



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 24, 2023 SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE - SMITHERS B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2022
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – December 6, 2022
- 5) Learning Portion: District Early Learning Initiatives
- 6) Administration Report M. McDiarmid Report Attached
- 7) Committee Reports:
 - a) Operations Committee L. Kearns Report Attached
 - b) Policy Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
 - c) Trustee Report F. Krishan Report Attached
J. Krauskopf Report Attached
L. Kearns Report Attached
K. Graham Report Attached
P. Michell Report Attached
J. Williams Report Attached
F. Farrell Report Attached
- 8) Unfinished Business
 - 8.1) Draft 2023-2024 District Calendar
- 9) New Business
 - 9.1) 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget
- 10) Other Business
 - 10.1) Expenditure Summary
- 11) Reading File

Ltrs. Frm. BVTU re: 2023-2024 / 2024-2025 Calendar Consultation

- 12) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on February 28, 2023 at the School Board Office in Smithers B.C., commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 13) Adjournment
- 14) Public Remarks**

NOTES:

****Public Remarks:** Just a reminder to everyone that this portion of the meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for members of the public to make comments to the Board. Public remarks must be relevant to items on the approved board agenda. The Board will listen respectfully to comments but not respond to questions during this time.

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. (Board Policy # 1.190)

https://www.sd54.bc.ca/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1098428&type=d&pREC_ID=1358978



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (Bulkley Valley)
DECEMBER 6, 2022
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, L. Kearns, F. Krishan, J. Williams, P. Michell, K. Graham

Trustee Regrets J. Krauskopf

Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent
M. Monkman – Assistant Superintendent
D. Margem – Secretary Treasurer
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidm't'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed everyone present. She welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2022. There are lots of activities happening this month around the district. Carolfest will be happening tomorrow night, and Ms. Williams highly recommended that everyone takes advantage of this annual event as it is such a wonderful kick off to the holiday season.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Michell and seconded by Trustee Kearns.*

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of the November 15, 2022 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of November 15, 2022. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of November 15, 2022 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of November 15, 2022 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid proudly announced that Mr. Perry Rath the recipient of the Excellence in Art Education award from the BC Art's Teacher's Association. Congratulations Mr. Rath!
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district update to the Board. The District recently investigated student transportation needs from Silverthorne to HSS and now implemented this service for approximately 11 of our

students. Carolfest is taking place on December 7th. District Elementary Volleyball took place on November 25th. 2023 Kindergarten registration will take place the week of January 16-2023, 2023.

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. The Board of Education, the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer recently attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy in Vancouver.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school based and initiatives report to the Board. All the schools in the District will have their special spin on the holidays. Check with your students' school for more information, school administration is looking forward to welcoming everyone back into the schools for these celebrations. The SSS Band will holding a concert on December 13th. SSS Boys Soccer participated in the Senior Boys SSS Soccer Provincials. SSS Senior Girls Volleyball team travelled to Merritt to participate in the BC School Sports AA Girls Volleyball Championships. HSS/SSS Swim Team attended the High School Swimming Provincials.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – 12 +/- Grade 12 Senior AA Volleyball students from Smithers Secondary to travel to Merritt B.C. on November 29-December 4, 2022. The purpose of this trip is for the students to participate in the BC School Sports AA Girls Volleyball Championships. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TSE** – 170 +/- Grade 4-7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel to Irrigation Lake on February 16, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to support the TEX Curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

Operations

- **WPS Totem Pole** – Completion of carving is planned for late spring and the raising of the pole is being planned for the summer of 2023.

6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the November 22, 2022 committee meeting. Two items were moved to the New Business portion of the meeting.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 5:00pm

6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's report from the November 22, 2022 committee meeting.
- The committee recommended that the Board approve the draft policy 11.310 Travel Expenses as presented and requested that it be sent out for stakeholder consultation.

