



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 25, 2024 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 – May 28, 2024
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – May 28, 2024
- 5) Administration Report M. McDiarmid Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports:
 - a) Operations Committee L. Kearns Report Attached
 - b) Policy Committee K. Graham Report Attached
 - c) Trustee Reports F. Farrell Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
- 8) New Business
 - 8.1) District Strategic Plan Review
 - 8.2) 2024-2025 Capital Plan Resolution
- 9) Other Business
 - 9.1) Expenditure Summary
- 10) Reading File

Ltr. Frm: Perry Rath – Honouring Our Elders Unveiling Invitation
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- 11) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on September 24, 2024 at the School Board Office in Smithers, B.C., commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 12) Adjournment
- 13) 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*)
APRIL 23, 2024
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, F. Krishan, K. Graham, L. Kearns, J. Williams, J. Krauskopf
Regrets: P. Michell,
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 7:01pm.

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 Laksilyu, Small-Frog Clan.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed everyone present. Once again Chairperson Williams participated in the District scholarship presentations. She commented that she is always amazed at the variety of interests and wealth of knowledge that we have in our students. She also applauds the bravery of the students to do their presentations in front of strangers and thanked them for sharing their passions with the adjudicators.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Kearns 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 April 23, 2024 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 23, 2024. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of April 23, 2024 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 23, 2024 were declared approved as presented.

5.) LEARNING PORTION: Indigenous Community Support in Houston – Houston Link to Learning – Josee Gulayets spoke about her role at the Houston Link to Learning. She has filled a number of gaps in the community with students. ie: Resources access (food security), resume building, art programs, volunteer opportunities, physical activity, free programing, legal advocate. She has found that new community members are accessing the HHL program early on.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district initiatives report to the Board. District Elementary Track meet will be held on June 7, 2024 at SSS. Local elementary school have been hosting their own "mini-meets" in preparation for the district wide event. Ms. Sandra McAulay returned to SD54 and led presentations on numeracy assessment, numeracy and core competencies. A number of teachers and administrators travelled to Vancouver in May to attend the NOIE Symposium. District Authority Scholarship presentations took place during the week of May 21. On May 27, there was a professional learning recognition event held. Teacher who participated in District sponsored leavening events presented their innovation projects to the group. The SSS Fine Arts program presented the award-winning play "**Queens**". SD54 has started staffing for the 2024-2025 school year. SSS Big Band performance is being held on June 1st at the Legion.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board. Graduations ceremonies will be holding their respective ceremonies in June. MME held it's annual Community Career Day which involved 21 presenters from the community. Some of the MME staff took part in professional development events such as: Minecraft for Social Studies Integration; French & English Literacy; FASD session and Coding. Local elementary schools hosted a "Welcome to Kindergarten Day." Telkwa Elementary School has been planting sees for their school garden. On May 17, staff participated in a number of professional development activities.

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.

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

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

7.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the May 14, 2024 committee meeting. One item was moved to the Unfinished Business portion.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, June 11, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Graham presented the Policy Committee's Report from the May 14, 2024 committee meeting. One item was moved New Business portion of the meeting.
- **Policy 6.338 Personal Electronic Devices** – Committee recommended that draft policy 6.338 Personal Electronic Devices be sent out for stakeholder consultation.

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

"That the Board approved that draft policy 6.338 Personal Electronic Devices be sent out for stakeholder consultation."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, June 11, 2024 @ 4:00pm.

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were six (6) Trustee reports this month. Trustees reported on their trip to the BCSTA AGM that was held in April 2024.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **8.1) Draft 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget Bylaw:** The Operations Committee recommended that the Board proceed with the third reading of the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Budget Bylaw.
- Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented the draft 2024- 2025 Annual Budget a report to the Board.

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

"That the Board proceed with the third reading of the 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget Bylaw."

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business this month.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

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

11. READING FILE

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

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

CARRIED

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

12. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

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*)
MAY 28, 2024
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the in-camera meeting minutes of April 23, 2024. There being none, the in-camera meeting minutes of April 23, 2024 was declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Senior Administration reported on routine staffing items and school suspensions.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:39pm.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
June 28, 2024

District Update

- **Teacher Staffing Update** - SD54 has nearly completed the upcoming year's staffing. We may enter the summer with some positions to fill but it should be very few.
- **Bus Driver of the Year** - For the second consecutive year, School District 54 has the honour of celebrating another ASTSBC Bus Driver of the Year winner. Ms. Nola Blackwell has been recognized for her exceptional dedication, compassion and passion for her work.

