



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2025 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 – January 28, 2025
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – January 28, 2025
- 5) Learning Portion: District Mentorship Program
- 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 Report F. Farrell Report Attached
L. Kearns Report Attached
J. Williams Report Attached
- 8) Unfinished Business
 - 8.1) 2025 – 2026 Draft District Calendar
- 9) New Business
 - 9.1) 2024/2025 Amended Annual Budget
- 10) Other Business
 - 10.1) Expenditure Summary
- 11) Reading File
- 12) Closing Remarks –Next regular Board Meeting will be held on March 11, 2025 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



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (Bulkley Valley)
JANUARY 28, 2025
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered here today on the unceded traditional territory of the Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan, home of the Witsuwit'en Nation. Chairperson Williams briefly spoke about gifts she received from her family over the holidays. They were all pieces of silver jewelry in the form of leaves from the same jeweler. She not only loves nature but she is now wearing it.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed everyone present. Trustee Michell and Superintendent McDiarmid sent their regrets.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"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 December 10, 2024 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of December 10, 2024. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of December 10, 2024 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of December 10, 2024 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Assistant Superintendent Fox presented the student achievement report to the Board. Semester one will be ending soon. Early Kindergarten registration took place last week at all district elementary schools. The Trustees were presented with the mid-year strategic plan report and it will be placed on the school district website for viewing.

- Assistant Superintendent Fox presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. There a number of professional learning opportunities being offered by SD54. Early incentive notices will be sent out at the beginning of February. District Vice - Principal Mr. Scott Richmond submitted a report to the Board on the current activities in the Trades and Technology department, second semester offerings and dual-credit courses programs being offered for the 2025-2026 school year. There are lots of winter activities are taking place in all the schools.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **HSS** – 46 +/- Grade 8-12 students from Houston Secondary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on January 30 and March 7, 2025. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **TSE** – 45 +/- Grade 4 & 5 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on March 5 and April 9, 2025. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **WPS** – 50 +/- Grade 6 & 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 13, 27 and April 13, 2025. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **MME** – 42 +/- Grade 6 & 7 students from Muheim Memorial Elementary to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on February 5, 19 and March 5, 2025. The purpose of these trips is to support the active living curriculum and for a fun day of winter outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **SSS** – 45 +/- Grade 8-12 Ski and Snowboard Students from Smithers Secondary to travel to Fort St. James to participate in the High School Ski and Snowboard Zones at Murray Ridge Skill Hill on February 4-6, 2025. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** – 100 +/- Junior and Senior Concert and Jazz Band Students from Smithers Secondary to travel Prince George, BC to attend and participate in the Fanfare Prince George Band Festival on April 23-26, 2025. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the January 14, 2025 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, February 18, 2025 @ 3:30pm.

6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's report from the January 14, 2025 committee meeting.
- **Traditional Welcome Acknowledgement** - The committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed Indigenous traditional acknowledgement in the form of Policy 1.50 Witsuwit'en Territory Acknowledgement and it be sent out for public consultation.

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

“That the Board approve the draft Policy 1.500 Witsuwit'en Territory Acknowledgement and for the draft policy be sent out for stakeholder consultation as outlined. ”

CARRIED

- **BVTU Mental Health Survey** – The committee recommended the Board write a response letter that the BVTU survey has been read and reviewed.

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

“That the Board write a response letter to the BVTU stating that the BVTU Mental Health Survey has been read and reviewed. ”

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, February 18, 2025 @ 5:00pm.

6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were no trustee reports this month.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **7.1) Draft 2026 – 2027 District Calendar** – Ms. Fox provided a presentation to the board regarding the draft school calendar. Due to the extremely late Labour Day weekend and later start of the 2026/2027 school year, the proposed 2026 – 2027 District calendar will have 187 Days in session and 180 Days of Instruction. The Board has previously tried to maintain 181 days of instruction but the 2026/2027 is an exceptional calendar year. Instructional time on Thursdays will also have to be increased to account for the one lost days of instruction.
- The Trustee's had good conversations around the proposed 2026 / 2027 calendar.

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

“That the Board resolves to send the draft 2026-2027 school calendar out for stakeholder consultation.

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Strategic Plan Review** - Assistant Superintendent Fox presented the Strategic Plan Mid-Year Review to the Board.

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

“That the Board resolves to accept the mid-year Strategic Plan Review as presented.

CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- January expenditure summary was provided to the Trustees in their January 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, February 25, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at The School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

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*)
JANUARY 28, 2025
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the in-camera meeting minutes of December 10, 2024. There being none, the in-camera meeting minutes of December 10, 2024 was declared approved as presented by the Chairperson.
- Senior Administration reported on routine staffing items, school suspensions and labour relation items.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:46pm.

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REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the
Board of Education
February 25, 2025

District Update

- **District / Authority Scholarships** – We have received notification from the Ministry that the district has 15 scholarships available for distribution this year. Application packages have already been sent to the high schools and presentations will be scheduled for May 12-14, 2025. Deadline for applications is April 25th, 2025. Trustees interested in participating in the adjudication process are encouraged to notify Ms. Fox.
- **Professional Learning:**
 - ProD Days – District leaders and educators provided several ProD opportunities on February 14th, including workshops on the Book Creator Platform (Scott Richmond), POPFASD and ELL (Inclusive Ed).
 - Upcoming ProD Days learning includes the following foci: artificial intelligence, outdoor learning, Indigenous worldviews & perspectives, neurodiversity, early learning, literacy, and numeracy.
 - The District ProD Team (made up of district administrators and representatives from BVTU and CUPE) will be gathering again to plan professional learning for the remainder of the year and into next year.
 - NOIE Indigenous Impact Inquiries – Twain Sullivan and SSS are engaging in inquiry studies that focus on improving outcomes for Indigenous Learners. Members of their inquiry teams will be collaborating and networking with other educators at the NOIE Symposium in May.
 - Professional Learning Series (PLC) - The last PLC session was held on the evening of February 3rd. Twenty educators came together to share their learning and inquiries related to student engagement. The participants received books focused on student engagement and will be sharing their insights at the next meeting on April 7th.

Innovation / Initiatives

District Based Initiatives

- **Pink Shirt Day!** - On Wednesday, February 26th, schools across the district will be wearing their pink shirts, and holding a variety of activities to ERASE bullying!
- **Early Learning Update** – Early Literacy Assessment and Screening is almost fully implemented. It will be implemented for all schools by April. Our baseline information for phonological awareness and reading should be available at the end of the year.
 - We continue to have a full house at our monthly Early Learning Community of Practice. We continue to partner with the CRR and ECEBC to provide this amazing learning opportunity that bridges the childcare sector and our schools.
 - We had our 4th Changing Possibilities For Young Children session. This was hosted by our Provincial facilitator Alison Bledsoe.
 - We have hired an Indigenous ECE to run the Hasadindi Pre K program until June. We are excited to invite families back to the program. This is supported through the SEY2KT (Strengthening Early Years Transition to Kindergarten Transition) provincial initiative.

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- Mr. Richmond and Ms. Forster are working with Northern Health to co-plan an event for grade 10 and 11 students to explore jobs in the health care sector this spring. More details to come.
- Our second session of ECCE 104 Dual Credit is complete and all students successfully completed the course earning both high school and college credits. We will be offering another session in the fall of 2025.
- Work continues to happen at Muheim as we prepare to house a YMCABC before and after school care program.
- **The Inclusive Education** - The department hosted 2 consultants in the district this week. We had an ELL consultant up from Provincial School Outreach and a teacher consultant from POPFASD.
 - The ELL consultant (Rick Chan) worked with teachers and students at Walnut Park, Smithers Secondary, and Muheim. He was able to collaborate with our speech pathologist on supporting one of our students. Mr. Chan also hosted a three (3) hour presentation to review language learning, key strategies, and some time to explore tools to support students in our classrooms. 10 teachers from all Smithers schools attended.
 - Our POPFASD teacher consultant, Trina Chivilo, co-taught with teachers at Walnut Park on Thursday morning. She worked with all Kindergarten and K/1 teachers from the district in a play-based workshop on Thursday afternoon. On Friday she presented for three (3) hours on strategies to support complex learners. Our district psychologist and SLP joined this session. Teachers from Walnut Park, Muheim, Telkwa, and Silverthorne schools joined. EAs from Muheim and Walnut Park attended.

School Based Initiatives

- **Muheim:**
 - Kindness & Compassion Theme School-Wide
 - Emphasis on Core Values and supporting others
 - Highlighting notable traits in others and what makes a person "inspirational"
 - Kindness (Estimation) Jar Raffle; organized by our secretaries to recognize and acknowledge students who do kind acts for others
 - Valentine's Dance for Intermediate students
 - Visit to the Meadows with two classes (elders and staff received cards and cookies prepared by students, