



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10th, 2017

Regular
5:00PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted between 5:04 pm and 6:15pm

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. 2016-2017 Facilities Review – Proposed Community Dates

The following dates are proposed for the community-based facility review meetings:

- February 7, 2017 Smithers
- February 15, 2017 Houston

2. 2017-2018 Draft Calendar

Mr. McDiarmid updated the committee on current draft 2017-2018 calendar. Options around one or 2-week spring break were deliberated with the intention that the draft proposal would involve a 1 week spring break in early March. The consultation process would allow for input and alternative options for spring break, but there must be no additional instructional time lost.

3. Bell Schedules

Mr. McDiarmid initiated the conversation of changing school bell schedules to later start times specifically at the high schools. Most high schools in our region begin later. Current early start schedules don’t fit the teenagers best interest in learning or attendance. Bussing schedules are not an issue as bussing times can be moved forward to accommodate later start times. Elementary start times may also have to be adjusted later, though, to accommodate high school times. The committee recommends that Mr. McDiarmid return with draft scenarios or options for February committee to look at after consultation with schools.

4. Funding Update

Mr. Margerm provided a synopsis of the actual funding grants that were published in December 2016. Funding was higher than projected, despite lower enrolment. This was only due to \$643,940 in funding protection.



5. Number of Board Trustees

Mr. Margerm initiated the conversation of the possible reduction in the number of trustees from seven to five. There were several reasons to support Board consideration: financial costs, decreasing enrolment and facilities, and possible realignment of voting boundaries due to the closure of Lake Kathlyn School. This is not an immediate issue, and would be planned for the 2018 elections. Discussions need to include whether the duties of the Board can be completed by five trustees. The committee requested information on how many trustees other school boards have in our region or with similar enrollment. ***The committee recommended that this item be discussed at the January Board Meeting where trustees will decide how to proceed with this topic.***