



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
DECEMBER 10, 2024
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

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

Trustee Regrets: J. Krauskopf

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Witsuwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Williams said that sometimes a person forgets that the Telkwa Range is there and then one day you will see it. You have to remember to "look". It's been a few months that she has done this. We are surrounded by beauty and unfortunately take it for granted sometimes.
- Trustee Krauskopf sent his regrets.
- Chairperson Williams then handed the meeting over to Secretary Treasurer Margerm

3. BOARD ELECTIONS

- Secretary Treasurer Dave Margerm explained the Board Election as per Board Policy 1.160 Annual Board Elections. Mr. Margerm requested a motion to appoint Mr. McDiarmid and Ms. Fox as scrutineers for the election proceedings.

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

"That Mr. McDiarmid and Ms. Fox be named as scrutineers."

CARRIED

• **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

- Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Williams.
- Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson and called for nominations.
- Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
- Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
- Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Williams was elected the Chairperson by acclamation.

- **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Graham and Trustee Farrell.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice - Chairperson and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Trustees voted by secret ballot then Mr. McDiarmid and Ms. Fox collected the ballots from the Trustees and left the room to tabulate the votes.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Graham was elected the Vice - Chairperson by ballot voting.

- **ELECTION OF BCPSEA REPRESENTATIVE**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Kearns and Trustee Williams.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative, and called for nominations.
 - Trustee Williams withdrew her expression of interest.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Kearns was elected to the position of BCPSEA Representative by acclamation

- **ELECTION OF BCSTA PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Farrell.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor, and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Farrell was elected the BCSTA Provincial Councilor by acclamation.

- **ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trust Graham and Trustee Farrell.
 - Trustee Graham withdrew her expression of interest.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Indigenous Education Council Representative, and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Farrell was elected the Indigenous Education Council representative by acclamation.

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

"That all ballots be destroyed."

CARRIED

- Trustee Williams assumed the Chair as Presiding Officer.
- Chairperson Williams announced to the board that this is the first year Trustee Kearns has not served as Chair or Vice Chair. He has been a valuable mentor to Trustee Williams, marking a transition in leadership tonight.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of the November 26, 2024 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of November 26, 2024. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of November 26, 2024 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of November 26, 2024 were declared approved as presented.

6) ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid present the current district activities report to the Board. The 2025 Early Kindergarten registration will take place the week of January 20-24, 2025. Carolfest took place on Wednesday, December 4th to two sold out showings. Elementary and Intermediate learning summaries will be sent home on December 20th, 2024.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives report to the Board. There are a lot of fun activities going on in all of SD54 schools in the month of December.

Field Trip Proposal

- The following field trip has been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS – 30 +/-** SSS Theatre Students to travel to Terrace, BC to take part in the Northwest Zone High School Drama Festival. The students will be traveling between February 13-16, 2025. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip received **final approval** by Board of Education:
 - **SSS – 20 +/-** SSS Senior Language students in grades 9-11 to travel to Berthierville Quebec during the period of February 15 – 23, 2025. The students will be participating in an Experience Canada Language and Culture Exchange. All Board requirements have now been met for this trip.

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

"That the Board approve the trip to Berthierville, Quebec as presented."

CARRIED

7.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- There was no Operations Committee meeting this month.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- There was no Policy Committee meeting this month.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee's Williams, Kearns, Farrell and Graham all submitted Trustee Reports this month from their trip to the BCSTA Academy in November. Chairperson Williams commented that this was one of the best Trustee Academy's that she has attended.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business this month.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- **9.1) Draft 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Calendars** - Ms. Fox provided a presentation to the board regarding the draft school calendars. Ms. Fox has been in consultation with the BVTU President and the Pro-D Chairpersons and they have provided their feedback on the draft calendars. The goal for tonight is to narrow down to one draft calendar for each year. The Trustee's had good conversations around the calendars.

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

"That the Board resolves to send the draft # 4 of the 2025-2026 school calendar out for stakeholder consultation.
CARRIED

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

"That the Board resolves to delay the 2025 – 2026 calendar decision until administration receives BVTU feedback regarding amended the calendar bookend start date. "
CARRIED

10. OTHER BUSINESS

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

11. READING FILE

- No reading file this month.

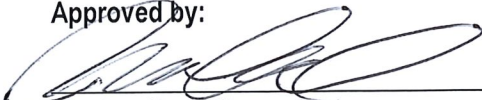
12. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on January 28, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at The School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

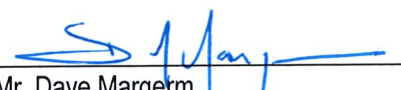
13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Approved by:



Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer