



# School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

## AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 19, 2016 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2015
- 5) Administration Report C. van der Mark Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports
  - a) Community Relations / Education Forum Committee D. Hanson Report Attached
  - b) Operations Committee J. Williams Report Attached
  - c) Policy Committee L. Collingwood Report Attached
  - d) Trustee Report P. Michell Report Attached
  - e) Trustee Report D. Hanson Report Attached
  - f) Trustee Report L. Collingwood Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
  - 8.1) 2015 Facilities Review Recommendation
- 9) Other Business
  - 9.1) Expenditure Summary – December 31, 2015

### 10) Reading File

December 2015 Enrolment	Ltr. Frm. SD23 to C. Clark, Mr. deJong re: SSCFGS
Ltr. Frm. SD57 to C. Clark ; Mr. deJong SSCFGS	
Ltr. Frm. Teachers Pensions Board of Trustees re: 2014 Actuarial Valuation, Contribution Rates & Sustainable Indexing	
Ltr. Frm. SD5 to Minister Bernier re: Funding of Curriculum Training	
Ltr. Frm SD5 to Minister Bernier re: MOE Replacement of MBSS	
Ltr. Frm. SD47 to Minister Bernier re: Implementarion of My Education BC	

- 11) Closing Remarks
- 12) Next Board Meeting will be held on February 16, 2016 at the School Board Office, in Smithers B.C., commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 14) Adjournment
- 15) 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)  
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 Kispixox 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 the 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.

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Les Kearns  
Chairman of the Board

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Dave Margerm  
Secretary Treasurer

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the  
Board of Education  
January 19, 2016

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### Student Achievement

- **Aboriginal Student Completion Rates:** SD#54 is pleased to announce that the 2015 Ministry report, reported that SD54 completion rates hit an all-time high of 65%. We are still not at our overall goal, but we continue to focus on strategies that make a difference for all students.
- **Curriculum Implementation Schedule:** The District has developed a plan to utilize the 10 hours of non – instructional time, designated by the Ministry for this calendar year. While we appreciate that any additional non-instructional time may be inconvenient for parents, the District and the local teachers union have worked hard to minimize the disruption while ensuring we fulfill the Ministry requirement. Thank you for your understanding.
- **Kindergarten Registration:** Will commence the week of January 18-22, 2016 at all School District #54's elementary schools for children. It applies to children who will be five (5) years old on or before December 31, 2016 for entry into school in September 2016. Proof of age (original birth certificate) and BC Care Card must be presented at the time of registration. Registration in regular school programs should take place at a resident's neighbourhood school.
- **Foundation Skills Assessment(FSA):** Grade 4 and grade 7 students across the District will be writing the FSA by the end of February. A reminder that, the FSA is merely a snapshot in time of the child's learning and the District monitors the performance of students in a variety of ways over the course of their school years. This is but one piece of the larger picture of each child.

### INNOVATION / INITIATIVES

- **Professional Learning Community:** Teachers in the Bulkley Valley continue to demonstrate outstanding professionalism through self-initiated learning groups with a focus on improving teaching and learning. Their second meeting of the year will be held on Monday, January 18, where we will continue to share inquiry projects and innovative ideas that deepen teaching and learning.

### District Based Initiatives

- **January Education Forum:** The focus of January's Education Forum will be about innovative programs on Coding and Robotics that have been occurring in our schools. Starting with the District's involvement in the Hour of Code a couple of years ago, interest has been growing among educators wanting to raise their own and their student's awareness of the process of "coding". Come to the Education Forum on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in room 402 at Smithers Secondary to learn what is being done around SD54 to introduce "coding" to students. It will be a great learning experience about the new directions and teaching practices that prepare our students for the future.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## School Based Initiatives

- **District Music:** Thanks once again to Ms. Jennifer Higgins and Mr. Mike Doogan-Smith for the Christmas concert. It is remarkable to see the progression of the students over the years and our lives are richer for it! We would also like to wish Ms. Higgins well on her teacher exchange opportunity in Australia, and extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Rosemary Mathie.

## Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **MME** – 72 +/- Grade 5-7 Students from Muheim Memorial Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 3, 10 and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **WPS** – 55 +/- Grade 5-7 Students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 24, March 8, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 4 (Four) Grade 9-12 Students from Smithers Secondary Schools to travel to Edmonton, Alberta to take part in a wrestling tournament at the University of Alberta on January 28-31, 2016. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **LKS** – 24 +/- Grade 6-7 Students from Lake Kathlyn Elementary School to travel to Hudson Bay Mountain on January 22, 29 and February 12, 2016 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – Grade 10-12 Students from Smithers Secondary School – Outdoor Ed program to travel to Lake Kathlyn or Seymour Lake on four separate occasions to take part in ice skating and winter safety instruction and assessment. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 14 +/- Grade 10-12 Students from Smithers Secondary School – Outdoor Ed program to travel to Nanika-Kidprice Lake and surrounding areas on two separate occasions to take part in a multi-day canoe excursion. Proposed travel dates are May 26-29 and June 2-5, 2016. 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 Joe L'Orsa Cabin on January 14-16, 2016. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip require approval by the Board of Education:
  - **SSS** – 30 Grade 8-10 Students to travel to Quebec to participate in a SEVEC Cultural Exchange on February 6-13, 2016. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

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

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**REPORT**  
**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016      4:00 PM      *School Board Office*

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

**No Report**

**C. Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

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."*

PO Box 758  
Smithers, BC  
V0J 2N0  
Ph (250) 877-6820  
Fax (250) 877-6835

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**RE: JANUARY EDUCATION FORUM**

Dear Education Forum Participant:

We would like to invite you, or a member from your organization, to participate in our Education Forum being held on **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

The focus of this Education Forum will be innovative programs on Coding and Robotics that have been occurring in our schools.

Starting with our district's involvement in the Hour of Code a couple of years ago, interest has been growing among educators wanting to raise their own and their student's awareness of the process of "coding". A grade eight student recently described learning to code as similar to learning a new language like Spanish or French. This is a great perspective and can be stated as:

**Coding = The Language of Machines**

Since machines are all around us and increasingly taking over routine tasks originally done by humans, "coding" will be a powerful language to learn.

Come to the Education Forum on January 25<sup>th</sup> to learn what is being done around SD54 to introduce "coding" to students. It will be a great learning experience about the new directions and teaching practices that prepare our students for the future. Hope to see you there.

**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - 5pm Room 402 (video conference room) – Smithers Secondary**  
**Please RSVP Bobbie Kingsmill at [bobbie.kingsmill@sd54.bc.ca](mailto:bobbie.kingsmill@sd54.bc.ca)**

Yours in education,

Chris A. van der Mark, Superintendent  
School District #54 (Bulkley Valley)

cc: Dawn Hanson, Community Relations Committee Chairperson

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

**REPORT**  
**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Regular*

**January 5, 2016**

**5:00PM**

**School Board Office**

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

**Meeting occurred from 5:00 pm -5:35 pm**

**1. 2016-2017 Draft Calendar**

The BVTU responded with a letter noting their members were not in favour of moving any non-instructional days before the Labour Day weekend. There was discussion around a one week, two week or 8 (eight) day spring break. It was also noted that the Easter Monday was not a statutory holiday and could be moved. Mr. Margerm outlined the employee costs associated with a one week spring break, and its negative impact on the administrative saving plan. ***The Committee recommends to proceed with a one week spring break ( March 14-18, 2017), for the Draft 2016-2017 Calendar.***

**2. District Database Custodian: N. Kerr Update**

Mr. Margerm informed the committee that Ms. Nora Kerr, Supervisor – District Data has accepted a one year position with the Fujitsu Company in their training department. She begins with Fujitsu on January 11, 2016. The District has approved a one year leave of absence for Ms. Kerr. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors. Ms. Darcie Frocklage has been hired to replace Ms. Kerr for a one year term.

**3. Bussing Capital Funding update**

It was announced that there is no capital funding for the School District 54 for bussing in the 2016-2017 year. Our bus fleet is in quite good shape, and the Ministry it is only funding districts with serious bussing issues.

**4. Carbon-Neutral Capital Funding update**

There was no carbon-neutral capital funding for School District 54.

