



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2015 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2015
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – January 20, 2015
- 5) Administration Report C. van der Mark Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports
 - a) Community Relations / Education Forum Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
 - b) Operations Committee L. Collingwood Report Attached
 - c) Policy Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
 - d) Trustee Report F. Farrell Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
 - 8.1) 2014 – 2015 Amended Budget
- 9) Reading File

Ltr frm. T. Rezansoff to P. Fassbender re: BCSPEA Governance	Ltr frm. T. Rezansoff to P. Fassbender re: Shared Services
January 31, 2015 Enrolment	Ltr frm. BV Band Boosters re: Bussing Policy - Band Instruments
Ltr frm. SD44 to M. deJong re: Findings and Recommendations of SSCFGS	Ltr frm. SD38 to MOE re: Operating Grants
Ltr frm. SD52 to P. Fassbender re: Funding Protection	Ltr frm. SD61 to MOE Re: Graduated Adult Funding
Ltr frm. SSS – Graduation Invitation	Ltr frm. T. Rezansoff to P. Fassbender re: Bargaining process and structure.

- 10) Closing Remarks
- 11) Next Board Meeting will be held on March 17, 2015 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)
JANUARY 20, 2015
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, L. Collingwood, P. Michell, B.J. Beaubien, J. Williams

Remote: L. Kearns

Regrets: D. Hanson

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 6:03pm

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."

CARRIED

The Board returned to Regular session at 7:00pm.

2. OPENING REMARKS

- On behalf of Chairperson Kearns, Vice-Chairperson Farrell notified everyone present that Trustee Kearns was with us via telephone. Vice-Chairperson Farrell welcomed our guests and passed on Trustee Hanson's regrets. The SSS High School curling team won the zone play downs in Prince Rupert this past weekend. The team consisted of Skip – Glyn Doyle, Third – Adam Hartnett, Second – Sean Turney, Lead – Matthew Steventon, Spare – Evan Doyle and Coach – Laurence Turney. The team is now off to provincials in Creston in February. Congratulations and good luck.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED/SECONDED L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Vice-Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of December 9, 2014. There being none, the minutes of December 9, 2014 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent van der Mark informed those in attendance about the SSS Senior Boys basketball team big win in the Prince George, Trojan Wars. Mr. van der Mark showed an excellent news video clip from CKPG News on the basketball team.

Student Achievement

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the student achievement report to the board: Kindergarten registration will take place the week of February 16-20 at all SD54 elementary schools; Once again this year, the Grade 4 and 7 students across the district will be writing FSA's by the end of February.

District Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives to the board: Ms. Faye Brownlie returned this past weekend working with our teachers on effective teaching and learning strategies. Thank you to the teachers that opened up their classrooms, for their leadership, and initiative. The next PLC meeting will be held on January 26th at WPS Training Centre. The Millwright program will be wrapping up soon at HSS. The Electrical program and Professional Cook 1 will also start up at the beginning of February at HSS. ERI (Early Development Instrument Training) Training took place recently at WPS. EDI is an instrument that assesses children's readiness to learn at school in five domains -1) Physical health and well-being, 2) Social competence 3) Emotional maturity 4) Language and cognitive development 5) Communication skills and general knowledge. January Education Form will be on Jan 22, 2015 and the focus will be on computer coding. The Elementary Hockey Academy at the grade 6/7 level has now started and the students are looking pretty happy out there.

School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the school based initiatives to the board: Congratulations to the SSS Boys Curling for winning their zones, they will be heading off to provincials in Creston in February for the provincial championships. Once again the SSS Drama students and teachers out did themselves with the production of "**The Giver**" in December. Thank you to Mr. Doogan-Smith and Ms. Higgins for the outstanding Christmas Concert once again this year.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **TSE** – 80+/- Grade 4-7 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 20 and March 4, 2015 for skiing, snowboarding lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TES** – 24+/- Grade 6-7 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 18 and March 25, 2015 for skiing, snowboarding lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 80 +/- Grade 8-12 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 11 and February 19, 2015 for skiing, snowboarding and mountain safety lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trips require **final approval** by the Board of Education:
 - **SSS** – 22 Students in Grades 10-12 to travel to New York City, NY for a Broadway Tour from May 12 to May 20, 2015. Approval "*in principle*" was granted at the November 19, 2013 board meeting. All board requirements have now been met for this trip.

