



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

**AGENDA**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 21, 2013  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE  
7:00PM**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes April 16, 2013  
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting April 16, 2013
- 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 S. Yaremco Report Attached
  - c) Policy Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
  - d) Trustee Report L. Kearns Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
  - 8.1- 2013 – 2014 Draft Budget
- 9) Other Business
  - 9.1- Expenditure Summary – April 30, 2013
- 10) Reading File

April 30, 2013 Monthly Enrollment	SD05 Funding Independent Schools for Non-Graduated Adults
SD20 Childcare in Schools	SD61 Budget Pressures
SD61 Wage Increase Funding	SD67 2012-13 Funding Holdback
SD67 Letter to Editor – Nanamio Daily News	

- 11) Closing Remarks
- 12) Next Board Meeting will be held on June 18, 2013 at the School Board Office at 7:00 p.m.
- 13) Adjournment
- 14) 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)  
APRIL 16, 2013  
MORICETOWN MULTI-PLEX, MORICETOWN BC

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, K. Martinsen, P. Michell, S. Yaremco  
Regrets: L. Collingwood, J. McIntosh  
Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools  
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
S. Richards – Secretary Treasurer  
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / P. Michell

*"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."*

CARRIED

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

**2. OPENING REMARKS**

- Chairperson Kearns thanked the Wet'suwet'en First Nation for the opportunity for us to hold our meeting in their territory. Trustee Kearns welcomed our guests: Karin Bachman and Sharon Campbell from the BVTU, Barbel Schroder, Local CUPE President and he also noted the regrets from Trustee Collingwood and Trustee McIntosh. Trustee Kearns highlighted the outstanding music program at the annual Houston Arts Fair.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED/SECONDED S. Yaremco / F. Farrell

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

CARRIED

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 19, 2013; the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes March 19, 2013. There being none, the minutes of: March 19, 2013 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes March 19, 2013 were declared approved as presented.

**6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

**District Based Initiatives**

- Superintendent Chris van der Mark presented the district based initiatives to the board: Thanked everyone for coming to the Local Education Agreement signing and thanked Birdy Markert for her hard work on developing the LEA; the Grade 4 Feast took place in March and Ms. Markert would like to recognize Mr. Mike Bundock from BV Wholesale who donated 250 juice boxes to the feast; Staffing process currently underway; District Dogwood Scholarships – 21 Scholarships will be offered in our District this year; Faye Brownlie will be back on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, a new session for EA's will be conducted in conjunction with CUPE; Education Forum – Young Readers Project, be held on April 23 at the School Board Office; Elementary Band attended a regional festival and was awarded silver for their performances. Thanks goes out to Ms. Higgins for all her hard work with the Elementary Band.

## School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent Chris van der Mark presented the school based initiatives to the Board: The Houston Secondary School Annual Arts Fair took place on April 11<sup>th</sup> and was another outstanding showing from the Houston students.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SSS** – 38 Grade 10-12 students to travel to Silverking Basin on April 25, 2013. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **WPS** – 23 Grade 4 students to travel to Ft. St. James on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **HSS** – 10 Grade 10-12 students to travel on a weekly basis during the months of May and June as a part of their Angling class.
  - **HSS** – 15 Grade 10-12 students to travel to Irrigation Lake on a weekly basis during the months of May and June as a part of their Outdoor Education class.
- The following field trips require **approval** by the Board of Education:
  - **TSE** – 29 Grade 5 Students travelling to Camp Caledonia on June 13 & 14, 2013 for their year -end field trip. All Board requirements have been met for this trip;

MOTION/SECOND      S. Yaremco / K. Martinsen

***"To approve the Twain Sullivan Elementary School Grade 5 field trip to Camp Caledonia on June 13 and June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013."***

CARRIED

- **MME** – 5 - Students to travel to New Westminster, BC on May 3<sup>th</sup> – to May 6<sup>th</sup> for the French Concour Provincial Speaking Competition. Approval "***in principle***" was granted on February 19, 2013. All board requirements have now been met for this trip

MOTION/SECOND      S. Yaremco / K. Martinsen

***"To approve the Muheim Memorial Elementary School field trip to New Westminster for the Concour Provincial Speaking Competition between the dates of May 3-6, 2013."***

CARRIED

### OPERATIONS:

- Secretary Treasurer Steve Richards spoke of the School District Facilities Review being held in Houston on April 29<sup>th</sup> and in Smithers on April 30, 2013.

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

- No report this month.

## 7.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Chairperson Yaremco, presented the Operations Committee's Report from the April 9, 2013 meeting. The Operations Committee reviewed information on: PEBT LTD Plan, Roof Tender. HSS Drainage Concept (BEP); OAG Work in Progress; Bulkley Valley School Days; Draft 2013-2014 Budget.
- Chairperson Kearns asked for and received unanimous consent to do all three readings of the Capital Project Bylaw #126583 – Carbon Neutral Capital Program.

MOTION/ SECOND      F. Farrell / S. Yaremco

***"The committee recommends that the Board give all 3 readings of bylaw # 126583 in the amount of \$9,765"***

CARRIED

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

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:

- 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);
- observe and comply with any rule, policy or regulation of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the Project; and
- 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.

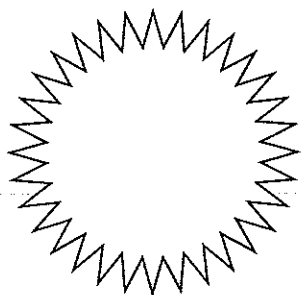
NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

1. The capital project of the Board approved by the Minister and specifying a maximum expenditure of \$9,765 for Project No. 126583 is hereby adopted.
2. This Bylaw may be cited as: "School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126583.

READ A FIRST TIME THE 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

READ A SECOND TIME THE 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126583 adopted by the Board the 16 day of April, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

- Chairperson Kearns asked for and received unanimous consent to do all three readings of the Capital Project Bylaw #126645 – 2013 – 2014 AFG Funding .

MOTION/ SECOND      S. Yaremco / P. Michell

*"The committee recommends that the Board give all 3 readings of bylaw # 126645 in the amount of \$422,045"*

CARRIED

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

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 Capital Project No. 126645 (2013-2014 AFG).

NOW THEREFORE the Board agrees to the following:

- 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 or as directed by the Minister;
- observe and comply with any rule, policy or regulation of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the Project; and,
- 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:

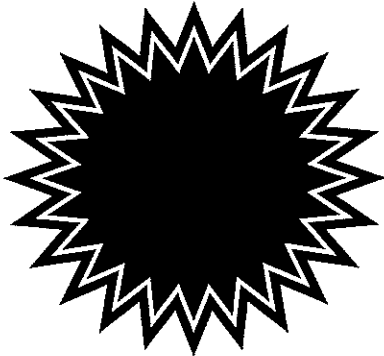
1. The Capital Project of the Board approved by the Minister and specifying a maximum expenditure of \$422,045 for Project No. 126645 is hereby adopted.

2. This Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126645

Read a first time the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

Read a second time the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original School District No. 54(Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126645 adopted by the Board the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

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- Next Meeting May 7, 2013 at 5:00 pm

**7.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee Report from the April 9th, 2013 meeting. The committee discussed the implications of French Immersion programming in the District and that there was no policy currently in place and wasn't required at this time.

**7.d) TRUSTEE REPORT**

- There were no trustee reports. .

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- There was no unfinished business.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- There was no new business.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- The March 31, 2013 expenditure summary was included in the Trustees Board Packages.

## 11. READING FILE

C. Whalen – Note of Appreciation	Heart and Stroke Foundation
Laurence Turney – SSS High School Curling Team	March 31, 2013 Enrollment Report
Praise-a-Reader	Mr. Perry Rath, 2013 Policy 4.380
SD39 Provincial Holdback Funds	SD42 – 2013-2014 Public Education Budget
SD73 Ministry of Education – Communication	Skills Canada – Student Award Winners
Skills Canada – Student Participants	The Gideon's International

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / P. Michell

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

CARRIED

## 12. CLOSING REMARKS

- In closing Chairperson Kearns was very happy to see so many people at the LEA signing and once again thanked the entire committee for all their hard work on the agreement.