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Krishan.*

"The Board approved the draft policy #11.310 Travel Expenses as outlined and request that the draft policy be sent out for stakeholder consultation."

CARRIED

- The committee recommended that the Board approve the draft policy 6.340 - Purchasing as presented and requested that it be sent out for stakeholder consultation.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Michell.

"The Board approved the draft policy #6.340 Purchasing as outlined and request that the draft policy be sent out for stakeholder consultation."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, January 10, 2022 @ 4:00pm

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were no trustee reports this month.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Surplus Management – Secretary** Treasurer Margerm provided a current financial summary of the District's surplus accounts. He also provided an overview of the proposed plus for surplus spending and expected appropriation amount necessary from surplus. Mr. Margerm also provided a reviewed of the 2021-2022 surplus spending, and the projection for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Farrell.

"The Board resolves to approve maintaining the accumulated surplus contingency level at a threshold of \$2 million."

CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Michell.

"The Board resolves to approve an allocation of up to \$1 million towards the 2022-2023 proposed surplus appropriation as presented."

CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Graham and seconded by Trustee Kearns.

"The Board resolves to approve an allocation of up to allocation of up to \$1.675 million towards the 2023-2024 proposed surplus appropriation as presented."

CARRIED

- **8.2) Draft School Calendars** - Assistant Superintendent Monkman provided an overview of the first draft school calendar for a two-year time period. He thanked the board for providing guidance in the school calendar policy that was approved. It provides the guiding principles, guidance and certainty of how the calendar should be drafted. The

Ministry dictates how many hours our students are to attend school but not on the amount of days that the doors are open to the students. 181 days is the minimal threshold that the Board set out, including a proposed two-week spring break and incorporating the new statutory holiday in September.

- Trustee Krishan recusing himself from the vote and discussion due to conflict of interest.

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Farrell.*

"The Board resolve to accept the Draft 2023-2024, 2024-2025 District Calendars as recommended and request that they be sent out for stakeholder consultation."

1 recused
5 approved

CARRIED

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- December expenditure summary was provided to the Trustees in their December board packages.

12. READING FILE

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Michell and seconded by Trustee Graham.*

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

CARRIED

12. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at The School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Approved by:

Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education

Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer



**SYNOPSIS OF THE
IN - CAMERA MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
DECEMBER 6, 2022
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the in-camera meeting minutes of November 15, 2022. There being none, the in-camera meeting minutes of November 15, 2022 was declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Administration reported on routine staffing items and school suspensions.
- The Board Chairperson and Senior Administration reported on an assortment of labour and legal matters.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:55pm.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
January 24, 2024

Student Achievement

- **End of Semester** - As the end of semester one approaches, please ensure you have been in contact with your child's teachers to ensure you are up to date on any missing and or required items connected to their learning and course completion.
- **Kindergarten Registration 2023-24:** Kindergarten registration for the 2023/2024 school year took place at all SD54 elementary schools from January 16-20, 2023.
- **Strategic Plan** - Trustees have reviewed a mid-year update to the goals in the strategic plan. The update will be posted to the District webpage for the public to review.

Innovation / Initiatives

District Based Initiatives

- **Professional Learning Series**– SD54 is pleased to welcome back Sandra McAulay, our former District curriculum resource teacher. Ms. McAulay will work with a group of teachers on numeracy (number sense and problem solving) at the elementary level. We have selected March 9-10 and April 25-27.
- **February 17th Professional Development Day** – In collaboration with the BVTU Pro-D committee, the District is sponsoring Dr. Dean Kriellaars from the University of Manitoba to present a keynote and workshops for educators on the February 17 Pro-D day. Dr. Kriellaars is a neuroscientist who is an international lead in the area of physical literacy and its relationship to mental wellbeing. He works in a variety of areas including community planning for multi-generational health, advising Manitoba and New York state in PE Curriculum development and Dr. Kriellaars is a must-see speaker. An evening session is planned for February 16th for parents and community members.
- **Early Notice Incentive Program** - School District #54 offers a financial incentive to teachers and administrators who are planning to retire this year, to give us notice in writing on, or before, March 31, 2023. This notice is valuable in order to better plan and meet our staffing requirements. Early notice incentive letters will go out in February.
- **Coast Mountains College Partnerships** - In semester two (2) several of our Coast Mountain College opportunities for secondary students are starting up. Intro to Health and Carpentry foundations all begin in February. Again, we would like to thank the ongoing partnership CMC has provided for SD54 and the opportunities for our students.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – 60 +/- Grade 8-12 Ski and Snowboard Team students from Smithers Secondary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on multiple occasions between January 5 and February 2, 2023. The purpose of these trips is for ski and snowboard team training. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **SSS** – 30 +/- Grade 9-12 students from Smithers Secondary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on December 14, 2022. The purpose of this trip is to support the active living curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 50 +/- Grade 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 22, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 29 +/- Grade 5 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on January 25 and February 1, 2023. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **TSE** – 48 +/- Grade 7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on January 18, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 50 +/- Grade 8-12 students from Houston Secondary School to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 9 and March 16, 2023. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **TSE** – 48 +/- Grade 7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 14, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip requires approval by the Board of Education:
 - **SSS** – 25 +/- Theatre students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Prince Rupert on February 23-26, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the North West Drama Zones. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

January 10th, 2023

5:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
L. Kearns, Chair P. Michell, Alternate F. Krishan J. Williams (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
Regrets	

The meeting was conducted from 5:02-5:49 pm

Welcome: *Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

REPORT

1. 2022-2023 Draft Amended Budget Funding Update

Mr. Margerm presented the December recalculation of funding as part of draft 2022-2023 Amended Budget. The December recalculation provides an increase in funding of \$318,352 due to an increase of 39 student FTE despite a decrease to salary differential funding. The final amended budget, including expenses and surplus, will be discussed at the February 2023 committee and board meetings.

Motion: It is recommended that the Board proceed with the first two readings of the 2022-2023 Draft Amended Budget Bylaw.

2. Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent McDiarmid advised the Committee that the updated Strategic Plan would be presented as part of his evaluation and posted on the district website for public information.

3. Draft 2023-2024 District Calendar

Mr. Monkman presented the calendar consultation feedback from public stakeholders on the Draft 2023-2024 District Calendar. The Committee discussed a re-draft of the calendars to reflect some of the feedback suggestions. This included breaking mid-week for 2023-2024 Christmas holidays and moving the spring break holidays a week earlier. An adjustment of a Non-instructional day from January to April and May was also noted. (Re-drafted calendars will be presented at the board meeting this month.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

Motion: Committee recommends the Board approve the discussed revisions to the 2023-2024 Calendar and send out for a second round of public consultation.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 14th, 2023 @ 5:00pm. (Revised to February 13th)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10th, 2023

4:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
F. Farrell, Chair J. Krauskopf, Alternate K. Graham J. Williams (ex officio)	M. McDiarmid, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
Regrets	

This meeting was conducted from 4:01-4:50 pm.

Welcome: *“Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit’suwit’en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt’en - Bear Wolf Clan.”*

REPORT

PREVIOUS MEETING OF November 22nd, 2022

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
11.310	Travel Expenses	Revision	In-committee	Yes
6.340	Purchasing	Revision	In-committee	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
4.600	Employee Use of Helmets	Deletion	In-committee	No
6.140	Fire Drill	Revision	In-committee	Yes
9.400	Police Interview of Students	Revision	In-committee	Yes
9.700	Weapons at School (Postponed)	Revision	In-committee	Yes

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

1. Policy 4.600 Employee Use of Helmets

The committee discussed the option that this policy would be better suited as an administrative procedure instead of a board policy given the detailed nature of the policy and the legal statutes in place regarding the use of helmets.

