



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING MAY 24, 2022 HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARY, HOUSTON BC 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – April 26, 2022
- 5) Learning Portion: School Grade Configuration Update with Ms. Forster and Mr. Grice
- 6) Administration Report M. McDiarmid Report Attached
- 7) Committee Reports:
 - a) Operations Committee L. Kearns Report Attached
 - b) Policy Committee F. Krishan Report Attached
 - c) Trustee Report
 - J. Krauskopf Report Attached
 - L. Kearns Report Attached
 - F. Krishan x 2 Report Attached
 - F. Farrell Report Attached
 - J. Williams Report Attached
- 8) Unfinished Business
 - 8.1) Amended 2022 – 2023 School Calendar
 - 8.2) Draft 2022-2023 Annual Budget
- 9) New Business
- 10) Other Business
 - 10.1) Expenditure Summary
- 11) Reading File

Ltr. Frm. SD82 to Minister Whiteside re: Teacher Retention & Recruitment
Ltr. Frm. HSS Invitation to the HSS Commencement Ceremony
Ltr. Frm. SD54 Indigenous Education re: Invitation to the Celebration Feast
- 12) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on June 28, 2022 in Smithers at the School Board Office, commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 13) Adjournment
- 14) 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)
APRIL 26, 2022
WITSET MULTI-PLEX, WITSET BC**

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, L. Kearns, F. Krishan, P. Michell

Trustee Regrets: J. Williams, J. Krauskopf
Employee Regrets: D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer

Trustee Absence: E. Quinlan

Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent
M. Monkman – Assistant Superintendent
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chief Ron Mitchell Hagwilneh from the Laksilyu Clan – Small Frog Clan delivered a traditional welcome to the Wit'suwet'en Territory to the Board of Education. He spoke of his growing up in the Territory and expressed that education is very important to him and his family.
- Vice Chairperson Kearns acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Laksilyu – Small Frog Clan.
- Vice Chairperson Kearns welcomed all guests present. Chairperson Williams, Trustee Krauskopf and Secretary Treasurer Margerm sent their regrets. He commented that it was great being back in Witset for our annual board meeting. COVID is still lurking but he thanked the people in the village for allowing us to be here. He also informed the Board that the Witset Women's softball team received a grant from the Toronto Blue Jays in the amount of \$150k for improvements to their ball field. This upgrade will make a difference to the entire community of Witset.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"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 the March 22, 2022 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of March 22, 2022. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of March 22, 2022 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of March 22, 2022 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district update to the Board: Staff planning for the 2022-2023 school year has commenced. The Strategic Plan has been guiding administration with preparing the 2022-2023 budget. 17 District / Authority Scholarships will be available for our graduating student to apply for this year. Presentations will take place the week of May 16th. The SSS Musical Theatre successfully performed "**What you Will**" musical to a packed Della Herman Theatre on April 8-10th. Thank you goes out to everyone who was apart of this production. The BCSSA Spring Forum took place on April 6-9th in Vancouver. Kevin Lamoureux presented at the last professional development day on April 14th. He theme for the day was "**Imagining Schools as places of Healing Through Truth and Reconciliation.**" Mr. McDiarmid thanked the BCTU for the collaboration with the Indigenous department to organize this event.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the student-based initiatives to the Board. High School Graduation dates have been set, HSS will hold theirs on June 17th while SSS's will be June 25th. Student led conferences were held on March 30/31st. After two years the District Elementary Track meet will be happing on June 10th at the SSS track.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **TSE** – 30 +/- Grade 6 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 30th, 2022 to take part in physical education and for a fun day of winter activities. All Board requirements were met for these trips.
 - **TES** – 41 Grade 4 & 5 students from Telkwa Elementary to travel to K'san on May 6, 2022. The purpose of this trip is to view the new totem pole that is being built and to hear about the stories of the pole by the actual carver. All Board requirements were met for this trip.
 - **TES** – 39 Grade 2,3,4 students from Telkwa Elementary to travel to K'san on May 16, 2022. The purpose of this trip is to view the new totem pole that is being built and to hear about the stories of the pole by the actual carver. All Board requirements were met for this trip.
 - **MME** – 30 +/- Grade 6/7 students from Muheim Memorial to travel to take part in a two-day Outdoor Ed. Bootcamp on two separate occasions. These trips will be taken on (**AMENDED date**) **April 12/13** and June 2/3, 2022. The purpose of these trips is to support the PE and Outdoor Education Curriculums and social responsibility. All Board requirements were met for these trips.