Innovation / Initiatives

District Based Initiatives

- **Retirees** - For the first time in four years, the District held its retirement recognition party on June 24th. Gifts and notes of appreciation were given to individuals and everyone enjoyed a light dinner and drinks at the Smithers Golf Club. This year we have seven CUPE employees, nine teachers and two excluded staff retiring. That is 386 years of experience leaving the District! The District thanks them for their service to students and wishes them well into their retirement.
- **National Indigenous Peoples Day** - Like most schools and districts across the province, SD54 schools experienced a variety of ways to show respect and honour Indigenous communities on June 21st. Many schools participated in community events and held activities at their schools throughout the week.
- **Early Learning** – Welcome to Kindergarten Events are done for the year. Kindergarten teachers, staff and the P/VP did a great job welcoming new families.

Ready Set Learn Events also went well. Two full events and an Indigenous event was held at the OW Childcare Centre. The event at the OW was a great partnership and was co-planned and carried out as a team. It was a great success. Joan Hunt has been an integral part of connecting with and supporting the Indigenous early learning community as they prepare to enter the school system. Ms. Hunt connects her work with the Hasadindi Pre-school program to the greater Indigenous community. She works with Ms. Gunanoot, the ISSW at Walnut Park, and the OW childcare to connect and support Indigenous families. This has expanded to a Friday afternoon session held over lunch for caregivers and their children.

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School Based Initiatives

- **Houston Secondary Grad-** Thirty-two students walked the stage at the graduation ceremony on June 14th in the HSS gym. The heartfelt event was well attended by the staff and the community.
- **Witset Graduation Ceremony** – On the evening of June 6th, over one hundred graduates were honoured in a feast ceremony at the Witset Multiplex. The students celebrated graduating from Kindergarten, Grade 7, and Grade 12, as well as a variety of post-secondary, trades, and language programs. The beautiful ceremony was deeply appreciated by graduates, their instructors, and the community.
- **Smithers Secondary Grad** - Was held on Thursday June 20th. This year's event was arranged similar to last year with the ceremony taking place in the SSS gym. A beautiful day enjoyed by the many families in attendance.
- **Telkwa Elementary-** In May we hosted our Welcome to Kindergarten event and had an excellent turn out. We also began Track & Field practices and later held a mini track meet on May 30 at SSS before attending the District track meet on June 7. Students have been very busy with outdoor learning and field trips. The highlight was a farm visit that most classes went on where they learned about how robotics are used to milk cows and pick up manure. On June 13 we held a community BBQ and showcased student singing and drama performances. On June 27 we will be having our year end assembly to celebrate the closure of another fun and exciting year as well as saying good-bye to our grade 7's as they transition to SSS.
- **Walnut Park Elementary-** Held the entrepreneurship fair in early June, and the Rocknest campout for the grade 7's was also held and is a nice tradition. National Indigenous day activities throughout the week: Gitxan Thunder Hearts Dance and Drum Group performed, Intermediate classes went to the shared history exhibit at the museum and went to the Walter Naziel Story telling event in the library. Lots of great field trips in June- classes are enjoying all the great outdoor activities our area has to offer.
- **Twain Sullivan-** Held an art show, Indigenous Peoples Day community celebrations, PAC sponsored field trips to the pool in Houston and gymnastics/climbing wall/museum in Smithers
- **Muheim Elementary-** A variety of activities happened over the last few weeks: Thursday, June 13 Last Show of The Hobbit - Mr Gagnon's Class. Friday, June 14 last Zoller Farm Trip- Innovation Project. Monday June 17 Muheim Pride Event. Wednesday June 19 Muheim Talent Show. Friday June 21st -Music Practice at 9am in our gym; local and international artists join our choirs; Truth & Reconciliation Project, Brennan & Lauren, 10:30am Muheim Drummers open event at Friendship Center, and at 1:15pm BIG SHOWCASE SONG: Truth & Reconciliation Song
- **Smithers Secondary** - SSS Indigenous Peoples' Day Activities 2024. June 18th 2024 marks 25 years since the 'Healing Pole' outside the SSS Round Room was raised. There will be a brief Powerpoint presentation to share with homerooms. The activities will take place the week of June 18th-June 26th. Which will include: There will be 5 stations to sign out teachers were asked to do at least one activity with their class. Students can earn or win draw tickets for participating in the activities. There are Indigenous-designed ball caps, T-shirts, cards, sketchbook, earrings, and vinyl sticker bundles to be won. Activity #1: Arctic Sports, Activity #2: Hand Games, Activity #3: Beaded keychains, Activity #4: Indigenous art + culture, Activity #5: Witsuwit'en Language