MOVED/SECONDED

L. Collingwood / P. Michell

"To approve the proposed SSS field trip to New York, NY from May 12 to May 20, 2015."

CARRIED

- **HSS – 17 Students in Grades 9-12 to travel to Italy, France and Spain from March 28th to April 8, 2015.** Approval “*in principle*” was granted at the March 25, 2014 board meeting. All board requirements have now been met for this trip.

MOVED/SECONDED

L. Collingwood / P. Michell

“To approve the proposed HSS field trip to France and Spain from March 28th to April 8, 2015.”

CARRIED

Operations

- **Enrollment Projections** - Administration is currently developing enrolment projections for next year,
- **Facilities “Walk Abouts”** – Secretary Treasurer, Dave Margerm and Director of Facilities and Maintenance, Ed Hildebrandt are conducting facility “walk-about” in order to prepare plans for facility upgrades. In addition, they will be initiating their annual facilities review.
- **Amended Budget** – Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Toni Perreault is currently finishing off the 2014-2015 Amended budget for submission at the February board meeting.

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Farrell presented the Community Relations Committee report from the January 6, 2015 meeting: Education Forum coming up on Thursday at 5pm on Computer Coding. Because this was the first committee meeting for the new group of committee members, Chairperson Farrell reviewed what the committee does and where the committee is heading. Outstanding items are a possible monthly newspaper article and social media. Next Meeting will be February 3 at 4:00pm.

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Collingwood presented the Operations Committee’s Report from the January 6, 2015 meeting: The committee discussed the following items:
 - **Learner Support Centre and SBO Downstairs Renovations** - Administration outline three possible options to the committee around the SBO renovations.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / J. Williams

“The committee recommends the option to leave the Learner Support Centre open and rent office space in the back of the building to generate rental income to cover costs of running the facility.”

CARRIED

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / P. Michell

“The committee recommend the district administration proceed with necessary minor renovation to the school board office.”

CARRIED

- **Sportsplex Update** – Administration provided an update on a new scaled-down plan that had just arrived from the architect. Superintendent van der Mark advised the committee that we were moving forward from concept phase to consultation phase.
- **2014 – 2015 Enrolment & Funding Update** – Administration updated the committee on the Ministry of Education’s December funding re-calculation as per our September 1701 submission. SD54 is down 118 students from same time as last year and down 40 students from the projected in February 2014.
- **St. Joseph’s School Letter** – The committee had a discussion about the letter received from St. Joseph’s regarding transporting musical instruments on school district buses to district music programs.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"The committee recommends that the issue go before the policy committee for evaluation and resolution and then the policy committee would report back to the Board with their recommendations."

CARRIED

- **Semester PE at SSS Correspondence** - The committee discussed the three letters received in regards to the change in Physical Education timetabling at SSS from linear to semestered.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / P. Michell

"The committee recommends that letters from the Board be written in response thanking the writers for their concerns and input, but acknowledging that this still should remain at the school level in hope that an explanation or resolution can be provided by administration."

CARRIED

- **Gideon's Letter** – The committee discussed the letter sent by The Gideon's requesting permission to distribute their Youth Testament Consent Cards to grade 5 students.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"The committee recommends that the Board approve the motion to allow Gideon's to inquire if students would like their literature."

CARRIED

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell, presented the Policy Committee Report from the January 6, 2015 meeting: Because this was the first committee meeting for the new group of committee members, Chairperson Farrell reviewed what the committee does, who the voting members are, policies that were dealt with over the past year and where new policies or amendments can possibly come from. Next Meeting will be February 3 at 3:00pm.