- The following field trip requires approval by the Board of Education:
 - **WPS** – 50 +/- Grade 7 Students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel to the Smithers Rod and Gun Club on May 31, 2022. 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.

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

"That the proposed field trip to the Smithers Rod and Gun Club be approved as outlined."

CARRIED

Operations

- **Telkwa Elementary School Renovation** – The District is currently in the first phase of renovating two classrooms into a new multipurpose and learning commons room at Telkwa Elementary. The second phase will be moving the office, restructuring the front foyer and revitalization of the main bathrooms.

66.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the April 12th, 2022 committee meeting.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 @ 3:00pm

6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Krishan presented the Policy Committee's Report from the April 12th, 2022 committee meeting.
- Policy 6.430 Video Surveillance – The committee recommended that the draft Policy 6.430 Video Surveillance be approved as outlined.

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

"That the Board approve the draft Policy 6.430 Video Surveillance as outlined. "

CARRIED

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- Policy 1.400 Trustee Orientation – The committee recommended that the draft Policy 1.400 Trustee Orientation be approved as outlined.

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

"That the Board approve the draft Policy 1.400 Trustee Orientation as outlined. "

CARRIED

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- **Board Reading File** – The Committee recommended that Mr. McDiarmid draft language for an administrative procedure for review in the May Meeting
 - **Trustee Manual** – The committee recommended that the policy committee review the Trustee Orientation presentation and continue to draft the new Trustee Handbook based on the orientation presentation.
 - Next meeting date Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 @ 3:00pm

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- No Trustee Reports this month

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7.1) 2022-2023 Amended School District Calendar – Due to the announcement of the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation stat holiday, the previously approved calendar had to be amended.
 - Trustee Krishan recused himself from the calendar discussion
-

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Michell and seconded by Trustee Farrell*

"That the Board approve that the amended draft 2022-2023 School Calendar be sent out for public consultation as outlined."

CARRIED

3- Approved
1 – Recused

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Draft 2022 - 2023 Annual Budget Bylaw** - The Operations Committee recommended that the Board proceed with the first two readings of the Draft 2022-2023 Annual Budget Bylaw.
 - Superintendent McDiarmid – provided an overview of the draft 2022 – 2023 Annual Budget. The strategic plan has been instrumental in developing the 2022-2023 Annual Budget. The budget this year will be tight, enrollment is virtually is the same as well at the staffing. The budget will be targeting vulnerable students ahead of time while maintain all the regular programs. The Indigenous Education Council has been consulted and appreciated the increase in funding for vulnerable students. The District is feeding a lot of students, sending food packages home, the kitchens in Houston are being renovated to support the increase of need. The District will continue to update the facilities from the surplus. The Budget is balanced while supporting the ideals of the strategic plan.
-

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

"That the Board proceed with the first two readings of the 2022 - 2023 Annual Budget Bylaw."

CARRIED

- **8.2) 2022 – 2023 Capital Plan Bylaw** - The operations committee recommended that the 2022-2023 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 22/23-CP-SD54-01 be approved in three readings.
 - Vice Chairperson Kearns asked for unanimous consent to do all three-reading tonight for 2022 – 2023 Capital Plan Bylaw No.22/23-CP-SD54-01. Unanimous consent was given.
-

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

"The Board approved the three readings of 2022 - 2023 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 22/23-CP-SD54-01."

CARRIED

- Superintendent McDiarmid provided a brief overview of where the \$2,128,412 Capital Bylaw Funds will be spent.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- There was no other business this month.

10. READING FILE

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

"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 May 24, 2022, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Secondary School Library in Houston, BC.

12. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Approved by:

Approved by Jennifer Williams, Chairperson on
behalf of Les Kearns, Chairperson
of the Board of Education

Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer



**SYNOPSIS OF THE
IN - CAMERA MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
APRIL 26, 2022
WITSET MULTI-PLEX, WITSET, BC**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the in-camera meeting minutes of March 22, 2022. There being none, the in-camera meeting minutes of March 22, 2022 were declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Senior Administration reported on routine staffing items, and labour relations matters.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:12pm.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
May 24, 2022

Innovation / Initiatives

District Based Initiatives

- **District Elementary Track** - Schools are once again preparing their students to participate in the District Track and Field event scheduled for June 10th. We are very happy to return to this large student gathering which showcases the many student athletes we have in the intermediate grades.
- **Capstone Presentations** – Presentations are currently underway at our secondary schools. These presentations are the culmination of the student's mandatory Career Life 12 course and are a report of the individual's learning journey in some topic or area of focus. Generally, students select an area of expertise or passion they have developed over the years such that the Capstones are very similar to the District Scholarship presentations we have seen in the past.
- **Project Element Film Project** – Heather Lee, Liliana Pesce and Hans Saeflow worked with representatives from The Vancouver International Children's Festival to organize an amazing student learning event where students from Muheim Elementary and Smithers Secondary created a short movie. Students not only acted and performed but also worked long hours to learn scripts, build sets and costumes. On May 18th a movie premier was held at the Della Herman Theater where families got to enjoy the show and many other live student performances. The film also had a very unique feature, where seniors from the Meadows also participated in the movie production. Congratulations to all involved!
- **District Scholarship Presentations** – During the week of May 16th, graduating students delivered their District Authority Scholarship Presentations to adjudicators. The presentations were a powerful and varied representation of the tremendous learning journeys of these students. It is always a pleasure to be witness to the maturity and depth of learning among a selection of our graduates. Thank you to Trustees Kearns, Williams, Farrell and Krishan for finding the time to attend as adjudicators.
- **Professional Learning Recognition** – On June the 1st the District is organizing a celebration of learning where teachers have been invited to Smithers Secondary to hear from the many teachers who participated in District sponsored learning events and programs this year. There will be an outdoor barbecue following the showcase.
- **Celebration Feast at Witset** – On Wednesday June 7th the School Board and senior staff have been invited to a celebration feast with Witset Educational representatives to celebrate the signing of our Local Education agreement and our redesigned logo. This celebration was delayed due to COVID restrictions.

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- **SSS Time Capsule** – On Wednesday June 15th Smithers Secondary students will be opening and recognizing the contents of a time capsule sealed in the year 2000. New items will be placed in the capsule with a focus on student voice and reconciliation. All community members are invited to the ceremony and gallery walk.
- **SSS Pride Celebration** – The Smithers Secondary Pride Day celebration is planned for Friday, June 3rd over the lunch break which occurs starting at 1:00 p.m.
- **Teacher Staffing Update**— SD54 has started the upcoming year's staffing process. Round one of teacher postings closed May 17th and the second round is currently underway. Some specialized teaching assignments will be a challenge to fill, as they have been for the last few years.

Student Based Initiative

- **Graduation Ceremonies** – Both Secondary Schools are holding their graduation ceremonies soon to celebrate our graduating students. With COVID restrictions behind us, the ceremonies will be held in person this year but there are some changes from lessons we learned during the last few years. Houston Secondary's celebration is scheduled for Friday, June 17th with Smithers Secondary going Saturday, June 25th.
- **Sports** – Smithers Secondary girls soccer team won their zone playoff on May 14th and will be travelling to provincials in Langley. In addition, SSS will have an Ultimate Frisbee team attend provincials in the lower mainland.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **HSS** – 50 +/- Grade 8 & 9 Students to travel to Kager Lake (Burns Lake, BC) on June 1, 2022 . The purpose of this trip is to gain exposure to outdoor activities, support the PE curriculum and promote healthy living. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** – 33 +/- Grade 10-12 Marching Band and Musical Theatre students from SSS to travel to Prince Rupert on June 10-12, 2022 to march in the Prince Rupert Seafest Parade All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 62 +/- Grade 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel to Rock Nest Ranch at Dunalter Lake on June 2-3, 2022. The students will take part in the grade 7 year-end celebrations, community building, health and physical fitness. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TSE** – 50 +/- Grade 7 Students to travel to Silverthorne Rec Site on June 27-28, 2022 . The students will take part in the grade 7 year-end celebrations, community building, health and physical fitness. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

