

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 4:02-4:11 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
6.338	Personal Electronic Device Use (McDiarmid)	New	In-committee	Yes

## NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
1.300	Strategic Plan Review (McDiarmid) Indigenous Acknowledgement (Jana)	Revision	In-Committee	Yes

### 1.300 Strategic Plan Review

Mr. McDiarmid outlined the briefing note that was provided and represents the final review of the draft Strategic Plan and reflects the priorities of the school district. The Superintendent plans to have the Board approve it in September 2024. There has been a great degree of consultation with educational stakeholders to this point.

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

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***Motion: The Board resolves to accept the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as presented and send out for public consultation for review in September 2024.***

## **Indigenous Territory Acknowledgement**

Ms. Fox attended a meeting of the Indigenous Council to discuss the current Territorial Acknowledgement. The Indigenous Education Council appreciates the Board Trustees for considering their feedback and guidance in how the Board acknowledges Witsuwit'en Territory. The Council shared ideas to consider and some suggestions for next steps.

The Council expressed the importance of acknowledging traditional Indigenous territory. In support of this call, Smither's Bridging Committee created the *Acknowledging Witsuwit'en Territory* booklet as a guide for schools and organizations in the Valley. The Council also stressed that it is important for territory acknowledgements to be authentic and communicated with personal meaning and connection; it should not be performative.

The Council suggested adding the term "unceded" to the wording of the acknowledgement which indicates that there was no formal arrangement between the Canadian government and the Witsuwit'en to allow for non-Witsuwit'en settlement on their territory.

In June, Ms. Markert will consult with Witsuwit'en community members to gather ideas and suggestions for how the Board can authentically and respectfully acknowledge Witsuwit'en Territory.

The Council's final suggestion is for the Board Trustees to engage in a learning opportunity to reflect on the significance of Indigenous Territory Acknowledgements, its purpose and impacts, and how we prevent them from becoming performative acts, all of which may inform the revision of the Territory Acknowledgement. Ms. Markert offered to provide this learning to the Board at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

\*\*\* Alternate August Board meeting was recommended for August 27<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\*

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:00 pm.**

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