## 13. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- The next School Board meeting will be held on May 21, 2013 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

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Les Kearns  
Chairman of the Board of Education

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Steven Richards  
Secretary Treasurer





**SYNOPSIS  
OF  
IN-CAMERA MEETING  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #54 (Bulkley Valley)  
APRIL 16, 2013  
MORICETOWN MULTI-PLEX, MORICETOWN B.C.**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the In-Camera meeting minutes of March 19, 2013. There being none, the In-Camera meeting minutes of March 19, 2013, declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Administration reported on routine staffing issues.
- The Operations Committee reported on: personnel items; labour relations matters and real property issues.
- The Bargaining Committee reported on current bargaining information.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:26 p.m.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the  
Board of Education

May 21, 2013

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### Student Achievement

- **Superintendent of Trades and Transition:** On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Larry Espey visited to meet with administration and teaching staff to talk about trades and transitions in SD#54. Mr. Espey was able to connect the district to various initiatives around the province and was particularly interested in the Environmental Monitor Assistant Program (EMAP) being run at NWCC next year. We have a lot of work to do with regard to expanding our trades opportunities in the District, but have made tremendous strides in a very short time.
- **Northwest Regional Science Fair:** This year's event was again held in Terrace. SD#54 will have one (1) representative going to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Lethbridge, Alberta. Best of luck!

The Perils of Texting in Class ... )	Siani Grice	Grade 8	Smithers Secondary School	Junior
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- **District Scholarships:** Grade 12 students from Houston Secondary and Smithers Secondary completed their presentations last week over a three day period. They were competing for 21 scholarships for \$1,000 each. The presentations were of a wide variety and a great showcase of skills from some of our best students. An excellent and rewarding three days. Thanks to Mr. Kearns for coming on behalf of the trustees.
- **Education Forum:** At our last forum, we were given the highlights of the Young Readers Program, led by Ms. Rutley and Ms. Hooper. The work done by our primary teachers in this project is stunning. Our final Education Forum this year will be held Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Walnut Park Training Center. Our focus for this forum will be **Student Achievement and the District Achievement Contract**.

### INNOVATION / INITIATIVES

#### District Based Initiatives

- **Year End Celebration** – On Wednesday, June 12, 2013 we will be recognizing retirees and employees who will be awarded long service pins. This event will take place at Smithers Golf Course from 4:30 – 7:00pm. We encourage everyone to attend to recognize honoured staff members.
- **District Elementary Track--** On Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> the Annual Elementary Track Meet will be held at SSS. Contact your local elementary school for more info.
- **Trades and Mining Expo--** NWCC hosted multiple events, creating awareness for trades and mining opportunities. Students had the chance to work heavy equipment simulators and engage in other trades related discussions. Some were even able to pan for gold at NWCC. Thanks to both high schools for taking advantage of this opportunity and to NWCC for making it available.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

- **Ready, Set, Learn**— Houston May 31<sup>st</sup>, Smithers area schools from June 3-7. Families and their three-year-olds and four-year-olds who attend will engage in play-based early learning activities while finding out about the early learning programs and services offered by the school district and school. It will be a fun filled session of activities, snacks and families leave with a gift bag of resources.
- **Network of Inquiry and Innovation:** Educators and administration from SD54 joined others from around the province on Sunday May 5 to join a seminar led by Dr.'s Halbert and Kaser. Breakout sessions were led by local educators, Dwayne Anderson, Nicole Davey and Barb Turney who shared the work from their schools. Dr. Halbert and Dr. Kaser will join the final meeting of the PLC/NOII group in Smithers on Sunday, May 26 and will then be part of the Network celebration at Walnut Park on Monday May 27.
- **Faye Brownlie:** Ms. Brownlie wrapped up her final 2 day session with educators on May 2-3. Her 8 part series including general Pro-D and a specific teacher leadership group has been incredibly well attended and inspirational throughout this year. This year mentor teachers also took on the role of facilitator/presenter at our February NID. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Faye next year. Ms. Brownlie also provided a session for support staff that was well attended and much appreciated!
- **District Initiatives (2013-14)** – We are pleased to announce that SD#54 will be working with **Faye Brownlie** as part of a 3 year leadership initiative. We are also pleased to be part of a provincial cohort of Districts that will continue working with **Dr. Stuart Shanker** with a focus on self-regulation. .
- **BVLC/ NWCC Partnership:** NWCC and SD#54 have completed the first year of the agreement allowing BVLC students to use their magnificent space. Many BVLC students are cross-enrolled at SSS and we are pleased with the progress of the program following its relocation.