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- **SSS** – 16 +/- Grade 10-12 Ultimate students from SSS to travel to Surrey, BC on May 24-28, 2022 to take part in the 2022 Provincial Ultimate Championships at the Newton Athletic Park. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trips require approval by the Board of Education:
 - **TSE** – 27 +/- Grade 7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary School to travel to the Bulkley Valley Rod & Gun Club in Smithers on May 25th, 2022 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.
 - **SSS** – 30 +/- Grade 9-12 students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Vancouver on Sept 21 -25, 2022 to take part in Bard on the Beach – Shakespeare Festival. The purpose of this trip is to participate in live professional theatre and workshops. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** – 20 Grade 8-11 students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Telkwa on June 17, 2022 to take part in a Telkwa to Smithers Rafting trip. The purpose of this trip is to learn about riparian ecosystems and the importance of keeping our rivers clean. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

Operations

- **Silverthorne Elementary** - On Friday May 13th, the main sewer line at Silverthorne Elementary failed creating a blockage in the line. Two of our maintenance department staff, Stefan Young (Maintenance Manager) and Dan Morton (SD54 Plumber), and contractor Brent Long of Blast Enterprises worked all weekend to fix the line. The line was finally fixed Monday afternoon which resulted in the school being closed on Monday. Without our maintenance department working the weekend, the school would have been closed for at least two more days. Given the state of the original sewer line, the maintenance department is making plans to try and replace the whole sewer line this summer to avoid future blockages.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Regular

May 10th, 2022

5:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 5:06 pm – 6:08 pm.

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."*

REPORTS

1. Draft 2022-2023 Budget

Mr. Margerm provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Draft Budget to Committee. The presentation will be presented at the regular public meeting in Houston on May 24th, 2022.

The 2022-2023 Draft Budget presentation will be provided to the public on the district website after the regular committee meeting. Public electronic input on the budget will be accepted up until the Board Meeting.

Motion: Committee recommends proceeding with the third reading of the 2022-2023 Budget Bylaw at the May board meeting unless more time is required to deliberate; the third reading would then be postponed until the June Board meeting.

2. AFG Budget

Information regarding the 2022-2023 Annual Facilities Grant was provided as part of the 2022-2023 Draft Budget presentation.

3. Walnut Park Update

Mr. Margerm provided an update on the Walnut Park Elementary replacement project. The general contractor is back on site working on the new intermediate field, drainage systems and fencing. The timeline for completion of the site project is approximately two months; the project is expected to be completed by late June or early July.

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4. 2022-2023 Calendar Amendments

Mr. Monkman provided an update to an amendment to the 2022-2023 District Calendar. At this point, the District has received feedback on the amended calendar from a few people, including CUPE Local 2145. Mr. Monkman has been working with CUPE around the statutory holidays planned for New Year's Day and the Easter Monday while maintaining the 181 instructional days.

Motion: Committee recommends moving the January 2nd New Year's Day holiday to December 30th, 2021 and reinstating the Easter Monday statutory holiday as April 10th, 2023.

5. BVTU Communications: Communication & Calendar

The Board of Education's Operational Committee reviewed and discussed a letter from the BVTU President which was critical of the Board's process for receiving feedback and communications from the public. The committee discussed the fact that the Board very deliberately moved to this communication protocol many years ago and has not had any other complaints about the process. The committee also discussed the options for the public or stakeholders to provide feedback and remain confident in our current Board process. Recommendation that the Chair send a response letter indicating the Board will not be making any changes to the communication process currently in place.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: June 14th, 2022.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 10th, 2022

3:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 3:03 pm – 4:32 pm.

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

PREVIOUS MEETING OF April 12th, 2022

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
6.430	Video Surveillance	Revision	In-committee	Yes
1.400	Trustee Orientation	New	In-committee	Yes
	Board Reading File	New	In-committee	Yes
	Trustee Manual	Revision	In-committee	No

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
6.650	Financial Planning & Reporting (for approval)	New	In-committee	Complete
6.700	Accumulated Surplus (for approval)	Revision	In-committee	Complete
AP	Board Reading File	New	In-committee	No
	Dissection	New	In-committee	Yes
	Trustee Manual	New	In-committee	No
1.400	Trustee Orientation		Out for consultation	Yes
6.430	Video Surveillance		Out for consultation	Yes

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

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1. Policy 6.650 - Financial Planning & Reporting

The public consultation period has ended and there was no public input.

Motion: Committee recommends the Board approve Draft Policy 6.650 Financial Planning and Reporting as presented.

2. Policy 6.700 – Accumulated Surplus

The public consultation period has ended and there was no public input.

Motion: Committee recommends the Board approve Draft Policy 6.700 Accumulated Surplus as presented.

