



# School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

## AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING MAY 28, 2024 HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL (LIBRARY), HOUSTON, B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2024  
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – April 23, 2024
- 5) Learning Portion: Indigenous Community Support in Houston – Houston Link to Learning
- 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 Reports J. Krauskopf Report Attached  
L. Kearns Report Attached  
K. Graham Report Attached  
J. Krishan Report Attached  
F. Farrell Report Attached  
J. Williams Report Attached
- 8) Unfinished Business
  - 7.1) 2024 – 2025 Draft Annual Budget
- 9) New Business
- 10) Other Business
  - 10.1) Expenditure Summary
- 11) Reading File  

Ltr. Frm: Houston Secondary School – Commencement Ceremony Invitation
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- 12) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on June 25, 2024 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](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)  
APRIL 23, 2024  
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

**PRESENT:** Trustees: F. Farrell, F. Krishan, K. Graham, L. Kearns, J. Williams, P. Michell,  
Regrets: J. Krauskopf  
Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent  
F. Fox – Assistant Superintendent  
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer  
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

**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 sent the Board's condolence to the community and commented that she was disappointed that the Board meeting wasn't in Witset for this month's meeting. The Witset community is very welcoming to the Board and it also signals the start of Spring.

**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 March 12, 2024. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2024.

**5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district update report to the Board. District Authority Scholarship presentations will take place the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. This year the District has 16 - \$1,250 vouchers to award. The PLC met on April 11 for another evening of professional reflection and awareness. The year-end celebration will be held in May, date to be announced shortly. SD54 will be participating in the WorksBC Job Fair on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. Student Led Conferences were held on April 17 & 18. The Trades department visited PIR on March 13<sup>th</sup> Students got to get hands on experience working in forestry related trades. Mr. Richmond has been working with and supporting elementary teachers with trades-type projects. Ready Set Learn will take place at all of our elementary schools the week of May 6-8.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board.
  - ✓ **Smithers Secondary**
    - SSS Theatre and Music Students performed the musical "*Much Ado About Nothing*" to packed audiences last week. Always a community favourite.
    - Safeteen for Grade 8s
    - Literacy 10 Assessments
    - Track and Field, Girls Soccer, Golf team
    - Musical – Much Ado About Nothing
    - School Wide Learning Focus – The Power of Words
    - Continued focus on "Phone free" activities and creative stations.
    - Course Fair – Student Course Selection – Beginning to build the timetable
    - Grade 7 Transitions meetings and visits
    - NID – most teachers are attending the ADHD workshop and some are doing personal choice learning.
  - ✓ **Houston Secondary**
    - HSS students are in the process of organizing a "LipDub", the first one since 2010.
    - The HSS prom will happen in May and will be a video dance party!
    - Secondary schools have been holding their course selection process over the past couple of weeks.
  - ✓ **Twain Sullivan**
    - Missoula Theatre April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> with performances on April 27<sup>th</sup>
    - On the April 19<sup>th</sup> Pro -D teachers and SEAs are attending sessions in Smithers (ADHD & Non-violent crisis intervention) and collaboration
  - ✓ **Walnut Park**
    - Students are taking part in the 3 on 3 basketball program that Rich Audet is running after school.
    - Breakfast and books coming up next week. Parents are invited to come in, have breakfast and read with or take part in a story being read to a group.
    - We are continuing with our school goal of belonging and building community by turning our kind thoughts into actions.
    - Our staff are taking part in a variety of Pro-d opportunities:
      - The ADHD workshop put on by Stephanie Capyk.
      - Collaborating on implementing some of the strategies suggested by Adrienne Gear, Carole Fullerton and Jo Boaler.
      - Watching a youtube video by Jonathan Haidt. He has a new book that just came out called "The Anxious Generation". The video is titled smart phones vs smart kids.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVq4ARIINVg> It looks at the decrease in play vs the increase in phone use in our students.
  - ✓ **Telkwa School**
    - Had an Easter Egg hunt put on by the PAC when we returned from Spring Break.
    - Held soup day as Division 2 helps to prepare and make soup that the whole school can enjoy.
    - Last week, the younger classes planted seeds to get ready for the outdoor garden.
    - We are starting up track and field practices next week and will be having a mini-meet at the end of May
    - All classes have been busy practicing for our assembly next week which focuses on the Core Competencies surrounding Critical and Creative Thinking. There will be 2 plays performed by the oldest divisions while the younger classes created chants and songs to perform.
    - Next Tuesday, Rob Stiles will be here to run wheelchair basketball clinics with all classes.
    - In early May, the choir will start back up as part of a project with Walnut Park under Mr. Anderson.

- During the Professional development Day, Teachers collaborating with teacher candidates and some are collaborating together with a focus on outdoor ed. Others will be learning about the Large Language Model and working with Carol Fullerton- numeracy.
- ✓ **Silverthorne Elementary School**
  - Holding the Spring Reading Challenge where this school wide initiative in which students are encouraged to read 15 books and draw a picture of their favourite part of the book.
  - The Silverthorne book fair raised \$2,000.
  - One hundred healthy meals on an average are served per day to our growing students.
  - Staff took part in a professional learning session about self-regulation.
  - School Psychologist – Stephanie Cpyk came and facilitated two Pro-d sessions with all of the staff on PDA.
- ✓ **Muheim Memorial Elementary School**
  - FI regional Speech Competition too place in March. MME had serval students who received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes in both of the Grade 6 and 7 categories.
  - Students will be taking part in the Outdoor Ed. Overnight Challenge.
  - James Madam shared some of his art pieces as well as lead some art sessions for intermediate students.
  - Ms. Young and Mrs. Neiser's classes continue to visit the Zoller Farm as a part of their innovation project.
  - Staff members participated in the following Pro-D sessions – ADHD, Self Regulation , First Aid , NVCI, Fine Arts , Coding and Core Competencies Assessment.

**Field Trip Proposals**

- The following field trip has been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SSS** – 150 +/- Grade 8-9 students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 19, 2024. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the Grade 8/9 year-end celebrations, outdoor education, community building and health and physical fitness. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 28 +/- Theatre Students to travel to New Westminster, BC to take part in the BC National Theatre School Provincial Drama Festival on May 2-5, 2024. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS** – 21 +/- grade 8/9 students from SSS to travel to Hazelton, BC on May 6, 2024 for an introduction to rock-climbing. The purpose of this trip is to support the Active Living Curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **MME** – 38 +/- Grade 7 students from Muheim Memorial Elementary to travel to Lakelse Lake Provincial Park and visit the Nisga'a Lava Bed Memorial Park on June 10-13, 2024. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the class year end celebrations which supporting the Social Studies curriculum and learning more about the local Indigenous culture. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **HSS** – Grade 9-12 Outdoor Education students from HSS will participate in the following field trips during semester two:

Excursion Date	Destination	Purpose	# of Students
April 30, 2024	Irrigation Lake	Canoeing	15
May 3, 2024	Irrigation Lake	Canoeing	15
May 7, 2024	Klinger Lake	Canoeing	15
May 9 - 10, 2024	Poplar Lake Rec Site	Camping & Canoeing	15
May 24, 2024	Palisades Hike	Experiential Education / Hiking	15
May 29 – 31, 2024	Joe L'Orsa Cabin	Camping & Experiential Education	15

June 7, 2024	China Nose Hike	Experiential Education / Hiking	15
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All Board requirements have been met for these trips.

- **WPS** – 52 +/- Grade 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel to Rock Nest Ranch on June 13-14, 2024. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the Grade 7 year-end celebrations, community building, health and physical fitness. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **SSS** – 21 Grade 9-12 students from Smithers Secondary to travel to Prince George, BC on May 21-24, 2024. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the Northern Tech Tour where the students will explore new forms of technology and see how their future careers can be in the tech industry. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

### Operations

- **2024 - 2025 Budget and Staffing** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm updated the board on the status of 2024-2025 budget and staffing project. The strategic plan has been guiding decision making throughout this process, and this will continue as we develop the new strategic plan. The District is projecting a slight decrease in students and which means budgets and staffing levels will remain more or less the same as the current school year.

### 6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the April 9, 2024 committee meeting. One item was moved to the Unfinished Business portion and one item was moved New Business portion of the meeting.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, May 14, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

### 6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Graham presented the Policy Committee's Report from the April 9, 2024 committee meeting. One item was moved New Business portion of the meeting.
- **Policy 6.175 Challenge of Learning Resources** – Committee recommended that draft policy 6.175 Challenge of Learning Resources be approved as outlined.

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

*"That the Board approved draft policy 6.175 Challenge of Learning Resources as outlined."*

**CARRIED**

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- **Indigenous Acknowledgement** – The Committee recommended that the Indigenous Acknowledgement be forwarded to the Indigenous Council for review and input.

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

*"That the Board requests that Ms. Fox – Assistant Superintendent take the current Territory Acknowledgement to the Indigenous Council for review and input on any revision required."*

CARRIED

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- **Policy 1.180 Trustee Code of Conduct** – The committee reviewed the current policy and found that it meets the new requirements, and no changes are recommended.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, May 14, 2024 @ 4:00pm.

#### **6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- There were no Trustee reports this month.

#### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 7.1) **Capital Plan Bylaw – Capital Plan 2024 – 2025** – Secretary Margerm provided a brief overview of where the \$2,048,800 in Capital Bylaw Funds will be spent.
- The operations committee recommended that the 2024-2025 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 24/25-CP-SD54-01 be approved in three readings.
- Chairperson Williams asked for unanimous consent to do all three-reading tonight for 2024-2025 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 24/25-CP-SD54-01. Unanimous consent was given.

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

*"The Board approved the three readings of 2024 - 2025 Capital Plan Bylaw No. 24/25-CP-SD54-01."*

CARRIED

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#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **8.1) 2024 – 2025 Draft Annual Budget** - Secretary Treasurer Margerm – provided an overview of the draft 2024 – 2025 Annual Budget. The strategic plan has been instrumental in developing the 2024-2025 Annual Budget.
- Mr. Margerm expanded that this is budget time of year – a process which started in March. Stakeholder input will be received by the Board in May.
- Senior Administration recommended that the Board do the first two readings of the draft budget now and in May Mr. Margerm will provide a final draft budget report to the board for the third reading.
  - At this point the District has proposed a balanced budget based on requested needs; though, this recognizes an operation annual deficit of \$775,575 inclusive of \$632,575 operations deficit and \$143,000 capital spending to transferred to operations.
  - Appropriated from surplus list including: capital investments; classroom support; additional capital maintenance personnel; and an additional administration position.

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

*"That the Board proceed with the first two readings of the 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget Bylaw."*

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- **8.2) Bylaw 3 – Complaints and Appeals** – The policy committee recommended the Board approve revisions as presented by Bylaw # 3 Complaints and Appeals with three readings.
  - Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided an overview of this Bylaw. BCSTA and the Ministry of Education and Childcare requested that Boards review their current Trustee Codes of Conduct policy and provided criteria for codes of conduct for school trustees. The code of conduct criteria is meant to support board by providing trustees with a clear understanding of roles and expectations on conduct, as well as approaches to investigate breaches of conduct, determine consequences and restore relationships. It will help ensure boards have the necessary tools and resources to focus decisions on the best interest of students.
  - Chairperson Williams asked for unanimous consent to do all three-reading tonight for Bylaw 3 – Complaints and Appeals. Unanimous consent was given.

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

*“The Board approved the three readings of Bylaw 3 – Complaints and Appeals.”*

CARRIED

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**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**10. READING FILE**

- There were no reading file items this month.

**11. CLOSING REMARKS**

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Secondary School in Houston, BC.

**12. ADJOURNED**

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Approved by:

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Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson  
of the Board of Education

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Mr. Dave Margerm  
Secretary Treasurer



**SYNOPSIS OF THE  
IN - CAMERA MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)  
APRIL 23, 2024  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC**

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The regular meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the in-camera meeting minutes of February 27, 2024. There being none, the in-camera meeting minutes of February 27, 2024 was declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Senior Administration reported on routine staffing items and school suspensions.
- Trustees completed a Labour Relations survey.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:58pm.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the  
Board of Education  
May 28, 2024

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### District Based Initiatives

- **District Elementary Track** - Schools are once again preparing their students to participate in the District Track and Field event scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at the SSS track. We are very happy to continue to organize this large student gathering which showcases the many student athletes we have in the intermediate grades.

In preparation: Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Muheim will be hosting their mini meet. Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - Walnut Park will be hosting their mini meet. Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - Telkwa Elementary will be hosting their own mini meet (morning only).

- **Professional Learning Program**- The District recently hosted Sandra Macaulay. She met with a cohort of intermediate teachers to further the development of a district numeracy assessment which was initially started under the guidance of Carol Fullerton, a numeracy consultant. Sandra also facilitated professional learning sessions focused on numeracy and the core competencies on the Professional Development Day. All the sessions were well received.
- **NOIE Symposium** - The District recently supported four teachers to attend the annual NOIE (Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education) Symposium in Richmond, May 10-11. Several teachers and administrators also attended the symposium as members of the SSS Indigenous Transitions Team and under their own professional development funds. A video highlighting the work of the SSS team was featured at the symposium. The teachers engaged in some wonderful professional development sessions and provided positive feedback about the learning. The teachers were very appreciative of the district support.
- **District Scholarship Presentations** – During the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>, graduating students will deliver their District Authority Scholarship presentations to adjudicators. The presentations are powerful and varied representation of the tremendous learning journeys of these students. It is always a pleasure to be witness to the maturity and depth of learning among a selection of our graduates.
- **Professional Learning Recognition** – On May 27<sup>th</sup> the District is organizing a celebration of learning where teachers have been invited to the Learner Support Centre to hear from the many teachers who participated in District sponsored learning events and programs this year.
- **SSS Fine Arts programs**- On Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, Drama students had one last performance of their multi award winning play QUEENS! This is a beautiful short piece of theatre and students were fundraising for their trip to drama provincials.
- **Teacher Staffing Update**— SD54 has started the upcoming year's staffing process. Round one of teacher postings closed May 21<sup>st</sup> and the second round is underway. Some specialized teaching assignments will be a challenge to fill, as they have been for the last few years.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## School Based Activities

- **Graduation Ceremonies** – Both Secondary Schools are holding their graduation ceremonies soon to celebrate our graduating students. Houston Secondary's celebration is scheduled for Friday, June 14th with Smithers Secondary taking place on Thursday, June 20th.
- **Community Career Day** - On Thursday May 23rd, Muheim Memorial held its Community Career Day. This is a popular, annual school-wide event that is like an elementary job fair. Every class participates and circulates through three (3) sessions. A great day of community engagement and student learning.
- **Welcome to Kindergarten** – At the end May, each SD54 Elementary school will host a "Welcome to Kindergarten" day. It is an event for new Kindergarten students registered in SD54 elementary schools starting in September, to engage in play-based activities. This will also be an opportunity for students and families to meet some of the teaching staff at the school.
- **Telkwa Elementary School** - Students have been busy prepping and planting seeds for our school garden as well as the community garden. There has also been an increase in outdoor learning with all grades spending time in their secret outdoor learning spaces. Coming up, we are looking forward to our annual spring BBQ where the whole parent community is invited.

On Friday May 17 staff participated in a variety of professional development activities – numeracy strategies with Sandra McAulay, NCVI workshop, reviewing the new primary program that just came out, and teacher collaboration.

- **Smithers Secondary School have the following events coming up:**
  - Jr Dance – May 31
  - Bathroom reno begins – June 3rd
  - Grad Parade (surprise for the grads) June 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:20am – school track
  - Graduation Ceremony @ SSS – June 20, 4:00pm

On Friday May 17, SSS staff participated in a variety of professional development activities including a Core Competency workshop, personal professional development at the school and most of the staff participated in Learning Progressions workshop that went over very well.

## Field Trip Proposals

The following field trip requires approval by the Board of Education:

- **SSS** – 24 +/- Grade 10-12 students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Vancouver on Sept 11 - 16, 2024 to take part in Bard on the Beach – Shakespeare Festival. The purpose of this trip is to participate in live professional theatre and workshops. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Regular*

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

5:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 5:03 – 5:40 pm.

**Acknowledgement:** *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. Draft 2024-2025 Budget**

Mr. Margerm provided an overview of the 2024-2025 Draft Budget to Committee. The presentation will also be held in Houston at the regular board meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The 2024-2025 Draft Budget presentation will be provided to the public on the District web page after the regular public meeting. Public electronic input on the budget will be accepted up until the Board Meeting. The third reading of the 2024-2025 Budget can be conducted at the May Board meeting unless more time is required to deliberate.

***Motion: Committee recommends proceeding with the third reading of the Draft 2024-2025 Budget Bylaw at the May Board meeting.***

**2. Letter RE: SSS Theatre Succession Plan**

The Committee felt that the Smithers Secondary theatre staffing succession plan letter written to the Board should be regarded as an operational staffing issue which is dealt with by school and school board office staff. Providing the proposed funding, in excess of \$100,000, for a special program would be inequitable as many programs and learning environments are also important. Superintendent McDiarmid will respond to the letter.

**3. Muheim Before & After School Childcare Application**

Mr. Margerm updated the Committee that the District has applied for funding of \$495,000 to support a renovation at Muheim Elementary to provide the appropriate facilities for a 48 seat before-and-after school child care program. The funds would be used to support a classroom revitalization, door access and controls for childcare entrance and an upgrade to the gymnasium washrooms and plumbing upgrade.

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5 pm**

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:00 PM

School Board Office

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

This meeting was conducted from 4:04 - 4:15 pm.

**Acknowledgement:**        *“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 April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
6.175	Challenge of Learning Resources (Margerm) - Approval	Revision	In-committee	Yes
	Indigenous Acknowledgement (Williams)	Revision	In-committee	Yes
1.180	Trustee Code of Conduct (Margerm)	Revision	In-Committee	Yes
Bylaw 3	Complaints Appeals (Margerm)	New	In-Committee	No
	Cell Phones (McDiarmid)	New	In-Committee	Yes

## NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
6.338	Personal Electronic Devices (McDiarmid)	New	In-Committee	Yes

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

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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**1. Policy 6.338 Personal Electronic Devices**

Mr. McDiarmid updated the Committee on requirements for School District to provide direction through policy for the use of personal electronic devices during school time. A draft of board policy was provided for consideration. There was a discussion regarding the expectation that each school will be required to have language concerning any restrictions for the use of electronic devices integrated into their school codes of conduct. Any accommodations or exemptions for use should also be outlined.

***Motion: Committee recommends the Board send draft Policy 6.338 Personal Electronic Devices out for stakeholder consultation.***

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:00 pm.**

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



# *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

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

**BCSTA AGM**

**April 18-21, 2024**

**Westin Bayshore, Vancouver BC**

The 2024 British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) convened stakeholders from diverse educational backgrounds. Ramona Pringle was a keynote speaker that spoke on the benefits and challenges of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the education landscape. The AGM provided a platform for insightful discussions on the potential of AI to transform teaching, learning, and administrative processes.

### Benefits of Working with AI:

**Personalized Learning:** AI-driven educational technologies offer the potential to customize learning experiences based on individual student needs, preferences, and learning styles. By analyzing vast amounts of data, AI can generate personalized recommendations, adaptive learning pathways, and real-time feedback, enhancing student engagement and academic outcomes.

**Efficiency and Automation:** AI-powered tools streamline administrative tasks, allowing educators and administrators to allocate more time and resources to student-focused activities. From grading assessments to scheduling, AI automates routine tasks, reducing workload burdens and increasing operational efficiency within educational institutions.

**Data-Driven Decision Making:** AI analytics enable educators to harness insights from big data to inform instructional strategies, curriculum development, and resource allocation. By analyzing student performance metrics, attendance records, and demographic trends, AI facilitates evidence-based decision-making, leading to more informed educational practices and improved outcomes.

### Challenges of Working with AI:

**Ethical Considerations:** The integration of AI in education raises ethical concerns regarding data privacy, algorithmic bias, and equity. Stakeholders must navigate complex ethical dilemmas surrounding student data protection, algorithmic transparency, and the equitable distribution of AI-enabled resources to ensure that AI technologies uphold principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability.

**Professional Development:** Effective utilization of AI in education necessitates ongoing professional development and capacity-building initiatives for educators. Addressing the digital skills gap and fostering AI literacy among educators are critical challenges that require sustained investments in training, support, and mentorship programs.

**Human-AI Collaboration:** Achieving optimal outcomes in AI-enhanced learning environments requires fostering collaborative partnerships between humans and AI systems. Balancing the autonomy of AI technologies with human oversight and intervention is essential to harnessing the full potential of AI while safeguarding against unintended consequences and ethical pitfalls.

Conclusion:

The 2024 BCSTA AGM provided a forum for stakeholders to explore the transformative potential of AI in education while addressing associated benefits and challenges. By fostering informed dialogue, collaboration, and strategic planning, educators and administrators can harness the power of AI to create more personalized, efficient, and equitable learning experiences for all students, while mitigating risks and ensuring ethical considerations remain at the forefront of AI integration efforts.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jason Krauskopf  
Trustee



*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

**TRUSTEE REPORT**  
**BCSTA AGM**  
**April 18-21, 2024**  
**Westin Bayshore, Vancouver BC**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> I participated in the 120<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. The focus of the AGM involved the following 3 areas:

Presentations

I attended 4 presentations that featured the following topics, better personal communication skills, preparing students for change, an Indigenous student panel, and a panel comprised of 3 different party members of our Legislative Assembly. They were all interesting and informative but there were 2 thought provoking quotes that are worth sharing, "change is inevitable, growth is optional" and "each time an elder dies, I feel like a library has burned".

Branch Business

We held the Northwest Branch meeting and as usual, all 6 districts reported progress in student learning.

Resolutions

There were 37 resolutions debated and voted upon that were intended to assist Districts' abilities to enhance all student success.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Trustee Les Kearns



# *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

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

**BCSTA AGM**

**April 18-21, 2024**

**Westin Bayshore, Vancouver BC**

The theme for this year's AGM was Dream Big, Lead Strong, future-ready governance for public schools. As in the past, we've had a few great speakers. Leading us off on Thursday evening was Riaz Meghji – The Power of Human Connection. Riaz spoke about how the connections and conversations we have impact our lives, sometimes we don't know it then, but in some way, they always do. Friday morning, we had the pleasure of listening to the Student Panel again, a personal favorite. The panel of students was from a school local to Vancouver, Britannia and the students had nothing but great things to say about the successes they feel attending this school. These students are so brave sitting up in front of a group of strangers speaking their truths.

Later in the day we heard from Ramona Pringle – Beyond The ABCS, AI, Bots and Code: Preparing the Next Generation for a Changing World. Romana is an engaging, animated speaker, she is quick witted and eager to grab your attention. The presentation started with changing the way we think about AI in schools, the workplace and in life. Instead of focusing on the 'we don't know what we don't know', which can be scary, focus on we know what we want. By changing the narrative, you can change perspective. How can we use AI and bots to our advantage instead of looking at the disadvantages? Students right now have never lived without tech, it's not scary to them, sometimes they just need guidance on proper use. Goals of assessment and assignments, knowing when, how and why to use AI. There are three main factors when using AI, purposeful integration, critical reflection on the benefits and evaluating outputs (check the facts!) AI is only as good as the prompts we feed it, by asking the right questions and checking the facts, we can have a successful future with AI and bots.

"Not what AI can do, but what we can ask it to do" – Esther Dyson

It was a full few days of learning and collaborating and I can't wait for the next one.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristina Graham  
Trustee



**TRUSTEE REPORT**  
**BCSTA AGM**  
**April 18-21, 2024**  
**Westin Bayshore, Vancouver BC**

The 2024 BCSTA Annual General Meeting, held in Vancouver from April 18th to 21st, was a pivotal event for shaping the future of public education in British Columbia. Trustees, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the province converged to address various issues affecting our education system and advocate for positive changes.

As the vice-chair of the Legislative Committee, I had a particular interest in the motions presented by school districts throughout the province. These motions addressed a wide range of critical issues, including:

**Legislative Changes:** Motions advocating for changes in legislation concerning conflict of interest for trustees, legislative frameworks for voting student trustees, and vacancies on the Board of Directors aimed at improving governance and transparency within the BCSTA.

**Support for Students:** Various motions advocated for fully funding supports for students with special education designations, targeted funding for children in care, non-voting student delegates at AGMs, and increased funding for programs at provincial correctional centers. These initiatives aimed at ensuring equitable access to education and support for all students.