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- Trustee's Michelle, Beaubien, Kearns, Hanson, Farrell and Collingwood all submitted their reports for their trip to the BCSTA Fall Trustee's Academy on December 4-6, 2014.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business was submitted this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Draft 2015 – 2016 School Calendar** - Trustee Collinwood provided the board with information on the draft 2015 -2016 proposed school calendar.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"The committee recommends that the board approve the draft 2015 – 2016 School Calendar as presented."

- Trustee Beaubien as if September 9 would be the first day of school. Superintendent van der Mark replied by saying that if the calendar gets approved with the non-instructional day on September 8, instead of September 18th, then yes the first day of school would be Wednesday September 9th. If not, the first day of school would be Tuesday September 8th, 2015. For the 2016 – 2017 school calendar, the Easter long week falls late in April so a one week spring break will have to be looked at again.

CARRIED

• 8.2) Carbon Neutral Bylaw -

- Vice Chairperson Farrell asked for unanimous consent to do all three reading tonight for Capital Project Bylaw #126711 . Unanimous consent was given.

MOTION/ SECONDED

L. Collingwood / P. Michell

"The committee recommends that the Board give all 3 readings to the Capital Project Bylaw #126711."

CARRIED

CAPITAL PROJECT BYLAW 126711

A BYLAW by the Board of Education of School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) (hereinafter called the "Board") to adopt a Capital Project.

WHEREAS in accordance with provisions of the *School Act* the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") has approved a capital plan of the Board.

NOW THEREFORE the Board agrees to the following:

- (a) upon approval to proceed, commence the Project and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete the project substantially in accordance with the Project Agreement (where required);
- (b) observe and comply with any rule, policy or regulation of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the Project; and,
- (c) maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the Project, as may be prescribed by the Minister.

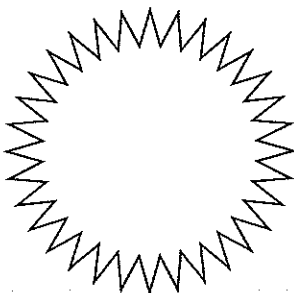
NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

1. The capital project of the Board approved by the Minister and specifying a maximum expenditure of **\$10,093** for Project No. **126711** is hereby adopted.
2. This Bylaw may be cited as "School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. **126711**"

READ A FIRST TIME THE 20th day of January, 2015.

READ A SECOND TIME THE 20th day of January, 2015.

READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 20th day of January, 2015.



NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED.

Board Chair

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126711 adopted by the Board the 20 day of January, 2015.

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Secretary-Treasurer

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1) The December 31, 2014 expenditure summary was included in the Trustees Board Packages.

10. READING FILE

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

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

CARRIED

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Vice – Chairperson Farrell thanked everyone for coming and welcomed everyone to the New Year.

12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2015 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers.

13. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm .

Frank Farrell
Vice- Chairman of the Board of Education

Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer



SYNOPSIS
OF
IN-CAMERA MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT #54 (Bulkley Valley)
JANUARY 20, 2015
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE , SMITHERS , B.C.

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

- Administration reported on routine staffing issues.
- The Operations Committee reported on a labour relations and a legal matter.
- The reading file was received and filed.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:11 p.m.

DRAFT

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
February 17, 2015

Student Achievement

- **Skills Canada Competition** - In January, the District took a team of students to Terrace to compete in the annual Skills Canada Competition. The results were outstanding!
Veronica Portsch – 1st Culinary Arts
Nico Palumbo – 1st Automotive
Dale Hagen – 2nd Welding
Philip Gust – 3rd Carpentry
Kyle Steigleder – 3rd Automotive

- **Elementary Trades** – During the week of February 10th -13th, Skills BC ran the "Inspire Trades" workshop to all grade 6s and 7s in the district. Each hour long session involved a talk about trades and a competition with tools and prizes at the end. The events were well received at all schools.

