and a parent of a special needs' student, I spoke in support of the motion, which passed.

All in all, the event was equally important by virtue of the medium of zoom being the platform for the entire AGM. It would appear that online engagement will be the platform for most if not all events of this kind even beyond COVID. My only point would be the continuing opportunity to network with fellow Trustees and decision makers will continue and be enhanced in the online format.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Farrell
Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA AGM 2021 April 15th - 17th, 2021

This year's BCSTA AGM was held via ZOOM.

The meeting started with some comments from Minister of Education -Whiteside. There is optimism that after getting through the next couple of months, we will be in a much better situation as a province.

During her presentation, the Minister touched upon some regretful news about the Board Chair in New Westminister. The Chair, Gurveen Dhaliwal, received online death threats and racist comments stemming from her views of police liaisons in schools. The Minister went on to say there is a lot of work needed to be done to counteract the long-lasting effects of racism. She said antiracism work is fundamental to forwarding our provincial education system. She also went on to say that support for sexual orientation and gender identity is key in being inclusive to all our students.

Much of the AGM time was given to Trustees debating and voting on district derived motions. I found this to be the most important part of the meeting and where engagement of the process by Trustees was crucial. The following were some of the important issues that were debated:

- Elimination of the Foundation Skills Assessment
- Mental Health Funding for Counsellors in Schools
- Integration of Childcare and Early Learning into the K-12 Education Sector by 2023
- Video Attendance for Superintendent - Ministry Meetings
- School Fire Suppression Systems
- Maintenance of Public-School Facilities
- Funding for Student Transportation

I found that this year's AGM had Trustees engaging in the process more than years prior. The list of important issues surely demanded a high level of interest. I would also note that many Trustees seemed more comfortable with the online format used. This also may have allowed Trustees to feel more able to engage in the process of debate.

In today's remote meeting world many arguments can be made for or against ZOOM like platforms. I would say that a better argument is for a hybrid format that incorporates a year of online AGMs and a year of in person AGMs. Considering the cost comparison between in-person and online meetings not to mention the pollution associated with hundreds of Trustees and Administrators travelling to the venue, it will be interesting what the future of BCSTA AGMs will be.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Floyd Krishan
SD54 Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT

Indigenous Education Council Meeting – April 2021

The Indigenous Education Council was held on April 6th via ZOOM. Some highlights of the meeting were discussions surrounding:

1. School based supports for Indigenous learners that include resources from the Indigenous Education Library and other supports that include academic, social, and emotional guidance.
2. District Principal Birdy Market's role in coordinating the operating budget to support Indigenous learners, support staff and teachers. Her role also includes visits to schools and classrooms to integrate Indigenous content in the curriculum.
3. In February, Dolores Alfred was hired as the Witsuwitén Language Support Worker. In her new role, Ms. Alfred is working with the Kyah Wiget Education Society to build a collaborative protocol for Witsuwitén language curriculum development. Well wishes were extended to Dolores in her new role from the Council.
4. Jana Fox, Indigenous Culture and Curriculum District Teacher, gave a review of the Teacher Lead Program. The program has begun for 6 teachers with the goal of building capacity in Indigenous perspectives and world views with a focus on equity in every school setting. This program has been implemented by several Indigenous Education departments throughout BC. We are very fortunate to have Jana Fox as an educator and leader in our district.
5. At each Indigenous Education Council meeting, we are shown monthly reports submitted by ASSET, Indigenous Support and Indigenous Academic workers in our district. In the reviews we are shown what worked, what did not work and why as it relates to Indigenous learners. It is exciting to see these reports as they highlight the important work of our support worker team. Our support worker teams include Delores Alfred (now the Witsuwitén Language Support Worker), Trina Anne Zubek, Jody Garcia, Nicki Rousseau, Millie Gunanoot, Micah Patterson and Liz Moore.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of all the educators mentioned in the April Indigenous Education Council meeting. Their high quality of work is improving Indigenous education in our district.

Respectfully Submitted by.

Floyd Krishan
SD54 Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA AGM 2021

April 15th - 17th, 2021

On April 16th and 17th I participated in the 117th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. Due to COVID restrictions, the meeting was held using the Zoom platform. Trustees Williams, Farrell, Krauskopf, and I participated together at the School Board Office. Basically, the focus of the meeting involved the following 3 areas:

Elections

We elected a president, vice-president and 5 directors. The election went smoothly considering it was the first time the Trustees had to use 2 different computers, one to listen to the instructions and one to cast our vote.

Branch Business

We held the Northwest Branch meeting and as usual, the most interesting items came from the 5-member district reports. As you would surmise, COVID has played a major role in student learning this year and also the planning for next year. I applaud the flexibility and resourcefulness of all Trustees and school district staffs for meeting the COVID challenges.

Resolutions

There were 43 resolutions debated and the debates were sometimes hampered by the necessary use of going back and forth between your 2 computers. There seemed to be a fair number of computer neophytes, myself included, but fortunately we had 2 very competent moderators, who were able to keep us on task and almost on time.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Les Kearns
SD54 Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA AGM 2021

April 15th - 17th, 2021

This year the AGM looked a lot different. ZOOM seems to be how all business is conducted now; this was no different. The voting was done through a website designed for this type of AGM. I was pleasantly surprised that over all it ran quite smoothly, only one or two glitches occurred.

Friday we jumped right into the business of the AGM, Elections for directors took place, nine ran for five spots.

Extraordinary motions were next, we had 5 extraordinary motions, these were mainly making changes to existing BCSTA bylaws.

We finished the morning my starting on the substantive motions 43 motions were on the table.

In the afternoon there was a question period with Carole James, all questions were submitted earlier.

We then resume the business session.

Saturday was a day for debate, many of the motions coming forward were ones that seemed to cause a lot of amendments and points of order. We extended the end time of our meeting twice so that we were able to be done Saturday. Mission completed at 5:30.

I think that although this was necessary and a cost savings to the district, face to face meetings still have their place in the world. It is quicker and more efficient by Zoom but as soon as the meeting is done everyone hits the leave button. When you are in the same space people will stay, chat and get to know each other. I have made many connections through out the Province during in person meetings, that's something that can't be replaced by a computer. I think they both have their place but I for one am looking forward to the day that I can see everyone in person again and not just a face on the screen.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jen Williams
SD54 Trustee