## School Based Initiatives

- **Graduation Ceremonies** – Graduation dates for Houston Secondary and Smithers Secondary are June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>, respectively.
- **HSS Rugby**— Girls's Rugby "7's" finished an outstanding 6<sup>th</sup> after entering ranked 13<sup>th</sup>. Vancouver Sun write up below!

**PLATE FINAL:** Carson Graham 15 Houston 10 OT

*Yet another outstanding matchup saw North Shore powerhouse pushed to the limit by underdogs Houston. The little school-that-could travelled down to the coast from the northern interior and surprised many with their plucky, skillful performance. It took overtime and a hat trick of tries from Jessica Nielsen for the Eagles to seal their title. Houston's tries were dotted down by Delaney Larocque and Jamie Beck.*

- **SSS Drama**—Fresh off competing at the Provincial Drama Festival, the SSS Theatre Department will be lifting the curtain on *Macbeth* this week! Contact SSS for more information.
  - While at the provincial festival, the SSS crew received a runner-up for their "Chair Play", a best actress award and a "tech-tastic" award for their technical crew. Great job and Well done!
- **Silverthorne Elementary**— On May 9<sup>th</sup> , Ms. Moroz's class performed Metis Days. This is the second year in a row the class has used performing arts as a vehicle to deepen learning and engagement.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **WPS** – 58 Grade 7 students to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **BVLC** – 20 +/- Grade 10 – 12 students to travel to Tyhee Lake on May 31 or June 6<sup>th</sup>, (weather dependent on date). All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **WPS** – 23 Grade 4 students to travel to Fort St. James on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **HSS** – 12 Grade 10-12 students to travel to one of the following destinations:
    - Prince Rupert – Metlakatla Wilderness Trail – June 7-10, 2013
    - Haida Gwaii – June 7-10, 2013All board requirements have been met for either trip.
  - **TES** – 125 Students to travel to Tyhee Lake for June 26, 2013 for their year end celebration. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **MME** – 15 +/- Grade 7 students to travel to Barkerville on May 25-27, 2013. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **TSE** – 20 Grade 3 and 4 Students to Fort St. James June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. All board requirements have been met for this trip.
  
- The following field trip requires approval *in-principle* by the Board of Education:
  - **SSS** – 50-60 Grade 10-12 Students travelling to Cuba to take part in the “Performance Tour of Cuba” for the SSS Sr. Concert Band and SSS Sr. Jazz Band during the period of April 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.



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

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

## **Education Forum Report Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

On Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I had the pleasure of being presented with the progress, and content of the Districts "Young Readers Program". Walnut Park teachers Cyndy Hooper and Lynn Rutley, along with other educators, are engaging young learners in kindergarten to grade two to the power of reading.

What seems simple in the reading process can be much more complex when trying to find effective strategies to help students of different levels achieve a comfort zone and success. Such ideas of a "tool box" of aids that young learners can make use of to settle their minds and bodies to the learning through reading have been widely popular offered with much success.

Moreover, engaging the student in reading and understanding what they are reading is a cornerstone of the program, as pictures and inquiry are used to entrench the reading experience to young learners. Furthermore, the program has offered interaction with select parents to entrench the learning through reading on the home front. All-in-all the program uses the knowledge and experience of traditional learning and married it with outside the box method of making young learners comfortable with reading.