Congrats to all and special thanks to Ms. Monica Strimbold for her leadership and promotion of these opportunities.

- **Big Band Concert** - On Saturday, February 14th, the SSS Band performed several sets as part of their annual community concert event. It was a sensational evening and display of student excellence. Congratulations to Mr. Doogan-Smith, his students, and the community musicians who played the event.

Innovation / Initiatives

- **Fay Brownlie** - On March 9-13, Faye Brownlie will be back working with teachers and support staff across the District. This is scheduled to be Ms. Brownlie's last visit, and we are delighted with the work our educators have done through the learning series.

- **Education Forum** – The focus of February's education forum will be the SSS Fine Arts Academy. It will be held on Wednesday February 25, 2015, commencing at 5:00pm at the School Board Office. Please RSVP to bobbie.kingsmill@sd54.bc.ca

- **Elementary Hockey Academy** - SD54 is pleased with the launch of its new hockey program for 6/7 students. Mr. Lowndes has been pleased with the effort of the students and schools are also commenting on increased engagement from those students involved. We look forward for opportunities to grow initiatives like this and believe it will build on the work started by Mr. Holland at SSS.

- **Environmental Monitor Assistant Program** - NWCC and SD54 completed the second year of EMAP and we are again delighted by the work of the students. Of particular note this year was the opportunity for Houston students to be bused in to participate, which 3 students took advantage of. This provided a unique interaction for students from across the district that was previously unheard of.

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- **Intro To Trades** - Intro to Trades also wrapped up a second successful cohort. We hope the Houston students will also engage in this opportunity in the future.
- **Millwright** - NWCC and SD54 completed their first Millwright course in the newly renovated shop at HSS!
- **Electrical** - The shop at HSS is now being transformed for the offering of an electrical course through NWCC.
- **Professional Cook 1** - Will also be running this spring at Houston Secondary.

District Based Initiatives

- **Early Notice Incentive Program** - School District #54 offers a financial incentive to teachers and administrators who are planning to retire, to give us notice in writing on, or before, April 1, 2015. This notice is valuable in order to better plan and meet our staffing requirements.
- **Richard Wagamese** - Mr. Wagamese spoke to an audience of 360 students on February 12th at the Roi Theatre. His visit is a result of a partnership between SD54, Embrace BC, the Bridging Committee and Smithers Public Library. He also presented to the public in the evening.
- **Elementary Basketball** - Twain Sullivan and Silverthorne will co-host the elementary basketball event on Thursday, February 27. Thanks in advance to Ms. Forster and Ms. Delany for organizing and to the coaches and students. Special thanks to HSS for letting them use your gymnasium!
- **FSA** - School's in the Bulkley Valley have begun the yearly Foundation Skills Assessment at the grade 4 and 7 level. Schools, and the District, continue to use the information from the FSA to identify areas in which students may need specific intervention as they move forward. We also examine the FSA results as part of a bigger assessment picture, which includes school based reading, writing, and numeracy assessments, as well as ongoing day-day assessments as represented with performance standards on report cards.
- **Satisfaction Surveys** - Parents and students (grades 4, 7, 10, 12) will be completing the Provincial Satisfaction Surveys between now and April.

School Based Initiatives

- **Walnut Park** - Breakfast and Books will be running February 25. Please check out this monthly event if you have not already.
- **Muheim** - Canadian Parents for French will be hosting the annual Carnaval from February 10-13th!

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Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **WPS** – 40+/- Grade 7 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 11th, 17th and 24th, 2015 for skiing and snowboarding lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SIL** – 55 +/- Grade 4-7 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 13th, 2015 for skiing and snowboarding lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 8 +/- Grade 8-12 students to travel to Moricetown on January 29, 2015 to visit the Moricetown Outdoor Adventure Park. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **MME** – 71 +/- Grade 5-7 students to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 26th, March 18th, and March 23rd, 2015 for skiing and snowboarding lessons. All board requirements have been met for this trip.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
February 3rd, 2015 4:00 PM School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
F. Farrell, Chair B.J. Beaubien D. Hanson	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer
Regrets: L. Kearns (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent

Meeting: 4:00- 4:50 pm.

REPORT

1. Newspaper articles

Good chance to review:

Purpose?

What type of topics?

Different topics than administration report?

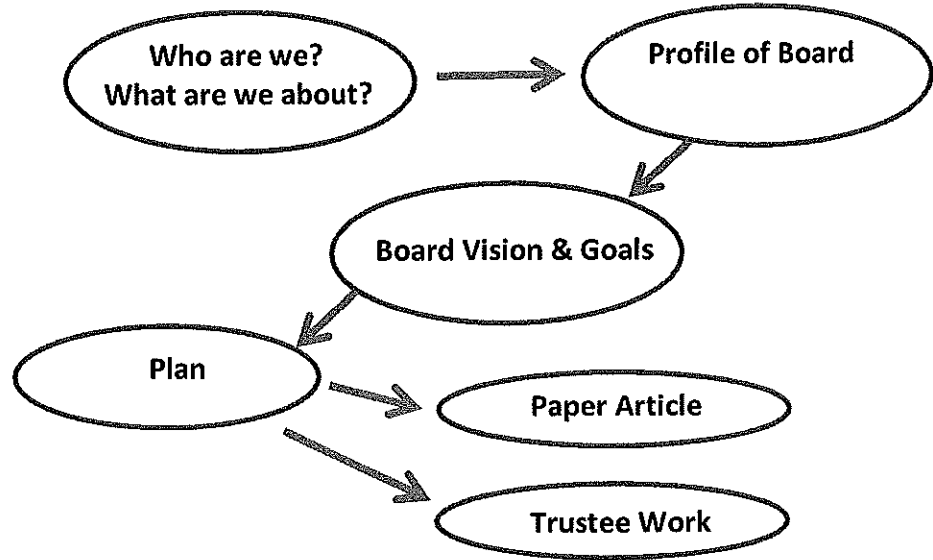
<p><u>Pros:</u> Good stories Celebrate successes Provide recognition Include insight into complexity 'Rest of the story' Get out policy issues</p>	<p><u>Cons:</u> Missed recognition, upsetting invites counter-productive comments</p>
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<p>Sept./Dec./June Oct. April May</p>	<p><u>Column</u> 'Theme' Student Budget Student</p>
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Type: New, Revision, Deletion
 Status: In-committee, on-going, approved
 Consultation Yes, Not required, Complete

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

Starting point:
Next meeting :



2. February Education Forum

February 25th /15.

Fine Arts: H. Lytle, P. Rath, M. Doogan-Smith, W. Wilson

SBO 5 pm.

C. Date & Time of Next Meeting: March 3 , 2015 @ 4:00pm

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

February 3th, 2015

5:00PM

School Board Office

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

Meeting: 5:00-5:45 pm

REPORT

1. Amended Budget Bylaw

Mr. Margerm provided synopsis of 2014 – 2015 amended annual budget. Revenues are down \$245,800 due to government claw-back of \$666,482 due to strike in September 2014. Extra revenues include \$358,000 to support teacher raises this year (2% in September 2014, 1.25% as of January 2015). The District also received a \$100,000 trades grant.

Increased costs included an unexpected 1% increase to employee benefits, \$110,000 increase to career prep/trades. Averaged SD54 teacher's salary for amended budget purposes was higher than projected (from budgeted \$72,750 to SD54 average \$74,266). Given the warmer year, utilities costs are lower than expected by \$40,000.

The amended budget includes a planned allocation of \$300,000 from operating surplus to support District operations – if necessary (planned costs: trades initiatives, learning initiatives, employee benefits, sportsplex and SBO renovations). The District may only utilize a portion or none of the operating surplus depending on the level of District expenditures by June 30th.

The committee recommends the motion that the Board give all 3 readings to the 2014-2015 Amended Budget.

