



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
JUNE 25, 2024
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

PRESENT: **Trustees:** F. Farrell, F. Krishan, K. Graham, L. Kearns, J. Krauskopf

VIA Telephone: J. Williams

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 7:02pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Vice - Chairperson Kearns acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Vice Chairperson Kearns welcomed everyone present. Trustee Michell sent her regrets. Vice Chairperson Kearns opened the meeting by highlighting some of the many year-end school activities that took place this month: 1) He congratulated all of the SD54 2024 graduates. He attended the HSS commencement ceremony and was so impressed with the wonderful ceremony. He heard wonderful comments about the SSS ceremony 2) Ms. Nola Blackwell was awarded the Bus Driver of the Year by the ASTSBC. 3) At SSS they held their Honouring Our Elders Portrait Legacy Project unveiling. This year Ms. Doris Ross (Lht'at'an) of the Gil_Seyhu-Big Frog clan was chosen and her portrait was painted by Juel Gould. In addition, Gail and Richard Jenne were also chosen and Nevaeh Michell painted their portraits. Thank you to Perry Rath for continuing this tradition.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"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 May 28, 2024 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of May 28, 2024. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of May 28, 2024 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of May 28, 2024 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district update report to the Board. Teacher staffing is nearly complete, we will be entering the summer with unfilled positions. For the second year in a row, another SD54 bus driver has received the ASTSBC Bus Driver of the Year award. Ms. Nola Blackwell has been recognized for her exceptional dedication, compassion and passion for her work. Congratulations Ms. Blackwell!
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district initiatives report to the Board. The District held its retirement recognition party on June 24th. Seven (7) CUPE employees, nine (9) BVTU employees and two (2) excluded staff retired this school year. Schools across the district experienced a variety of ways to show respect and honour Indigenous communities on June 21st. Welcome to Kindergarten events are now done for the year and the schools did a great job welcoming new families. Ready Set Learn events also went well this year. Two full events and an Indigenous event was held at the OW Childcare Centre.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board. Ms. Fox and Ms. Williams attending the Witset graduation this year. There were over 100 "graduates" this year from Kindergarten, grade seven, grade twelve, as well as a variety of post-secondary, trades and language programs. HSS held their graduation on June 14th, with SSS holding theirs on June 20th. All the schools are participating in year-end celebrations. WPS held their annual entrepreneurship fair early in June. At MME, Mr. Gagnon's class presented the "**Last Show of the Hobbit**". At SSS it has been 25 years since the "Healing Pole" was raised outside of the round room.

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.

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

"That the Board approve the proposed field trip in principle to Cuba in April 2026 as outlined."

CARRIED

6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the June 11, 2024 committee meeting. Two items were moved to the New Business portion.
- **2024-2025 Capital Plan Resolution** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented the capital plan for Major Capital that will be submitted to the Ministry Capital Branch. The Minor Capital grant application for 2025-2026 will be submitted for approval by the Board in September.

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

"That the Board resolves to approve the draft 2025-2026 Major Capital application as presented."

CARRIED

- **Response to Racism & Hate Protocols** – This document was initiated by District Principal of Indigenous Education – Birdy Markert as a means to acknowledge and support reducing racism and hate-based critical incidents in the Bulkley / Wetzin'kwa Valley.

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

"That the Board resolves to approve the school district to sign off on the Response to Racism and Hate Protocols."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, September 10, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Graham presented the Policy Committee's Report from the June 11, 2024 committee meeting. One item was moved to New Business.
- **Strategic Plan Review** - Superintendent McDiarmid provided a brief overview of the draft 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

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

"That the Board resolves to approve the draft 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as presented and have send it out for public consultation. It will be reviewed again in September."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, September 10, 2024 @ 4:00pm.

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Farrell submitted his report on his attendance at the Honouring Our Elders Portrait Legacy Project unveiling at SSS.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **District Strategic Plan – End Year update - June 2024** – Mr. McDiarmid presented the Strategic Plan year end update to the Board. The current strategic plan ran from 2020-2024 and now needs to be reviewed and updated. The updated draft District Strategic Plan will be sent out for stakeholder consultation over the summer.
- **2024-2025 Capital Plan- Minor** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented an updated on the capital plan for Minor Capital Plan that will be submitted to the Ministry Capital. The Minor Capital grant application for 2025-2026 will be submitted for approval by the Board in September.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

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

10. READING FILE

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

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

CARRIED

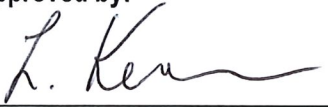
11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Vice Chairperson Kearns ended the meeting by sharing that this has been a very successful, if at times stressful year for SD54. Our successes were very much a team effort. He thanked the members of the BVTU and CUPE, our parents and community volunteers, the Board and office personnel for their hard work, and commitment to student growth and achievement in so many different venues. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, he wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.
- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Office in Smithers, BC.


12. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Approved by:

On Behalf of


 Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
 of the Board of Education



 Mr. Dave Margerm
 Secretary Treasurer