3. Administrative Procedure – Board Reading File

The committee was presented with a draft administrative procedure outlining board reading files.

Motion: Committee recommends the Board approve the administrative procedure for board reading file as presented.

4. Dissection Policy

The committee discussed the option and need for creating a policy on dissection for educational purposes as submitted in a letter from the Society for Humane Science. The committee felt that given there has been no request or application for a policy to govern dissection from students, staff or parents, there is therefore no need to proceed with creating a policy.

5. Trustee Manual

The committee worked through the old trustee manual and trustee orientation document in order to revise and consolidate the manual into to an up-to-date resource. Mr. Margerm will begin revising the document with suggested changes and the addition of policy references and links for review at the next committee meeting.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: June 14th, 2022 at 3 pm

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



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee AGM

April 21-23, 2022

I'd like to start off by saying it has been an absolute pleasure serving with the board for these last 4 years and I hope I'm fortunate enough to sit on the board for another 4! I have had amazing experiences every time we've gone to a Trustee Academy or the AGM. I come back refreshed and full of new ideas as well as with a better understanding as to how everything works. As I have mentioned in previous reports it is a pleasure to get to know my team that much better. I believe the more experiences we share and the better we get to know each other makes us a stronger board.

This AGM in particular will be an event that will stick out in my mind for many years. The change in format was refreshing. For most of the AGM we sat in a circle without tables and listened to indigenous stories, we listened to songs, we watched them dance. It took courage for many to go up and tell their tale. There was laughter but then there were tears. This was an important process for many to break down those barriers and to be able to start the healing process. This was also an opportunity for us to listen and be part of this process so we can understand and move forward with meaningful dialogue and action. We all have the power to make a difference and be part of something special and this was an important piece of the puzzle moving forward.

I have many take-a-ways from this weekend but there was one that stood out for me as I truly believe the concept and live my life by it. It's simply this, jump in with two feet, commit and we will always find a way to make it work. I've related this to both my personal life and my business career and if we believe this and live by it anything is possible. It was said early in the weekend that the issue we are dealing with in regards to indigenous equity in our school systems and in society has been referred to many times as being complex. I feel that when things are referred to as complex or if something seems like it's going to be a lot of work it is easy to push aside and deal with later. This is how the indigenous issues before us have been dealt with in the past and many feel that they are tired of waiting and it is time to act. After this past weekend I can understand this and I feel their pain. I'm not saying I know the answer but I'm willing to jump in with two feet and become part of the solution. Jennifer Whiteside gave a speech and during that speech she said that by the time kids graduate from high school they cannot say "I did not know". I feel this can be related to myself as well and what this weekend was all about. I definitely don't know everything but I do feel a little more educated and ready to move forward however that may look.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jason Krauskopf



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee AGM

April 21-23, 2022

From April 21st to 23rd I participated in the 118th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. The theme of the AGM was "From Grief to Medicine.....Moving Forward with Good Hearts". The intent was to focus on Indigenous people, their culture, their challenges, their history and working with them in meaningful ways. There were First Nation and Metis speakers, and many of the activities were traditionally directed by elders. Much time was spent by the organizers decorating the rooms with art works and a traditional entryway to a longhouse. Many of the presentations were both touching and heart wrenching, for both the speakers and the audience. The event was a huge success and Trustees came away with a greater understanding and a commitment to work with our Indigenous people and their children for a better education system.

Our business meeting involved the following 3 areas:

Elections

We elected a new President (Carolyn Broady), a new Vice-President (Tim Bennett) and 5 directors. The election went smoothly considering it was the first time the Trustees used an electronic system. Congratulations to the new Board members

Branch Business

We held the Northwest Branch meeting and as usual, the most interesting items came from the 5 member district reports. It is obvious from the reports that the NW Branch members are working hard to meet the educational needs of their students under unique circumstances. Once again, Covid has played a major role in student learning this year and planning for next year but as we have noticed, things are slowly returning to normal, I hope! At the end of Jen Williams' term as Branch Chair, Trustee ED Harrison from #82, Coast Mountain was elected to replace her.

Resolutions

There were 15 resolutions and 5 late motions debated. Having the use of a new voting platform saved time once we all became familiar with the process.

My thanks go out to the many dedicated organizers who worked so hard to make the 2022 AGM such a success!