Motion: Committee recommends the deletion of Policy 4.600 Employee Use of Helmets and instituting the policy as an administrative procedure.

2. Policy 6.140 Fire Drill

The committee discussed the current fire drill policy and the need for updating the policy regarding the integration of general emergency response and security procedures. Draft language was considered which provides greater detail for the policy. The name of the policy should also be revised to a title better suited to emergency response and planning procedures.

Mr. Margerm will draft language based on committee discussions and provide at next committee meeting in February.

3. Policy 9.400 Police Interview of Students

The committee discussed the current policy on police interview of students. The committee provided direction that there was need for updating the policy regarding the integration of more detailed procedures involving interviews of students by outside agencies, including the police. The name of the policy should also be revised to a title better suited to any interviews by outside agencies.

Mr. Margerm will draft language based on committee discussions and provide at next committee meeting in February.

4. Policy 9.700 Weapons at School

Postponed until next meeting

Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 14th, 2023 @4:00pm. (revised to February 13th via Zoom).

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



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy

December 1-3, 2022

I'm happy to have attended another BCSTA-Academy. Here is a recap of parts of the weekend that resonated with me.

The first day was divided into two separate meetings. One was for "seasoned" trustees and the other was for new trustees. I went to the one for trustees that had at least one term of board experience. At this meeting, we were given information about Roberts Rules of Conduct. Lisa Zwarn, parliamentarian, discussed situations and problems trustees may encounter at the board table and how best to avoid and address them. I found this remarkably interesting even after having 4 years of experience on the board. Items like the use of point of order, creating a motion, when to ask for information from staff and other very useful tips for conducting a productive meeting. The 2nd meeting of our day included all things trustees should know about the budget process, using SD42 (Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows) as an example.

Friday morning started with a discussion with Michael Fullan (Global Leadership Director) titled New Pedagogies for Deep Learning. Michael Fullan (Order of Canada) is the former dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and professor emeritus of the University of Toronto. He is co-leader of the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning global initiative (www.npdI.global). Recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform, he advises policymakers, local leaders, and school communities in helping to achieve the moral purpose of all children's learning. He spoke to us about the key role of trustees in school governance, and the status of system change in education in Canada and elsewhere.

Continuing with the academy, Trustees had their choice of different plenary sessions. My first choice was: Indigenous-Focused Grad Requirements. Beginning in the 2023/24 school year, all students working toward a BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) will be required to complete 4-credits of Indigenous-focused coursework to graduate. This transformative change to the graduation program represents an important next step toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation. During this workshop, the Ministry of Education of Child Care and FNESC discussed the development and implementation of this important initiative. They shared information from key resources and policies associated with the new requirement. We also learned about existing Indigenous-focused course options currently available to secondary students.

Other plenary sessions I attended were for Anti-Racism and Equity. The presenters spoke to participants about understanding the relationship between work and self. We also underwent a self-reflective practice during the session. We recognized ways to contribute more effectively and ethically. We also explored definitions, theories, and a framework to understand racism, equity, discrimination, oppression, and identity.

The academy ended with a presentation from the always inspiring Shelley Moore. She is a highly sought-after teacher, researcher, speaker, and storyteller. Shelley has worked with school districts and community organizations around the world in supporting and promoting equity for all learners. Moore has written a book titled, "One Without the Other" to follow up her TEDx talk. In her session, Shelley had us look at how the goals of inclusion have continued to shift and evolve as the world learns more about diversity and identity. As always, the room left inspired by Shelley's discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,
Floyd Krishan
Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy December 1-3, 2022

Another great trip in the books with the crew! It was great to connect with my fellow trustees and our 1 new trustee. As usual there were some great speakers, sessions and topics discussed during our time at the academy. The most memorable speaker was definitely Shelley Moore with her talk on "Inclusion As An Identity". I also really enjoyed the speech given by Chief Cadmus Delorme. I find these talks enlightening and they always seem to make me think outside of the box a little more and initiate new thought processes. What I really do get the most out of however is the table talk that happens with my fellow trustees as well as the talks that happen with trustees in other districts during our concurrent sessions. In fact, in the last hour of the last day we had a really good conversation with fellow Trustee Les Kearns. This was during Shelley Moore's speech. Mr. Kearns shared with us that there was a specific math class that he tried something different with that he found quite successful. Instead of just administering his tests and counting the students grades as final he offered every student a chance to re-write their test if they wanted to. Les would review their tests and scores with them and help them figure out where they went wrong on their wrong answers. He would then create a new test and give them the opportunity to re-write as many times as they liked. I personally really like this approach for many reasons. Shelley Moore stated the fact and reminded us that the school curriculum is not set in stone and we have the option to be flexible with it. I think this important to remember as we are increasingly faced with a variety of students that have different learning styles and challenges. Are we here to pump these kids through the system or are we there to help them? This example of Mr. Kearns teaching style clearly shows that there are ways to adjust your teaching style that can benefit students in need and truly help them. First of all, I like this approach because we know that many students get anxiety with writing tests. I would be willing to bet that when students knew they had an opportunity to write the test again they would relax and do better on the test. Secondly if the student shows a willingness to learn from their mistakes and do better why not let them? This is a good example in life. Not everything we do is a one time shot. We move forward and get better by failing, learning from our mistakes. What Mr. Kearns did was definitely not mandatory and took extra work on is his part. The question I'm left with is how do we encourage and support teachers or administrators to think outside the box and provide learning opportunities that encourage and support ALL learners.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jason Krauskopf
Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy

December 1-3, 2022

On December 1st-3rd I attended the annual Trustee Academy, hosted by the British Columbia School Trustees Association, which was held in Vancouver BC. The theme of the conference was "Better Boards Brighter Futures". Because of the unusually high number of new Trustees, there was more of a focus on workshops for new Trustees but even these were a good review for returning Trustees.

The following is a partial summary of my activities.

- the official opening featured a wonderful presentation by Chief Cadmus Delorme of the Cowessess First Nation, entitled "What We Inherited and the Role We Shall Play to Assure Truth and Reconciliation Is The Driver to a Stronger Relationship".
- Christina Zacharuk and Lisa Swarn, presented "Governance and Relationships Board Protocol 101".
- Michael Fullan, a well-known author, and educational researcher, did a very informative presentation, on "Leadership for System Transformation: The Role of School Trustees".
- the BC Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside, did a Minister's greetings.
- attendance at 2 different workshops that included the following topics, "Indigenous-focused Grad Requirements" and "Leading Reconciliation: Trustees and Practical Approaches to Understanding and Embodying Reconciliation".
- the Northwest Branch business meeting.
- the highlight of my conference was a presentation done by Shelley Moore, entitled "The Evolution Continues: Inclusion as Identity". Shelley is a teacher, researcher, and storyteller who kept as spellbound as she told us about her history in the education systems in both Alberta and BC and her struggles to be "included". She is very well spoken and used her sense of humour and storytelling skills to keep us totally enthralled. She is a "must hear" if you haven't previously attended one of her workshops.

In summary, the 3 days were very well done and well worth the time and effort. I came home with a better understanding of the many benefits of inclusion and feeling better prepared to do my job as a school trustee.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Les Kearns
Trustee



TRUSTEE REPORT
BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy
December 1-3, 2022

Being a new Trustee and attending my very first BCSTA Academy, to say I learned a lot is an understatement. The energy and enthusiasm were very welcoming.

We started the Academy Thursday morning with World Café where we broke out from those we knew to meet other Trustees from around the province and partake in different group discussions. As a new Trustee our groups were centered amongst other new Trustees. Although this seemed intimidating and daunting, it was actually one of the many highlights of the Academy for me. I found it to be a great icebreaker getting familiar with new faces we would be seeing throughout the next couple of days.

The two and half days were filled with many presenters, speeches, and sessions full of great topics and discussions. The sessions outlined for new Trustees dove deep into the Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees and Governance. These two sessions were equally informative. Getting to know more in depth the important role a Trustee plays and the important correlation between Roles & Responsibilities and Governance.

All the speakers were incredible, but the one that really inspired me was Shelley Moore. Ms. Moore has a direct, comical way of bringing attention to a very complicated subject. Her Speech was titled "The Evolution Continues: Inclusion as Identity". Ms. Moore spoke about not trying to change those who struggle to fit into the 'normal' ways, but by changing the context, we can remove the barriers. One slide she used was regarding Inclusive Education. What can we do if an individual isn't successful? *Determine barriers in place *Determine needs of the community *Anticipate supports & Strategies based on needs *Universally apply supports and strategies to ALL. I found this to be powerful and exciting. No student will go through school without struggles, whether it be physical, mental or race, we also can't overlook those students who appear that they are doing well, getting good grades, ect. Are they happy? What changes are we making to give our kids the support they need to succeed?

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kristina Graham
Trustee



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TRUSTEE REPORT
BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy
December 1-3, 2022

Please accept this as my Trustee Report for December 2022. I am happy to share my experience at the BCSTA Trustee Academy for the 2022 – 23 academic year.

We had amazing keynote speakers and presenters throughout this event.

Chief Cadmus Delorme, a Cree and Sauteaux, is the Chief of the Cowessess First Nation. Chief Delorme spoke on what We Inherited and the Role we play to assure Truth and Reconciliation is the driver to a stronger relationship. He focused on the topic of Residential School, which was inherited by Canada. He was not very familiar with his aboriginal ancestry, but learned along the way: "The greatest warrior is the one that brings peace" He explained that the Western views got us to this point, how Canada was forced to validate the gravesites and unmarked graves. This confirms the generational trauma experienced by many indigenous learners. As a result of this travesty, we must face the reality that education failed our Aboriginal Learners. The Millennium students are now entering our school systems, as we teach, this is the time to assert reconciliation to our future leaders. We must consider our end goal of reconciliation. Indigenous people already have traditional protocols since time immemorial. How will we know when we have achieved reconciliation? His vision of Reconciliation, the future generations will one day have parity. As individuals, how we can contribute to reconciliation, by being a champion. Each of us can go above and beyond, share the knowledge which will then empower the future generations.

We participated in various other concurrent breakout sessions. I attended "Transformative Reconciliation" – where they presented on ideas of how to close the gap which will mean to achieve educational outcomes for Aboriginal Learners. There are new Ministry grad requirements where students will be now mandated to complete 4 credits of Indigenous focused course work. They spoke about how teachers who make the time to go "on-reserve" to meet their students to build a trusting relationship with their Aboriginal learners. They spoke the gaps in achievement and presented an example of how the Nanaimo School District is acknowledging the traditional knowledge keepers from their traditional Territory. Their traditional Indigenous Language teachers are paid equitable to a Masters Level of Education, rather than following the CUPE wage rate. System changes begins and ends with ongoing conversations about the important questions.

We heard from other guest speakers that presented on Effective Governance, how body language speaks volumes. We heard about the importance of "on boarding new trustees" how crucial their initial learning is, the key to their success is when we things that the learning and wellbeing of our students becomes priority, then deep learning may be the result. An integrated approach of the Trustees and Administration team, creates conditions for greater learning. Wellness is key to a prosperous future.

We heard updates from each District at our Branch meeting. A chance for each District is provided bragging rights, for the great work that is happening. This followed with the final plenary speaker, Shelley Moore, Teacher, Researcher, Speaker and Storyteller. The Evolution Continues: Inclusion as Identity. She spoke about how the goals of inclusion have continued to shift and evolve, as we learn more about diversity and identity. Trustees took time in group discussions to reflect on their own contexts and consider the next steps for advocacy and action.

