



# School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

## AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 21, 2017 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2017  
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – October 17, 2017
- 5) Administration Report C. van der Mark Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports
  - a) Operations Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
  - b) Policy Committee B. Beaubien Report Attached
  - c) Trustee Report P. Michell Report Attached
  - Trustee Report F. Farrell Report Attached
  - Trustee Report – Education Forum D. Hanson Report Attached
  - Trustee Report D. Hanson Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
  - 8.1) 2017 – 2018 District Facilities Review
- 9) Other Business
- 10) Reading File

Ltr. Frm. Gideons re: Distribution of Youth Testaments
Ltr. Frm. K-12 Mgt Partners to Minister James and Minister Fleming re: Request to Meet
Ltr. Frm. Minister Fleming to BCSTA re: By-Elections SD83
October 31, 2017 Enrollment Figures
Ltr. Frm. SD08 to Minister Fleming re: Poverty Reduction Strategy
Ltr. Frm. SD20 to Minister Fleming re: Congratulations and Invitation
Ltr. Frm. SD20 to Minister James re: Congratulations
Ltr. Frm. SD34 to Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariate re: Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis
Ltr. Frm. SD38 to SSCOFGS re: Funding Needs of the K-12 Public Education System
Ltr. Frm. SD46 to SSCOFGS re: 2018-2019 Provincial Budget
Ltr. Frm. SD52 to Minister Fleming re: Aboriginal Education Funding
Ltr. Frm. SD52 to Minister Fleming re: PSEC Review of BCPSEA Governance

- 11) Closing Remarks - Next Board Meeting will be held on December 5, 2017 at the School Board Office, in Smithers, B.C., 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)  
OCTOBER 17, 2017  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.

**PRESENT:** Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, J. Williams, L. Collingwood, B.J. Beaubien, D. Hanson,  
Regrets: P. Michell  
Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools  
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer  
T. Bancroft – Director Facilities & Maintenance  
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS**

- Chairperson Kearns acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidm't'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Kearns welcomed all guests present. Trustee Michell sent her regrets. Chairperson Kearns spoke about the Minister of Education Rob Fleming's short visit to SD54. Trustees and senior administration voiced their concerns to the Minister and he listened. Girls' ruby zones took place this past weekend in Prince Rupert. The HSS girls' team placed 1<sup>st</sup> and SSS girls' team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of five teams. Both teams will be heading to the Provincials to represent SD54.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Williams.***

*"That the amended agenda be accepted as presented."*

CARRIED

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of September 26, 2017 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2017. There being none, the minutes of September 26, 2017 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2017 were declared approved as presented.

**5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the student achievement report to the Board. SD54 hosted Education Minister Rob Fleming last week. Minister Fleming toured some of the SD54 facilities and had a brief meeting with the Trustees and senior administration. The FSA's have now finished. This is only one assessment of a student's learning. Schools have submitted their annual plan of improvement which will support the district goal of improving completion rates. Ms. Jo-Anne Goble and Ms. Sandra McAulay will be District Curriculum Support Teachers this year. We have a number of senior administrators working with the Ministry of Education in a variety of roles. Flu season is now upon us, please check Northern Health's website for helpful information on staying healthy this year.

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district and school based initiatives report to the Board. The October Education Forum will take place on Oct 23 at NWCC and will focus on two projects that are challenging students to learn outside their classroom. Once again this year teachers from across the district will be co-planning and presenting lessons for other professionals to observe. Ms. Shelley Moore – BC Education Consultant will be working with SD54 teachers on Nov 2-3 and will be presenting a keynote address at the Della Herman Theatre on November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-5pm. PLC/NOII group will be hosting the NW Regional Network meeting on November we are hoping that Dr. Kaser and Dr. Halbert will be available to return to the district for this event. Senior staff will be attending the BCSSA Fall Conference where they will hear from Pahsa Sahlberg - international education expert. Muheim hosted the District Soccer Tournament on Sept. 30. Remembrance Day Ceremonies will take place in schools across the District on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trip has been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SSS** – 14 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Ed students from Smithers Secondary School travel to Silverking Basin and Joe L'Orsa Cabin on two separate occasions to take part in multi-day trip. Proposed dates are October 19-21, 2017 and April 26-28, 2018. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
  - **International Travel** – Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid received a request for final approval from HSS regarding the pre-approved trip to Europe during spring break 2018. Mr. McDiarmid spoke to the board about the trip and expressed his safety concerns about students travelling internationally. Is this an appropriate time for these students to go on an international trip based on the current political climate? After review of all documents submitted and research conducted Mr. McDiarmid recommended that the Board not endorse the proposed trip. Trustees asked Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid and senior administration questions surrounding this trip and different options available. The group can still go but it will not be sanctioned by the district.

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

*"That the Board NOT approve the HSS Field Trip to Europe during spring break 2018."*

CARRIED

- Chairperson Kearns asked that Field Trip Policy #11.290 be added to the next policy committee agenda.

### Operations

- Secretary Margern presented the administration operations report to the Board. February 2017 enrollment projections were 1985 FTE; and the September 1701 report lists an actual FTE of 1974, down 11 student FTE. September 2017 enrollment was also down 39 student FTE from September 2016 enrollment. SD54 was notified that the district will be subject to a K-12 enrollment compliance audit by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry will be looking at the September 29, 2017 Fall Data Collection Report – Form 1701 submitted by the District for Smithers Secondary and BVLC only. SD54 had its last enrollment audit in September 2010.

### 6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Chairperson Farrell presented the Operations Committee's Report from the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 committee meeting. The committee recommended that the proposed draft school calendars for the 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 schools years be sent out for public consultation.

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

*"That the Board approve the recommendation that the proposed draft school calendars for the 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years be sent out for public consultation."*

CARRIED

- Next Meeting Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 5:00pm.

#### **6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Policy Chairperson Beaubien presented the Policy Committee's Report from the October 3, 2017 committee meeting. The committee recommended the deletion of Policy# 10.110 – School and District Facilities and amended Policy # 10.100 – Facility Rental be sent out for consultation.

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

*"That the Board approves the deletion of Policy# 10.110 – Rental Facilities. "*

CARRIED

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

*"That the Board approve amended Policy# 10.100 – School and District Facility be sent out for public consultation as outlined."*

CARRIED

- Next Meeting Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 7:00pm

#### **6.c ) TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- Trustee Kearns and Trustee Williams both submitted trustee reports from their trip to the BCSTA Northwest Branch meeting.

#### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- There was no unfinished business this month.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **8.1) 2017 – 2018 Class Size report:** Superintendent van der Mark presented to the Board and guests the Class Size Annual Report. Highlights include:

- Class Sizes
  - Kindergarten maximum 20 – SD54 Actual 17.9
  - Grades 1-3 maximum 22 – SD54 Actual 19.8
  - Grades 4- 12 maximum 27\* – SD54 Grade 4-7 Actual 25.2
  - SD54 Grades 8-12 Actual 21.5

\*Depends on class (subject, specialty...)

- Key Changes
  - No more than 2 designated students. Language specifies "designated" for the purposes of Ministry Funding. Class can have more than 2 designated students but then remedy must be provided.

#### **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- The September 30, 2017 expenditure summary was included in the Trustee Board packages.

**10. READING FILE**

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

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

CARRIED

**11. CLOSING REMARKS**

- The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers.

**12. ADJOURNED**

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

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Approved by Les Kearns, Chairperson  
of the Board of Education

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Dave Margem  
Secretary Treasurer

DRAFT



SYNOPSIS  
OF  
IN-CAMERA MEETING  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #54 (Bulkley Valley)  
OCTOBER 17, 2017  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair person asked if there were any corrections to the In-Camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2017. There being none, the In-Camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2017 declared approved as presented by the Vice-Chairperson.
- Administration reported on routine staffing issues and school suspensions.
- The Operations Committee reported on a real property matter.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:13pm.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the  
Board of Education  
November 21, 2017

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### Student Achievement

- **Shelley Moore** - SD54 was proud to host BC educator and inclusion expert, Shelley Moore on November 2 and 3. Shelley was able to observe lessons by SD54 teachers and provided valuable feedback. As always, her keynote was an engaging and inspiring perspective on inclusive education. Shelly will be back in February and will be joined by another BC expert, Dr. Leytin Schnellert. Follow Shelley on Twitter @tweetsomemoore. Special thanks to Ms. Jo-Ann Goble and Ms. Sandra McAulay for their leadership in coordinating, facilitating and planning this work.
- **October Education Forum** - Was a great showcase of the possible opportunities for our students when we work with the wider community. Ms. Pesce's grade 4/5 class has made profound connections with the seniors from the Meadows and it has been an enriching experience for everyone involved. Mr. Dfresne's students engaged their imaginations and creativity while learning design and construction skills through their Rube Goldberg machines. Thanks very much to NWCC for making the space available to them.
- **November Education Forum** - November's education forum will be held on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm. The focus of this Education Forum will be centered around progressive teaching strategies that are currently being used in our classrooms. Two of our District Resource Teachers will report on some of the ways in which they have supported teachers in the first months of the school year with strategies around effective instruction, technology and planning for success with British Columbia's new curriculum.
- **BCSSA Fall Conference** - The SD54 administration team will be attending the BC Superintendent's Association Conference on November 16-17. Keynote speakers include Palsi Sahlberg and George Couros, two prominent international educational thinkers.
- **BCSTA Fall Trustee Academy** - In December, SD54 Trustees and Secretary Treasurer, Dave Margerm will be attending the Trustees annual learning session in Vancouver.
- **Ministry of Education Task Force on Recruitment and Retention** - Throughout November and into December, Superintendent van der Mark will be part of a ministry team (including BCTF, PSEC, BCPSEA) tasked with providing a report to Minister Fleming on potential strategies to enhance recruitment for the province of BC.



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

## Innovation / Initiatives

### District Based Initiatives

- **Changing Results for ALL Learners** - The district has wrapped up its first of two sessions where virtually every elementary educator is engaged in an inquiry to focus on very specific learning needs of students. We are very proud of the engagement from our teachers on this project and thankful to have Ms. Lynn Rutley leading the work.
- **Regional Network Meeting** - On Monday, November 6, more than 40 educators from across the Northwest (and a large contingent from SD54) gathered to kick-off the regional Network of Innovation and Inquiry. We were fortunate to be joined by Laura Tait, Network Leader and Director of Instruction from Nanaimo School District. Special thanks to Nicole Davey and Jana Fox for leading and facilitating this session for SD54.
- **Fall School Learning Conversations** - Over the past week Superintendent van der Mark and Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid begun meeting with school administration to discuss their progress with their school goals so far.

### School Based Initiatives

- **SSS** - The Smithers Secondary X-country team had another strong showing at zones, capturing girls' and boys' banners. Conditions were tough and the event even had to be moved from Houston to Smithers because of a large grizzly in the area! Special thanks to Ms. Jody Barber for her continued time and dedication, year in, year out with these runners!
- **Walnut Park** - Hosted their first Breakfast and Books at the end of October and by all accounts it was the best one yet! As always, thanks to the volunteers who make this possible and especially Smithers Community Services for their continued partnership.
- **Carolfest 2017** - This year's Carolfest will take place on Wednesday, December 6th with showings at 5:00pm and 7:30pm. We would encourage everyone to attend. It is always a fine showing of district talent and guaranteed to put you in the Christmas spirit. Tickets will be available through school choirs. Trustees are asked to contact SSS Principal Jaksun Grice as soon as possible if they require tickets as they will not last.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trip has been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SSS** – 14 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Ed students from Smithers Secondary School travel to Piper Down Recreation Site on two separate occasions. Proposed dates are December 1-2, 2017 and March 2-3, 2018. The purpose of these trips is to support the Outdoor Ed curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
  - **SSS** – 70 +/- Grade 8-12 Band students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Whistler, BC on April 26-29, 2018 to take part in the Whistler Music Festival. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

*(Bulkley Valley)*

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- **HSS** – 90 +/- Grade 8-12 students from Smithers Secondary School travel to up to Hudson Bay Mountain on December 15, 2017 and February 23, 2018. The purpose of these trips is to support the PE curriculum and to promote health living. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley)*

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Regular*

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**5:00 PM**

**School Board Office**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Administration</b>
F. Farrell, Chair J. Williams, Alternate  L. Kearns (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent
<b>Regrets:</b> P. Michell	

**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. 2017-2018 District Facilities Review**

Mr. Margerm presented the initial review on school district facilities. The Review looks at enrollment, enrollment trends, capacity utilization, costs and asset management issues. This facility review will be presented at Board meeting as a consultation meeting for Smithers community, and a meeting in Houston.