**5. Economic Stability Dividend**

Mr. Margerm provided an update on the Economic Stability Dividend that will increase wages 0.45% on an ongoing basis for the BCTF and CUPE members as of May 1, 2016. This wage increase will be funded by the Ministry.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
(Bulkley Valley)

**REPORT**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016      3:00 PM      School Board Office

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

**PREVIOUS MEETING OF October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Policy	Description	Type	Status
11.290	Student Trustee	New	In-Committee
	Traditional Welcome (Trustee Farrell)	New	
	Trips – International or external to district	Revision	Yes
		Revision	No

**NEW BUSINESS**

Policy	Description	Type	Consultation
11.310	Traditional Welcome (Trustee Farrell)	New	No
	Travel Allowance	Revision	No
6.270	Public Participation in Building Planning	Revision	No

Meeting was conducted from 3:05 - 3:57 pm

**1. Traditional Welcome:**

Trustee Farrell updated committee on progress of a 'Traditional Welcome'. The sub-committee has not met since last committee meeting in November. ***It is recommended that the Board approve the following opening welcome and acknowledgement at board, committee and education forum meetings:***

***'I would like to acknowledge that we are conducting our meeting on the traditional territory of the Witsuwit'en.'***

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

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

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**2. Travel Expenses – Policy 11.310:**

Mr. Margerm advised the committee that the district will be raising the allowable mileage reimbursement rate for the district from \$0.52 to \$0.54 per km.

*The Committee recommends that the District meal per diem rate be increased as follows:*

<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>\$15</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>\$25</i>

**3. Public Participation in Building Planning – Policy 6.270:**

Mr. Margerm provided policy examples from other districts on public participation in building and planning. Trustee Hanson will organize some revision language and also integrating School District #54 core values. She will prepare draft for next committee meeting.

**C. Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

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

## **BCSTA, TRUSTEE ACADEMY, November 26 – 28, 2015**

I am happy to report that the BCSTA organized yet another great event full of excellent key note speakers and presenters. What an excellent way to open an event. through good humour and laughter. I enjoyed the opening key note: Dr. Yan Zhao, who spoke passionately about how we are currently experiencing an paradigm shift. Our students have multiple intelligences, each individual is good at something and each can learn this skill faster than others. We worry too much about teaching and forgot about learning. He speaks about how choice is the largest commodity. We need to stop improving and create new environments for our students. He struck home when he stated: students don't do well because the "lack of belonging" they feel. We don't value the vast variety and uniqueness among our students. How do you loose passion, by direct teaching and that creativity is hard to regain, once lost. We need to shift to personalized learning, the end result is a personalized outcome. We focus too much on our children's deficit, not taking the time to acknowledge their achievements. The new job for teachers today is to become instructors, make our teachers more human not robotic. Maintaining status quo is easy but change is challenging.

We heard from the Minister of Education, Mike Berner, and that our new curriculum fits with the world changes. The ministry committed to increase funding to meet the demands of the numerous projects across the Province. There will also be funding dedicated towards Teacher supports, in order to roll out new curriculum. He is working closely with various stakeholders on the Aboriginal completion rates, which will be addressed by working together.

We heard from other Districts and their priorities, such as the Prince George District and how they created a specific professional development for their Aboriginal Education Staff, which is also open to other staff. We heard how other districts are also faced with the difficult decision of low enrolments that resulted in the closure of schools. Making the hard decisions but also ensuring the process in all inclusive and that we make sound, informed decisions with the students at the forefront.

### **Finally, we were presented with the Auditor General's Report: An Audit of the Education of Aboriginal students in the BC Public School System.**

There is still significant gaps between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. Ten years ago, the Ministry of Education committed to increasing the Aboriginal student graduation rate to 85% by 2015 and to put Aboriginal students on par with their non-Aboriginal peers. But the Ministry did not lead the development of a system-wide strategy to achieve their targets. Through its leadership, the Ministry can support the public school system to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal students, educators expect all Aboriginal students to graduate, and Aboriginal history, language and culture are valued. Currently, we have 62,000 Aboriginal students in public schools and the fastest growing population. The report came with 11 recommendations, such as: for the Ministry to collaborate with boards of education, superintendents and Aboriginal leaders to communicate in order to create a shared, system-wide strategy to close the gaps in academic and social outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Awizah,  
Trustee, Priscilla Michell



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

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

## **TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA WINTER ACADEMY November 26-28, 2015**

The Fall Academy had a very positive overall tone to it, much less restrained and quiet compared to the 2014 Academy. The presenters posed many good, BIG questions, asking educators and Boards to look ahead, grapple with fundamental ideas and consider 'WHY' we do many of the things we do.

Here is a brief summary of the sessions I attended over the 3 days and ideas that stood out for me from each.