Another great opportunity to learn about the important topics of the day from experts in the field. Thank you.

Awizah,
Priscilla Michell,
Trustee



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

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TRUSTEE REPORT

BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy

December 1-3, 2022

As usual BCSTA put together 3 days of jam-packed learning for new trustees as well as returning trustees. New trustees had their own agenda that ran simultaneously as the one for "experienced trustees". As Board Chair I accompanied our one new trustee to her sessions.

Some of these sessions included:

Governance and Board Protocol
Anti-racism and Equity
Codes of Conduct
Framework for Enhanced Learning

I also attended the sessions that were for all trustees, some of these sessions included:

Network and Team activity
In Knowing What We Know
Work session with regional Groups

We had 3 main speakers:

Keynote speaker: Chief Cadmus Delorme, What we inherited and the role we will play to assure Truth and Reconciliation is the driver to a stronger relationship.

Speaker: Shelly Moore, Equity and Inclusion

Speaker: Michael Fullan, Leadership for system transformation, the roll of school trustees

As usual the speakers all had powerful messages that makes you think and want to put those thoughts into practice in our role as a trustee.

All though a lot of my time was spent attending sessions for new trustees, I found it very beneficial. I think revisiting the basics is a good reminder of why I am doing this. As trustees we often get caught up in all the different elements of the district. The different groups have different agenda's and wants, but if we always ask ourselves how is this beneficial to the students then the right path and decisions will be made.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Williams

Trustee/Board Chair



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TRUSTEE REPORT BCSTA 2022 Trustee Academy December 1-3, 2022

On December 1-3rd 2022 I attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy as a member of the SD54 Board delegation. The theme of the event was 'Better Boards Brighter Futures' and it offered an opportunity to meet as a new board along with other new boards across British Columbia.

The opening day of the event offered a preconference that offered such topics as

- Addressing situations at the Board table
- Budgeting for trustees.
- Team networking activities.

I was able to engage with not only my board but also other Provincial School Trustees in exercises and role playing that help in my continual growth. Keynote speaker Chief Cadmus Delorme offered the road to forge better relationships with indigenous peoples and government in working toward reconciliation.

Among the highlights of the rest of the Academy were as follows

Michael Fullan – Author Speaker and Educational consultant. He offered a synopsis of education and the direction that board must work towards. A recent quote "We can't escape the status quo in Education. 200 years of doing the same thing just won't cut it." Indeed, the framework of education is changing and further movement in ensuring inclusion and equity is continued.

I attended the Provincial Council meeting where board representatives like myself voted unanimously write a letter to the New Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, outlining an urgent need to adequately fund reflecting the emergent inflationary situation School Districts are in. I strongly endorse this letter as decisions on future educational initiatives depend upon it.

I was impressed with the plenary breakout sessions where each Trustee had an option to engage in different topics in smaller group settings in such areas as childcare, budgeting. I was able to engage with speakers and fellow trustees in a more in-depth and fulsome venue. I thank the BCSTA for that opportunity.

Also, to end the conference Shelley Moore, nearing her defending of her PhD Dissertation, offered an upbeat and self-reflective presentation on inclusion. I was reminded of our continual need to support all learners. To offer an equitable opportunity that reflects as Michael Fullan mentioned not doing the same thing we have done for 200 years

In reflection the first BCSTA Academy after an election is always a learning exercise in starting the path towards working as new boards of education. Most Districts have some number of new trustees. That in itself is a learning exchange that I benefited. Moreover, the group dynamic of our Board with Newly elected Trustee Graham was taking shape. I was impressed with the jelling our board in communicating as a group seeking out the understanding of our Districts priorities. I thank School District 54 for the opportunity to attend and to the electorate for entrusting me to continue supporting student achievement.

Respectfully submitted by,
Frank Farrell
Trustee