**2. Report to the Board: Configuration and Sustainability of the Three Houston Schools**

Mr. Margerm introduced a report to the Board outlining the current configuration and sustainability of the three Houston schools. The Board requested the report at the 2016-2017 facility review. The committee discussed different aspects of the report involving enrollment, capacity, financial aspects, and options for consideration. There were two recommendations:

*It is resolved that the School District 54 Board of Education direct senior administration to explore and pursue the option of requesting financial support from the Ministry for a modular annex in Houston.*

*It is also resolved that the School District 54 Board of Education direct senior administration to apply for funding from the 2018/19 Rural Education Enhancement Fund in regards to a potential school reconfiguration/closure.*

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 5:00 pm .**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley)*

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**7:00 PM**

**School Board Office**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Administration</b>
B. Beaubien, Chair L. Collingwood D. Hanson  L. Kearns (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer
<b>Regrets:</b>	M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent

**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 October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
10.100 10.110	School and District Facilities Facility Rentals Student Reporting	Revision	Yes

**NEW BUSINESS**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
11.290	International Travel – Moratorium (Margerm)	Revision	Yes

**1. International Travel**

Committee discussed benefits and concerns with Board authorized international travel. Should the Board accept case-by-case field trips on their own merit and location or impose a moratorium on international travel? The committee recommends the senior administration draft language for an independent policy specific to international field trips that will allow the Board to deliberate on specific applications for international travel.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 7:00pm.**

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

BCSTA Northwest Branch  
Regional Meeting  
Haida Gwaii, SD 50

We were presented with very informative presentations, starting with an update from BCPSEA and the upcoming Collective Bargaining. There is a clear understand of the work that has to be done and a willingness to actively participate in opportunities for open dialogue. Consultation sessions around the Province where representatives from most Districts sharing information packages with trustees and Administrative staffing for bargaining discussions. There are plans to continue with comprehensive consultations for further dialogue at District levels and through surveys.

It was exciting to hear about the Haida Language Program. A joint initiative with UNBC to offer a Haida Language and Culture Teaching program where they are employing locally as they work towards revitalizing their language and building on local resources for their education system.

Pride was demonstrated as we toured the Haida Cultural Centre where an amazing young lady who shared the history of each Pole raised and the significance of the crests carved on each. Education comes in all forms and it is exciting to hear the history, which builds a strong foundation for future learning. Considering the high population of Aboriginal Learners in this District, I was happy to hear how they incorporate language and culture into their teachings. Especially considering how our present education system is not only learning about the affects of Residential School and how there are great efforts through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Ensuring the youth voice is heard and incorporated by consulting with the Canadian Roots exchange, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth who share their beliefs: "In order to bridge the gap between Canada's peoples and work towards reconciliation, we need to become educated and aware of the teachings, triumphs, and daily realities of Indigenous communities."

Finally, updates were provided on BCSTA, the Board and the various committee initiatives for the upcoming academic year.

Awizah,

Priscilla Michell  
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 October 27-29, 2017**

On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to attend the Fall BCSTA Provincial Council as both the representative of the board of SD54, but also as a member of the BCSTA Finance Committee.

I had planned to attend the Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 session, featuring both the Deputy and New Education Minister Rob Fleming. However, weather was a concern and was only able to partake in the Saturday sessions. From a sampling of the Provincial Councilors who attended, the presentation was very well received. Issues such as Capital Funding, all the way to greater lines of communication between BCSTA and the Ministry were discussed.

On Saturday the session was broken into two parts- the morning business session, along with the afternoon issues forum delving into the framework and of a new elected body of the BCPSEA.

In the morning the following reports were delivered.

- President's report- Working with the new government in both the long and short term
- CEO Report – Ethical Leadership, BCSTA Online HUB, along with revamping the Website

Aboriginal Education and Professional Learning Committees – discussing the progress made at their recent meetings along with insight on learning opportunities during the November Trustee Academy- including a movie night.

In addition the associations committees provided written reports and a highlight was the Action Item with BCSTA audited financial statement, which as a member of the committee was a co-presenter. There were nine total motions, including the audited financial statement. All nine motions were passed. Included was the motion that requests the government hold a by-election for a new board for SD 83.