Keynote and Plenary by Dr Yong Zhao: Chart of the 16 Human Motivators; Educators as 'curators of learning opportunities' rather than teaching information; learning as a 'sustained and disciplined process' and cultivating in students awareness and pride in being able to improve (edcorps.org)

Critical Thinking: Thinking for Leading, Leading for Thinking by Warren Woytuck, The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2): How can Trustees lead for student achievement and success?; Five core principles of a thinking classroom: sustained inquiry, self-regulated learning, students are engaged in their learning, assessment-rich learning, digitally enhanced learning.  
([https://dsweb.bcsta.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-78711/2015-Trustee\\_Academy\\_Plenary\\_3\\_Slides.pdf](https://dsweb.bcsta.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-78711/2015-Trustee_Academy_Plenary_3_Slides.pdf))

School Facilities Management, SD 73 Kamloops/Thompson: Gathering and hearing ideas from public; sharing information regularly, including reasons why; posting answers to public questions weekly and developing plans to address concerns

Walking the Student Learning Road: Board Support and Involvement in Enhancing Student Achievement, SD 35, Langley: end of year celebration that acknowledges students that embody the values of the District, not just academic and sport performance i.e. student who graduated despite significant personal obstacles

Governance and Leadership Through Research Based Practice by Kathy Sawchuk: students learn best when they are 'in the Pit' (video: The Importance of Error); visible learning: making learning and the learning process explicit, so students understand struggle and frustration—helps them be more successful

Review of the OAG's Report on the Education of Aboriginal Students in the BC Public System

Using Data to Inform Critical Decisions-Making and Strategic Planning: great overview of the data and reports that are available to Boards for strategic planning and initiative development purposes.

One of the ideas that stood out the most for me was that student engagement levels at a young age (primary level) are key indicators for success in later years in school. If students aren't connected to, inspired by and enjoying their learning, they aren't going to want to stay in school. Therefore, a Board's challenge, and job, is to support teachers and other staff to the best possible levels to provide learning opportunities that resonate with students, whatever their learning level is.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Fall Academy.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trustee Dawn Hanson  
School District #54(Bulkley Valley)

## Trustee Report - Lara Collingwood

### Trustee Academy 2015-Authentic Governance for Student Achievement: Boards Matter

November 26-28, 2015

The 2015 Trustee Academy was definitely the most engaging, positive, and forward-thinking conference BCSTA has offered in my 4 years of being a trustee. We started the Trustee Academy with a keynote presentation by Dr. Yong Zhao. His presentation was called "Counting What Counts: What defines a world-class education". Not only is Dr. Yong Zhao an engaging and funny speaker, he brings forward a whole new way of looking at education, and how we can empower the natural skills and abilities of each child, encouraging creativity.

Friday continued with the same energy, as the first speaker of the day was Dr. Yong Zhao. The focus of his session was "*Shifting the Paradigm: Creating World Class Education in the Second Machine Age*". He discussed the rationale for implementing personalized curriculum that supports creativity, using technology, and tapping into entrepreneurial talents of students.

The Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education spoke about the ministry's view of the future of education, and their efforts to work cohesively with all partner groups. The minister shared his goal of trying to visit every district in the province, to see the positive work happening in each district.

The third plenary session was on "*Critical Thinking: Thinking for leading, leading for thinking*". This session was focused on how school board trustees can effectively lead for student success. Boards must use critical thinking in their governance, allowing educators to be creative in their implementation of new curriculum and personalized learning initiatives.

There were many interesting concurrent sessions to choose from for Friday afternoon. My first concurrent session was "*A system approach to supporting aboriginal education*". This was a great session focused on the journey that SD57 had in building a healthy working relationship between the trustees and the Aboriginal Education department. The goal is to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners.

My second concurrent session was "*Board Governance Challenges with Closing and Reconfiguring Schools*". This was a great session explaining the process of public consultation

and engagement to reconfigure schools , meeting fiscal responsibility and keeping high-quality programming and services.

Saturday morning was our first official branch meeting, followed by sessions with the topics *“Governance and Leadership through Research-Based Practice”*, *“Review of the Office of the Auditor General of BC Report on the Education of Aboriginal Students in the BC Public School System”*, and *“using Data to Inform Critical Decision-Making and Strategic Planning”*.

Overall, this Trustee Academy had lots of inspiring ideas of how we as a board can facilitate and lead the way in this new personalized approach in education and learning.

Lara Collingwood

School Board Trustee - SD#54