



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)  
DECEMBER 8, 2015  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE , SMITHERS BC**

**PRESENT:** Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, J. Williams, BJ Beaubien, D. Hanson, L. Collingwood

Regrets: P. Michell

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. Trustee Kearns welcomed the guests in attendance.

**2) OPENING REMARKS**

- Chairperson Kearns welcomed our guests and extended Trustee Michell's regrets. Chairperson Kearns commented that this time last year, we were at the beginning of our first year of four year term with 4 rookies, now our trustees are feeling more comfortable than they did a year ago.
- The board meeting was turned over to the Secretary Treasurer Dave Margerm.

**3. BOARD ELECTIONS**

- Secretary Treasurer Dave Margerm explained the Board Election process. Due to Trustee Michell's absence if there are any ties, senior administration will try and contact her, if she cannot be reached the vote will be postponed until she can be reached.
- Mr. Margerm requested a motion to appoint Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid as scrutineers for the election proceedings.

**MOVED/SECONDED :** B.J. Beaubien / J. Williams

***"that Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid be named as scrutineers."***

CARRIED

• **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

- Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Farrell and Trustee Kearns.
- Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson and called for nominations.
- Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Kearns for the position of Chairperson. Trustee Kearns accepted the nomination.
- Trustee Collingwood nominated Trustee Farrell for the position of Chairperson. Trustee Farrell accepted the nomination.
- Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
- Trustees voted by secret ballot then Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid collected the ballots from the Trustees' and left the room to tabulate votes. Upon their return, Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Kearns was elected to the position of Chairperson.

- **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**
  - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Farrell and Trustee Williams.
  - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice - Chairperson and called for nominations.
  - Trustee Beaubien nominated Trustee Williams for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Trustee Williams accepted the nomination.
  - Trustee Kearns nominated Trustee Farrell for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Trustee Farrell accepted the nomination.
  - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
  - Trustees voted by secret ballot then Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid collected the ballots from the Trustees and left the room to tabulate votes. Upon their return, Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Williams was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson
  
- **ELECTION OF BCPSEA REPRESENTATIVE**
  - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Farrell and Trustee Kearns.
  - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative, and called for nominations.
  - Trustee Beaubien nominated Trustee Farrell for BCPSEA Representative. Trustee Farrell declined the nomination.
  - Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Kearns for BCPSEA Representative. Trustee Kearns accepted the nomination.
  - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
  - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Kearns was elected the BCPSEA representative by acclamation.
  
- **ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR**
  - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Collingwood, Trustee Hanson and Trustee Farrell.
  - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Provincial Councilor, and called for nominations.
  - Trustee Farrell nominated Trustee Collingwood for Provincial Councilor. Trustee Collingwood declined the nomination.
  - Trustee Hanson nominated Trustee Farrell for Provincial Councilor. Trustee Farrell accepted the nomination.
  - Trustee Kearns nominated Trustee Hanson for Provincial Councilor. Trustee Hanson accepted the nomination.
  - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
  - Trustees voted by secret ballot. Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid collected ballots from Trustees and left the room to tabulate votes. Upon their return, Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Farrell was elected the Provincial Councilor.
  
- **ELECTION OF ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**
  - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Williams, Trustee Hanson and Trustee Farrell.
  - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Aboriginal Education Council Representative, and called for nominations.
  - Trustee Farrell nominated Trustee Hanson for Aboriginal Education Council Representative. Trustee Hanson accepted the nomination.

- Trustee Kearns nominated Trustee Williams for Aboriginal Education Council Representative. Trustee Williams accepted the nomination.
- Trustee Collingwood nominated Trustee Farrell for Aboriginal Education Council Representative. Trustee Farrell accepted the nomination.
- Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
- Trustees voted by secret ballot. Mr. van der Mark and Mr. McDiarmid collected ballots from Trustees and left the room to tabulate votes. Upon their return, Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Williams was elected the Aboriginal Education Council representative.

**MOVED/SECONDED:** B.J. Beaubien / L. Collingwood

***"That all ballots be destroyed."***

CARRIED

- Trustee Kearns assumed the Chair as Presiding Officer. Trustee Kearns thanked the Trustees for the confidence shown in his chairing the Board of Education.

#### **4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Chairperson Kearns asked that a new business item be added to the agenda 9.1) 2015-2016 Calendar Modification

**MOVED/SECONDED** D. Hanson / F. Farrell

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

CARRIED

#### **5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of November 17, 2015; the synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes November 17, 2015. There being none, the minutes of November 17, 2015 and the synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes of November 17, 2015 were declared approved as presented.

#### **6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Superintendent van der Mark expressed his congratulations to all the trustees who ran and noted that this was the largest number of trustees to put their name forward for positions that he had seen.

##### **Student Achievement**

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the student achievement report to the Board. Secondary report cards have been sent out and elementary schools will be sent out soon. The November Education Forum took place on November 30, and the focus was "Maker Days". On November 26-28 the trustees travelled to Vancouver to attend the annual BC Trustee Winter Academy. Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid accompanied a small team down to the BCSSA Fall Conference in Vancouver. On December 8, the District held a curriculum implementation discussion on the new curriculum roll out for K-9. Superintendents Maureen Dockendorf and Jan Unwin were unable to attend due to fog. There were approximately 22 teachers and administration from SD54 plus representatives from the Ebenezer School and Kispiox Independent School that joined in the discussion.

##### **District Based Initiatives**

- Superintendent Chris van der Mark presented the following district based initiatives to the Board. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, students from HSS & SSS travelled to China as a part of a cultural leadership immersion program. Students participated in a number of learning opportunities. The students were awesome and the district would like to extend

a huge thank you for the hospitality of the hosts and BCCIE to make this possible. Ms. Jo-Anne Gold has been working with teachers across the district as she co-plans and co-teaches lessons with teachers who are interested in having deeper feedback around teaching students to learn. Carolfest was held on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and once again was an exceptional showcase of school and district community spirit. Thank you to the maintenance department, school music directors, accompanists, volunteers and Mr. Grice for emceeding. Silverthorne Elementary and Twain Sullivan co-hosted an elementary volleyball tournament on November 27. Thank you to all the teacher sponsors and volunteers for making this event possible.

### School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent Chris van der Mark presented the school based initiatives to the Board. Silverthorne Elementary has been able to purchase three Tower Garden Systems that will help with their hot lunch program. BVLC hosted an international lunch for more than 100 people.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SIL** – 83 +/- Grade 4-7 Students from Silverthorne Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 45 +/- Grade 10-12 Students from Smithers Secondary School – Outdoor Ed program to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on four separate occasions for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 16 +/- Grade 10-12 Students from Smithers Secondary School – Outdoor Ed program to travel to Mountain View Adventure for a day of horseback riding and wildlife viewing in December 2015 or January 2016. Date of this excursion is still being arranged by the Outdoor Ed teacher. Approval by the Assistant Superintendent was subject to final excursion date being supplied to the School Board Office. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

### **Discussion:**

- Superintendent van der Mark - Ms. Strimbold is showing incredible initiative in the trades program and her hard work is being acknowledged over the province.
- Trustee Farrell – As the Chinese students go to school from 7am - 8pm, do the students stay in dorms?
- Superintendent van der Mark – Yes they all stay in dorms at this particular school.
- Trustee Farrell – Interesting to see the differences in education. It must have been a cultural shock for our kids to experience that.

### 7.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS / EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Education Forum Chairperson Farrell highlighted the Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Education Forum on "Maker Days" and the maker movement. He reminded the Board that this is just another example of the great things that going on in our schools. Another education forum will be held in January and once again will be open to the public.

### **Discussion:**

- Trustee Hanson – commented that she knows of maker fairs that share knowledge for free. It could be anything that a person makes. People would come and learn. It highlights people that we don't know, making connections with other people. Ms. Strimbold said she would like to see that happen. Hands on skills.