The afternoon session discussed the road to a new elected board at BCPSEA. The two points that were common from most speakers was both the need to have a two year term and to have a regional framework to an elected board. I was touched by the passionate words recited by trustees who were hurt by the firing of the last board. All in all the ending discussion typified the notion that this Provincial Council was meant in many ways to engage in a fresh start moving forward.

Respectfully submitted by:

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



# *School District No. 54* (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

## **Trustee Report October 2017 Education Forum**

Teachers from Muheim Memorial Elementary School shared work that is happening in two classrooms. Liliana Pesce is in the second year of multi-generational friendships with her Grade 3 / 4 and 4 / 5 classrooms. Last year students and residents of The Meadows connected once a month over games, arts and crafts, music and sharing special events. Students travelled to The Meadows as well as inviting their friends to events at Muheim School. This year, children from the Montessori Pre-school are also building friendships with Mme Pesce's class through reciprocal visits, field trips and buddy reading times.

The impetus for these intergenerational friendships came through Mme Pesce reflecting on her own growing up, which included her grandparents, and the realization that many students in her class don't have grandparents nearby. The sharing and growing that has occurred has been beyond what she imagined—students have become more attuned to others needs, being patient and responsive. They have shared technology and learned about others lives, they have experienced the loss of a friend. Being with older and younger community members has expanded the students' perspectives—sometimes they are young, sometimes they are 'big'. But they have become more compassionate, caring people.

Eric Dufresne shared the work his students are doing to build Rube Goldberg machines. Over 5 weeks, students have travelled to the College to spend time in the workshop, assembling dowels, cups, tubes, cards, wood, tape—you name it—into complex machines that do a simple task. Days consist of sample lessons, daily planning, work sessions, and reflection times. Each step of the machine has to work 10 times in a row to be considered functional. At the end of the project, students demonstrate their machines to parents, students and the public over 2 days.

This project provides a huge amount of hands-on time, while also developing problem solving and group work skills. Students practiced working through frustration and disappointment and developed coping strategies, such as going for a walk or playing soccer for 10 minutes. Some days nothing worked, while some days everything went well.

Thank you to Mme Pesce and Mr Dufresne for taking the time to share some of their classroom experiences with us.

In appreciation,  
Dawn Hanson



# *School District No. 54* (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

## **Trustee Report**

Aboriginal Education Council Meeting October 25, 2017

The Aboriginal Education Council had two presentations for its inaugural 2017/18 meeting. Bev Forster, Principal of Muheim Elementary School, shared the variety of Aboriginal initiatives that are taking place in that school. Of particular interest is the teaching of the Wit'suwit'en language to all students by Dolores Alfred, the school's ASSET worker. Assemblies are also opened by the singing of O Canada and the drumming of the Welcome song. Ms. Alfred has also worked very successfully on building relationships with students and families, increasing attendance and trust. Bev shared that Walnut Park and Muheim School students are the beneficiaries of 20 daily lunches each for students in need, as well as weekend 'backpacks' of food to support families and children.

Jana Fox and Teresa Monkman presented on the Inquiry Project some SSS staff have been involved with for three years. They are examining the power of relationships with students to support grade-to-grade transitions. They have found that the Grade 7 to 8 transition is quite high, but students really start to struggle around Grade 10. The goal is to build better connections and relationships with students through check ins and conversations. The litmus test staff are using is if students can identify an adult in the building who they feel cares about their success at school. Staff meet together, share stories, identify themes across students, get feedback, and share out their learnings with the larger staff body. Next steps are to build confidence through modelling and teaching growth mindset to impact students' decision-making and perspectives about themselves and learning.

On April 19 and 20, 2018 there will be an Aboriginal Education Conference in Smithers, with invites sent out across the region. It's a great opportunity to expand learning and knowledge about First Nations culture and Indigenous education.

The Council also reviewed the budget, making some minor changes to increase the support time at HSS. It was also noted that some time has been allotted to BVLC and students attending there. Aboriginal enrollment is higher than predicted by 18 students.

Finally, please mark December 15, 2017 on your calendars. This is the next Aboriginal Education Council meeting, to which School Board Trustees are invited to share a meal and some learning together as the two groups did several years ago.

Thank you.

Dawn Hanson