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There is a Bingo game with animals, the names will be written out phonetically in Witsuwit'en so the caller can pronounce them, there is also a set of iPads with First Voices – Witsuwit'en word games bookmarked. #6 Bonus! Show off your cultural appreciation! Wear Indigenous-made apparel, read a book by an Indigenous author, or listen to music by an Indigenous artist and show/tell Ms. Staplin in the library or someone in Room 410 for a draw ticket. Bannock will be available to celebrate on the 21st.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **TSE** – 44 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel to Fort St. James National Historical Site on June 21, 2024. The Purpose of this trip is to support the social studies curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 16 Outdoor Education Students from HSS to travel to Mount Harry Davis on a number of occasions to take part in mountain bike activities. The purpose of these trips is to support the Physical Health Education curriculum and experiential education. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **SSS** – 4 Grade 8 & 9 Track and Field students from SSS to travel to Nanaimo, BC to take part in the BC Provincial Track and Field Championships on June 5-9, 2024. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** – 22 Grade 9-12 students from SSS to travel to the Bluff Trails to take part in a mountain biking workshop on June 3, 2024. The purpose of this trip is to support the Physical Health Education curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

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

- **SSS** –55 +/- Grade 10-12 SSS Sr. Concert Band and SSS Sr. Jazz Band Students travelling to Havana Cuba to take part in Education Performance Tour to Cuba the during the period of April 13th – April 22nd , 2026. Departure and return dates are subject to flight schedules. Board approval will be subject to the required travel documentation being supplied to the board office including the finalized list of students travelling.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
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OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

June 11th, 2024

5:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 5:01-5:19 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. District Strategic Plan Review Update

Mr. McDiarmid updated the committee that he would be conducting his Superintendent's report of the Strategic Plan at the June Board meeting.

2. Draft 2025-2026 Capital Plan Resolution

Mr. Margerm presented the capital plan for Major Capital application to the Ministry Capital Branch. The committee was also advised that the Minor Capital grant application for the 2025-2026 year would be approved and submitted in September 2024. This would also include a special application for a \$5.8 million HVAC project at Smithers Secondary.

Motion: The Board resolves to approve the draft 2025-2026 Major Capital application as presented.

3. Response Letter to Access Smithers

Mr. Margerm provided the original letter, copied to the Board, from Access Smithers regarding accessibility concerns for Walnut Park School. A response letter from Mr. Margerm was also provided for the Board's information.

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4. Response to Racism & Hate Protocols

Mr. McDiarmid updated the committee on documentation provided in briefing notes on the proposed *Response to Racism and Hate Protocol* document. This was initiated by Ms. Markert as a means to acknowledge and support reducing racism and hate-based critical incidents in the Bulkley/Wetzin'kwa Valley.

Motion: The Board resolves to approve the school district to sign off on the Response to Racism and Hate Protocols.

*** Alternate August Board meeting was recommended for August 27th.***

Date & Time of Next Meeting: September 10th, 2024 at 5 pm

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11th, 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 9th, 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 27th.***

Date & Time of Next Meeting: September 10th, 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."

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TRUSTEE REPORT

On Tuesday, June 18th, at 10:30 am I attended the Smithers Secondary School Legacy Project honouring the Elders Paintings.

This bi-annual event, held at the Della Herman Theater, showcased both an Indigenous and non-Indigenous elders who have contributed greatly towards community growth and student achievement. Doris Rosso, Gil seyhu (Big Frog clan), along with Gail and Richard Jenne were honored with portraits painted by student artists Juel Gould and Nevaeh Michell, who were also present during the unveiling.

The event was attended by students along with members of the community along with local dignitaries. This event was both an acknowledgement of student achievement but also a thank you to the Elders recipients. I was once again awestruck with with student art as this event.

Respectfully submitted by,
Frank Farrell
Trustee