### 7.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- No report this month.

### 7.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- No report this month.

## **7.d) TRUSTEE REPORT**

- Trustee Kearns presented his report from the BCSTA Winter Academy. He said that it one of the best academies he has been to. It was thought provoking and provided all types of information. All information on the academy is posted on the BCSTA website

### ***Discussion:***

- Trustee Farrell – Minister Bernier spoke to the delegation, seems like a nice guy and a good fit.
- Trustee Kearns – there were lots of speakers, they mentioned the collaboration that is going on between the teachers union and government. They are trying to build new bridges and a new feeling of cooperation, for students, teachers, and education.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- There was no Unfinished Business.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- **9.1) 2015 – 2016 – Calendar Modification** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm reminded the Board of the Ministry's announcement this fall about the District's requirement to alter the school calendar to provide 10 hours of "non-instructional" time for teachers to work and become familiar with the new K-9 curriculum. Administration has come up with the following plan:
  - Dismiss an hour early on Thursday's x 5. This would work out to be a minimal shift for parents and will make up one day. Ms. Whalen is working on bussing schedules with our stakeholders.
  - Add in 1 non-instructional day in June, the Provincial Exam schedule will be taken into consideration as high school students are done school early in June because of exams.

There has been a lot of thought going into this. The second bullet will go to the operations committee in January. The first bullet is unique compared to what other district are doing.

### ***Discussion:***

- Trustee Collingwood – On those Thursday's students will get let out at noon?
- Superintendent van der Mark – Possibly, the students can stay for lunch and then will be dismissed.
- Trustee Kearns – Parents can still come and pick up their kids at lunch if they choose.
- Trustee Hanson– Paring it with collaboration time with Thursday boosts the collaboration time to a total of 15 hours.
- Trustee Beaubien– was there any consideration for 10 Thursday's not just 5?
- Superintendent van der Mark – It starts getting really disjointed if we do 10. This affects other partners. If we were notified earlier by the Ministry we could have started in September.
- Trustee Collingwood – This is going to be confusing.
- Superintendent van der Mark – We will have lots of advertising. It is an additional challenge to all families, how do we mitigate it and be aware of it?
- Trustee Collingwood – Where do we go from here? Does it have to come back to the Board?
- Superintendent van der Mark – the calendar amendment legislation has already passed, we just have to make sure we do it. We want some information on how to structure the last one.
- Trustee Collingwood – is there a questionnaire going out to parents
- Superintendent – No.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 10.1 – Expenditure Summary for the period ended November 30, 2015 was included in Trustee Board packages.

## **11. READING FILE**

Ltr. Frm. BVTU re: Spring Break 2017	Ltr to S.Auton re: Section 149 – Meeting School Bus
Ltr. Frm. Royal Canadian Legion re: Thank you	Ltr Frm. SD68 to M. Bernier re: MyEd Implementation
November 30, 2015 Enrolment	Ltr. Frm. L. Larocque re: Thank you
Ltr. Frm. SD69 to M. Bernier re: Support of Recommendation of BCSTA & BCTF to SSCFG	

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Collingwood / B.J. Beaubien

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

CARRIED

***Discussion:***

- Trustee Kearns-- Informed the Board that he received an invitation from Ms. Birdy Markert, District Principal of Aboriginal Education, inviting the Board to an Aboriginal Education Council luncheon on Dec 15th. He asked how many trustees will be attending.

**13. CLOSING REMARKS**

- Chairperson Kearns wished everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. He also thanked those people who put their names forward for trustee positions. It is often the fear of "no", in this case it is good to have change.

**14. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

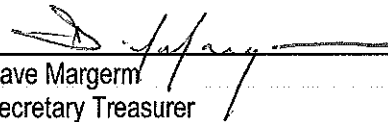
- The next School Board meeting will be held on January 19, 2016 at the School Board Office in Smithers at 7:00 pm.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.



Les Kearns  
Chairman of the Board



Dave Margem  
Secretary Treasurer