**Environmental Concerns:** Motions addressing the impact of climate change on student outcomes, funding CleanBC goals, and increasing capital funding to retrofit existing buildings aimed at promoting environmental sustainability within the education system.

**Inclusivity and Diversity:** Motions advocating for gender-based violence education, neurodiverse training, K-12 workforce census on diversity, equity & inclusion, and funding for strong Start BC programs aimed at fostering inclusivity, diversity, and equity in education.

**Infrastructure and Funding:** Motions aimed at securing funding for capital projects, maintenance, accessibility, and technology upgrades in schools, ensuring a conducive learning environment for students across the province.

The AGM also featured insightful sessions, including presentations by keynote speakers, MLA forums, and discussions on preparing the next generation for a changing world. Additionally, the role of BCSTA staff in supporting the Legislative Committee and maintaining BCSTA's Policy Book was acknowledged.

Overall, the 2024 BCSTA AGM provided a platform for trustees and stakeholders to collaborate, discuss, and advocate for positive changes in the education system, reflecting the commitment to the well-being and success of students in British Columbia.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Floyd H Krishan – Trustee

On Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> through to Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the BCSTA AGM themed Dream Big Lead Strong – Future ready governance for public schools. The annual event was attended School Trustees from throughout the province

The opening of the agenda Thursday included the pre-conference that had both presentations from Ministry Officials regarding the October Provincial Election how that relates to governance. Another pre-conference session delved on governance during crisis where Trustees spoke about their districts response to natural disasters and how School Boards responded.

The opening plenary was presented by Riaz Mejhji- Human Connection Expert. Talking about the five habits of Human Connection that build extraordinary relationships. Connection in a analytical data and social media world is important

On Friday we began the day with our Northwest Branch Meetings which are always engaging especially when each District reported on their progress in student achievement since we last met. Afterwards we had a presentation from Ramona Pringle Creative Innovation Consultant regarding engagement with students in an ever advancing Social Media and emerging AI world. Very candid and in-depth analysis however she failed to estimate how AI can negatively impact student Achievement and futures.

From there we had planetary sessions which included a session I attended given by both Cathy Vander Mark and Trustee Heather Stewin . From the vantage point of a Trustee on the Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee the presentations brought home the need to continue to provide an inclusive education system that is open and inviting all students finished off my day with a Provincial Council Meeting where we passed the 2024-25 budget and appointed our Auditors for the upcoming year.

On Saturday the bulk of the day consisted of Debating and voting on 35 motions that were presented to the assembly. I was able to speak at the floor in favor of Adequate funding for Strong Start Programs, Non disclosure of electors addresses when standing for public office along with Stable funding to ensure students are properly assessed for disabilities.

All in all a important event for Boards of Education as advocacy and shared learning were the order of the event.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Farrell

Trustee



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## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

**BCSTA AGM**

**April 18-21, 2024**

**Westin Bayshore, Vancouver BC**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the BCSTA AGM at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. As usual we were kept busy with multiple speakers and concurrent sessions as well as a full day of business on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday:**

Keynote, Riaz Meghji, Human connection expert

**Friday:**

Branch Breakfast Meetings

Plenary - Beyond the ABC's - AI, Bots, Code: Preparing the Next Generation for a Changing World

Education Matters: MLA Forum 2024

- Sonia Furstenuau Leader of the BC Green Party and MLA for Cowichan Valley, BC Green Party
- Elenore Sturko Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Addiction, Recovery and Education and MLA for Surrey South, BC United
- Rachna Singh Minister of Education and Child Care and MLA for Surrey-Green Timbers, BC New Democratic Party

Student Voice - Truths from Zoomers

A student panel from Britannia Secondary, representing the Musqueam, Squamish, Tseil-Waututh nations and other urban Indigenous youth.

Concurrent Round 1

- Solving Problems at the Board Table
- Accessibility: It Is Bigger Than You Think
- Governing for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Leading With Evidence
- Indigenous Education

Concurrent Round 2

- Board Workplans for Strategic Oversight: Bringing the District Vision to Life at the Board Table
- Inclusion, Legal Implications for Boards of Education
- Governing for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Governance to Enhance Student Outcomes 2
- Creating A More Equitable Education System For First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students

**Saturday:**

Business Session all day

If you have any questions please ask.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jennifer Williams, Trustee