2. Projected Enrollment

Mr. Margerm provided an initial enrollment projection based on numbers from schools. Initial projected enrollment is 2079 FTE. This is down 70 FTE from last spring projections, but this is basically equal to current enrollment.

3. 2015-2016 draft Calendar

Mr. van der Mark noted that the District has received two responses from our stakeholders with regards to the draft 2015-2016 school calendar: 1) from Houston Secondary School PAC, were in support of the proposed version #1 - regular school calendar; 2) BV Christian School supporting version #1 – regular calendar.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: March 3rd, 2015 @ 5:00pm

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 3rd, 2015 3:00 PM School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
F. Farrell, Chair BJ. Beaubien D. Hanson	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent
Regrets: L. Kearns (ex officio)	Ms. C. Whalen

REPORT

PREVIOUS MEETING OF January 6th, 2015

Policy	Description	Type	Status
	Student Trustee	New	In-Committee

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Consultation
11.140 Appendix	Transportation of musical instrument on buses	Revision	No

Meeting : 3:05-3:55 pm.

REPORT:

1. Mr. Margerm updated the Board on two letters submitted by Smithers Band Boosters and St. Joseph's School outlining their concerns about limited transportation of musical instruments on School District buses. Mr. Margerm also advised the Board on current issues and restrictions around transporting larger instruments: violations of Motor Vehicle Act, safety, size and capacity of storage.

The Committee recommended that School District administration continue to work with parents and community organizations in order to accommodate as many instruments as legally allowed and feasible from a safety standard. The committee commended Mrs. Whalen for her accommodations to support the music program and encouraged her to continue to be as flexible as possible in order to provide support for music programs. The Committee also recommended that the board respond to the two letters.

The Committee requested information on the number of students with large instruments that would be of concern.

C. Date & Time of Next Meeting: March 3rd, 2015 @ 3:00pm

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



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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

Trustee Report BCPSEA AGM - January 30, 2015

The 2015 BC Public School Employers Association AGM was noteworthy because it was the first AGM following the labor agreements between BCPSEA and our labour partners.

The event kicked off with welcome and greetings from Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator of the BCPSEA. Additionally, BCSTA President Teresa Rezanoff and the interim BCSPEA CEO offered greetings. Mr. Del Negro offered up a CEO report regarding a synopsis of the past year, which was the busiest in recent memory.

Two noteworthy observations from the morning session were both the Public Sector Council update and the discussion and voting of the motion of the assembly regarding reinstating the BCPSEA Board of Directors model that was dismissed during the long drawn out bargaining process.

The PSC update was met by questions from the floor regarding information gathering of member districts. It was perceived by some that the information might have been beyond what is standard reporting to government. In the end both Christina Zacharuk(Interim President and CEO) , along with Director of Labor Relations assured the congregation that the information gathering was standard and that nothing beyond what is legal and accepted practice was occurring.

The motion on the floor intended to move toward reinstating the board of directors was fairly split amongst people in the room. An amendment championed by long time trustee Gordon Comeau wished to reinstate the board of directors system until a new formula for trustee and school board inclusion is in place. That amendment was comfortably approved by voting members.

In addition, the meeting covered a financial statement for 2014 which noted the operating grant from government decreased by \$530,008. Additional revenue was generated from restricted government funding in a number of areas - quoting the literature provided.

The afternoon session included a presentation and table discussions on harassment in the workplace. I was fortunate to be sharing a table with both Abbotsford Trustees and Trustee Gary Turner from the neighboring Coast Mountain School District. It offered me great insight in the workings and values held in other corners of the province which is important in determining our own process in School District 54.

In conclusion, the AGM can be seen as a transitional session. As a trustee from another district stated "We have everything still in place other than the board of directors". Along with the interim CEO moving on, a few of the presenters appear to be ready to move on to cooperation and normalcy whilst working towards a new framework of trustee involvement in the process - a process that will continue to move on both provincially and locally.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Farrell
BCPSEA Alternative Representative