I must say the video and slide presentations from very capable student participants was an eye opening and comforting revelation to be sure. There are some great kids getting some great instruction in the power of reading.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Farrell  
Vice-Chairperson, School District# 54 (Bulkley Valley)  
Designate Chair for the April Education Forum

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

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**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF**  
**May 7, 2013**

**In attendance:**

**Committee Members:** Chair: S. Yaremco, K. Martinsen, P. Michell

**Administration:** S. Richards, Secretary Treasurer, C. van der Mark, Superintendent; E. Hildebrandt, Supervisor of Operations

**Trustees:** (non voting) F. Farrell

**Regrets:**

**Ex Officio:** L. Kearns

**Guests:**

The meeting convened at 5:00 and moved *in-camera* to discuss items relating to property, personnel and labour relations. The committee returned to regular session at approximately 5:50 PM and discussed the following issues.

**REPORT:**

**1. Draft Budget 2013 – 2014**

Mr. Richards provided the committee with a Powerpoint presentation highlighting next year's budget. The committee agreed to host the public budget presentation on May 27 at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office. ***The committee recommends that the Board give first reading to the 2013-2014 Annual Budget Bylaw.***

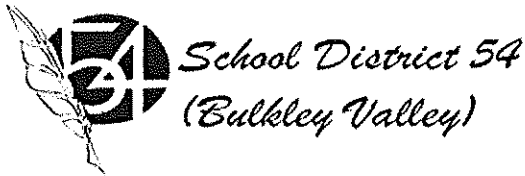
**2. Facilities Review**

The committee reviewed and discussed the recommendations from the Facilities Review. ***The committee recommends that the Board formally accept the recommendations.***

The committee adjourned at 6:20PM.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: June 4, 2013 5:00 PM

Submitted by: S. Yaremco, Chairperson



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**COMMITTEE REPORT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 7, 2013 3:00 PM – SBO**

**In attendance:**

**Committee Members:** Chair: F. Farrell, L. Collingwood, J. McIntosh  
**Ex officio** Les Kearns  
**Trustees (non-voting)**  
**Regrets** J. McIntosh  
**Administration:** S. Richards, Secretary Treasurer; C. van der Mark, Superintendent; M. McDiarmid  
**Guests:**

**REPORT:**

1. The committee reviewed the consultation response on 9.235 Bullying, 9.190 Student Use of Helmets and 4.600 Employee Use of Helmets. It was noted that the only response was from the BVTU. After discussion, the committee requested that Mr. van der Mark thank them for their feedback and explain the rationale the committee's recommendations to the BVTU President. **The committee recommends that the Board:**
  - a. **Delete 9.235 Bullying / Intimidation**
  - b. **Approve both new policies on the use of helmets (9.190 and 4.600)**
2. The committee reviewed email correspondence from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) offering their assistance with the development of a 'dissection choice' policy. The committee did not identify a need for policy development in this area.
3. The committee reviewed policy 1.170 Trustee Remuneration and requested that Administration revise the policy to clarify that increases are based on an 'annual year over year' CPI change.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20  
Date and time of Next Meeting: June 4, 2013 at 3:00 PM.  
Submitted by: F. Farrell, Chairperson, Policy Committee



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

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

## Trustee Report **BCSTA Annual General Meeting** April 25-27, 2013

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> until Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association held in Kelowna. The conference was entitled "Influence to Action: Trustees engaging communities".

We began Thursday evening with a wonderful presentation provided by the Mount Boucherie Secondary School Chamber Choir. This was followed by the Aboriginal Welcome, the BCSTA President's speech and the opening plenary, presented by Mr. Dave Meslin, entitled "Community Engagement: Encouraging Citizen Participation in Public Education Matters".

The Friday workshops focused on the many ways to organize and facilitate effective community engagement. My most interesting workshops were "Twitter for Trustees-Essential Communication Tool or Troublesome Timewaster?" and "Technology for Connection- Future Prospects".

Saturday included the election of BCSTA Executives, the AGM business meeting, and an awards evening. The conference time was very well spent! If any of these topics are of interest to you, there is more information on the BCSTA website.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Kearns

Houston Trustee