Submitted by
Trustee Kearns



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TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA 2022 Trustee AGM April 21-23, 2022

From April 21st to 24th, Trustees from all over the province congregated in Vancouver to The BCTSA AGM. The event theme statement was "from grief to medicine, forward with good hearts." At the AGM, Trustees vote on various motions that are important to them. From there the passed motions go to the Minister of Education and Child Care for consideration.

The 3 days of meetings took on a bigger focus this year. The pandemic forced the absence of in person AGM's. In this time the travesties of Indian Residential Schools finally came to the forefront of national news. Rightfully so, the Indian Residential School history in Canada became the focus for Trustees this year.

Throughout the AGM, we heard from Indigenous leaders of all ages. The presentations were graphic and held nothing back of the devastation Canada's colonization had on this land's First Peoples. It was stated that the lessons we were learning during the AGM were not to make non-Indigenous people feel bad but to ensure that no one could ever say that they didn't know what Canada's Indigenous endured.

Kendal Netmaker was our Keynote speaker. From Sweetgrass First Nation, Kendal and his siblings were raised by their single mother. Life wasn't easy for them, growing up on the reserve surrounded by poverty. Through Kendal's challenging life, he was able to build a line of First Nation's clothing and build a business that not only has multiple storefronts, but one that provides employment for many.

Another important speaker we heard was Sarain Fox. Sarain is a Canadian Anishinaabe activist, broadcaster, and filmmaker. She is also a storyteller at heart. Sarain has built her career at the cross-section of activism and media. Her mother and great aunt are the oral record keepers of the family. They have passed down ancient teachings from generations of knowledge-keepers and have raised her to be proud of her Indigenous roots. As a result, Sarain has become a powerful and vibrant voice for the Indigenous community. Some key points Sarain Fox spoke about are:

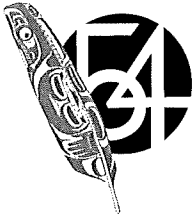
- Racism in school
- Relations Indigenous learners have as compared to non-Indigenous students at school
- How and why, she learned to hide her Indigenous culture
- The importance of Indigenous representation in popular culture
- School graduation credits needs to be given to Indigenous knowledge
- War of 1812 depiction – wrong and racist. The truth needs to be taught about Canada's history
- Why does Canadian history start with 1st contact? What about Indigenous history? 5000 years are missing
- Indigenous futurism – what is it?
- She is cautious about Truth- what happens when it gets hard?

Trustees were also given a presentation from Indigenous learners. Through this presentation, we were told what is important to them. Here is a list of some aspects that were discussed:

- Indigenous land acknowledgements are important to students
- Connecting with Indigenous culture at school is important
- Drum making classes makes for positive connections
- Learning Indigenous hunting skills are important
- An Indigenous room in schools is important
- Indigenous skills programs at schools are needed

The week was honest and informative. I found myself engaged throughout every presentation. From the Longhouse presentation where Trustees were given a glimpse of Indigenous culture and protocol, to the many Indigenous truth tellers that presented to Trustees. I am proud to say that like many other AGM's Trustees debated motions that will better education in BC. I am also proud to say that Trustees left the AGM with a greater insight into what Canada's First Nations have endured and why education equity for Indigenous learners is a critical part of our work.

Respectfully submitted by,
Floyd Krishan
Trustee



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee AGM

April 21-23, 2022

On Thursday April 21- Saturday April 23rd, I attended the BCSTA AGM – From Grief to Medicine Moving forward with good hearts. This event was important due to the first in person AGM in three years along with the last of our term as a board.

The Thursday session started with Q' ushin'tun- walking alongside. This was an introductory session that offered teachings and reflections of the residential school experience. Many of the speakers spoke to the heart and offered a perspective that was raw and to the core of the subject. The thought flowing through my mind as I was listening to the speakers was as difficult a topic it is, the information is a guide towards a future of healing and learning together as adults and students. In the evening session entitled "How Indigenous worldview can guide the work of School Trustees". Award winning Entrepreneur, author and Indigenous leader Ken Netmaker offered a glimpse of how his upbringing and background helped shape the work he is able to do and the success he has attained. What struck me was when he mentioned the help he and his mother received from a family of a friend that was a foundation towards attaining the pathway reach the success he has today. A ride to a practice the offering of an old car were his pathway towards where it is today.

On Friday, the morning started with a Branch Breakfast of Northwest Trustees and Staff, where we acclaimed a new President. Afterwards we went and listened in to a session "From Grief to medicine" where speakers gave accounts of the healing process that offered hope and in some cases herbs from Haida Gwaii. The afternoon we had a signing of the memorandum of understanding between the BCSTA and FNESC. From there a presentation from Sarain Fox Broadcaster/filmmaker entitled "How do we reconnect through the Trauma". In addition to a CUPE reception along with candidate forum the day was jam packed.

On Saturday the bulk of the session was both the election of the new executive of which the New President became Carolyn Broady who replaced the outgoing Stephanie Higginson, along with the motions that encompass a typical AGM. On motion that I had the opportunity to speak to the floor in favor was one recommending to the provincial government a food strategy for all schools

Thank You to all those who have enabled me to attend these events throughout the years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank Farrell
Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee AGM

April 21-23, 2022

From Grief to Medicine Moving forward with Good Hearts

The BCSTA AGM this year was 100 percent based on Truth and Reconciliation. Hearing stories, trauma that has occurred and how to move forward from here. This AGM touch people on many levels and I know that to put it in words can not do justice to the feelings of the people involved. Below you will find a list of keynote speakers and some of the topics covered. It was an experience that provoked many emotions for those in attendance.

Kendal Netmaker is an award-winning entrepreneur, author and gifted keynote speaker who is on a mission to empower and motivate people worldwide by sharing his story that regardless of where you come from and what challenges you face, you have the power to enact change.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding between FNEESC & BCSTA

The Power of Introductions as a Gateway to our Personal Truths that Connects us

How do we begin to reconnect through the trauma?
Sarain Fox, broadcaster/filmmaker, APTN's Future History Viceland's RISE and representative for Sephora's 'We Belong to Something Beautiful' initiative.

Opportunities: BCTEA & UNDRIP

Deborah Jeffrey, First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEESC) executive director, and Tyrone McNeil, FNEESC president, will share their insights on opportunities that are presented to boards of education through the BC Tripartite Education Agreement and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Student Ignite - Beyond the Gap

- Ignite format: 5 minutes
- 15 slides auto-advance
- 5 students from various districts.

Business Session

Long Term Service Recognition / Inauguration of the Board of Directors / Recognition of Outgoing President

Respectfully submitted By
Jennifer Williams



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TRUSTEE REPORT Indigenous Education Council Meeting April 2022

On April 20th I attended the SD54 Indigenous Education Council meeting as the Trustee representative. The meeting was attended by: Emma Bowen from the Houston Friendship Center, Aaron Burgess from the Kyah Wiget Education Society, Susie Tress from the Lake Babine Nation, Russel Lewis from the Office of the Wet'suwetén, Birdy Markert and Michael McDiarmid from the SD54 Administration and Priscilla Michell from the Kyah Wiget Education Society, Chairperson of the Indigenous Education Council and SD54 Trustee.

New business discussed at the meeting was the preliminary budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Once approved we reviewed the District Principal's report. A highlight from the report was a review of an online learning session staff had with Kevin Lamoureux. Mr. Lamoureux is a faculty member at the University of Winnipeg and a well-known public speaker. He has served as Associate Vice President of Indigenous Affairs for the University of Winnipeg, Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and as Scholar in Residence for several school divisions.

At each meeting, district staff reports are presented to the Council. The reports from the staff focus on the year's challenges and success with Indigenous Learners. As I read through the reports, it was clear that the Indigenous Support Staff and Administration are very dedicated. They are the backbone for Indigenous learning in our District. Each day they work hard to empower our districts Indigenous Learners. I would like to extend my gratitude for the great work they do.

Members of the team are:

- **Birdy Markert** – District Principal of Indigenous Education
- **Jana Fox** - District Teacher for Culture and Curriculum
- **Nicole Clausen** - Secretary
- **Marissa Chambers and Liz Moore** – Houston Secondary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Dolores Alfred**- Wet'suwetén Language Support Staff
- **Sharon Redford and Cheyenne McRae** - Silverthorne Elementary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Trina-Ann Zubeck and Jody Garcia** – Smithers Secondary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Nicole Rousseau** – Telkwa Elementary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Kasha Vegan** – Twain Sullivan Elementary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Millie Gunanoot and Micah Patterson**-Walnut Park Elementary Indigenous Support Staff
- **Joan Richardson** – Muheim Memorial Elementary School

Respectfully submitted by,

Floyd Krishan
Trustee