



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (Bulkley Valley)
OCTOBER 24, 2023
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

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

Trustee Regrets: F. Krishan

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed everyone present. Chairperson Williams spoke about raising the Totem Pole and the scale of the of the entire project. This is a big step moving forward towards reconciliation. The day was very emotional, there were tears, laughter and it was amazing to be a part of. The amount of effort the maintenance team put in was amazing and how seamlessly it came all together for that day. She is very proud to be part of this District even more.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"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 September 26, 2023 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2023. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of September 26, 2023 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 26, 2023 were declared approved as presented.

5) LEARNING PORTION: Inter – Disciplinary Studies at SSS.

- SSS Principal Julie Krall provided a brief overview of the Inter-Disciplinary Studies program at SSS. Program started approximately three years ago where Grade 10-12 students can be in one location, support workers can come to them. Flexible structure is key for the students so they can be calm, alert and ready for learning. It is a safe place for learning. This program has been evolving from the start. Students self elects this program everyone is to come out with a

6) ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid commenced this portion of the meeting with his reflections of the Totem Pole raising. He commented that the Totem Pole raising was very spiritual and a profound experience for all in attendance and that he couldn't have been prouder on the events of that took part that day. He paid attention to all of the Witsuwit'en members, they felt heard and recognized. Walnut Park drummers came in to the fest and Chief Wos commented to Mr. McDiarmid that "*I will never forget this day.*" (Drumming programs are in each one of our schools.) The new pole is starting a new journey together.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. Class size continues to be healthy and stable as previous years. Ms. Cindy Miller has arranged a number of Professional Learning opportunities for SD54 staff. Administrators have been submitting their school improvement plans that support the overarching District Strategic plan goals. Three (3) SD54 staff members have been nominated for this year's Premier Awards for Excellence in Education: Mr. Perry Rath in the category of Social Equity and Diversity; Ms. Heather Lee in the category of Extracurricular Learnership and Ms. Inderjit Grewal in the category of Outstanding Support – School Community. On October 20th, employees took part in the Provincial Professional Development Day. Parent teacher interviews will be taking place on October 25 and October 26. The Early Childhood Dual Credit course had a successful startup with 17 students between SSS & HSS enrolled. We were also able to offer CUPE staff five (5) seats in the program. The Early Literacy Portfolio has been implemented to support student learning. Strong Start Facilitators and Preschool staff spent the first three weeks supporting children entering Kindergarten. In conjunction with the Kyah Wiget Education Society, Dr. Sara Davidson has been invited to present "***Indigenizing Our Path***" to the SD54 staff at the November 10th Professional Development Day. Please contact District Principal of Indigenous Education Birdy Markert for more information and to register.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives report to the Board. The District Elementary Cross-Country Run took place on October 12. Secondary School athletics is in full swing. Remembrance Day Ceremonies will take place on November 9th at each of our school facilities.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **WPS** – 53 +/- Grade 5-6 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel up to Crater Lake on Hudson Bay Mountain on October 6, 2023. The purpose for this trip is to support the Physical Health Education Curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 20 +/- Grade 11-12 students from HSS to travel to Prince George on October 17, 2023. The purpose of this trip is for the students to visit the CNC and UNBC campuses. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 18 +/- Grade 8-9 students from HSS to travel to Rock Nest Ranch / Irrigation Lake on October 27, 2023. The purpose of this trip is for the students to take part in an experimental education day including flat water canoeing instruction. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip requires approval ***IN-PRINCIPAL*** by the Board of Education:
 - **SSS** – 22 +/- Grade 11-12 Drama students from Smithers Secondary to travel to New York City on May 17 – May 25, 2025. The purpose of this trip is for the students to participate in Broadway Theatre tours and workshops. Board approval will be subject to the required travel documentation being supplied to the board office including the finalized list of students travelling.

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

*"That the Board approve the trip to New York City **IN-PRINCIPAL** as presented."*

CARRIED

- The following field trip requires **APPROVAL** by the Board of Education:
SSS – 75 +/- Grade 8-12 Jr/Sr Concert and Jazz Band students from Smithers Secondary to travel to Whistler, BC on April 24 to April 28, 2024. The purpose of this trip is for the students to participate in the Whistler Cantando Festival. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

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

*"That the Board **APPROVE** the field trip to Whistler as outlined. "*

CARRIED

7.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Vice Chairperson Michell presented the Operations Committee's Report from the October 12, 2023 committee meeting. Two items were moved to the New Business portion of the meeting.
- **Surplus: Transfer of Operating to Capital** – The committee recommends that the Board approve a transfer of \$1.2 million dollars from operating surplus to local capital reserve surplus.

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

"That the Board approve the transfer of \$1.2 million dollars from operating surplus to local capital reserve surplus."

CARRIED

- **2023 – 2024 Capital Plan Amendment** – the committee recommends all three readings of the amended Capital Bylaw No. 23/24-CP-SD54-01-R, Capital Plan 2023-24 – Revised.
- Chairperson Williams asked for unanimous consent to do all three-readings tonight for **amended Capital Bylaw No. 23/24-CP-SD54-01-R, Capital Plan 2023-24 – Revised**. Unanimous consent was given.

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

"The Board approved the three readings of amended Capital Bylaw No. 23/24-CP-SD54-01-R, Capital Plan 2023-24 – Revised."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ 5:00pm

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's Report from the October 10th, 2023 committee meeting.
- **Policy 9.960 Course Fees for non-enrolling students** – The committee recommended that the draft Policy 9.960 Course Fees for non-enrolling students be approved as outlined.

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

"That the Board approve the draft Policy 9.960 Course Fees for non-enrolling students as outlined. "

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ 4:00pm

7.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were five (5) Trustee reports submitted this month. Trustee Farrell spoke about his attendance at the Totem Pole raising. Trustee Williams spoke about the NW District Branch meeting and the retention and recruitment issue that is being faced in the North.

MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Kearns and seconded by Trustee Krauskopf

"That the Board requests that Chairperson Williams write a letter to the BCPSEA Board and Bruce Anderson CEO to address the issue of District's paying signing bonuses outside of the Provincial guidelines. "

CARRIED

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business this month.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- **9.1) Strategic Plan Renewal** – Superintendent McDiarmid outlined that on November 7th the Trustees will meet once again to review and renew the current Strategic Plan. After it has been renewed by the board it will be send out for Stakeholder consultation. This plan is due into the Ministry by June 2024.
- **9.2) Surplus Management: Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented the Surplus Management Plan to the Board for review.**

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

"The Board resolves to approve the appropriation of \$1,440,000 in District surplus spending and \$1,500,000 for the future capital project of an athletic facility as presented."

CARRIED

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business this month.

11. READING FILE

- No reading file this month.

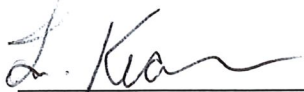
12. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on November 28, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at The School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Approved by:

 *on behalf of:*

Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer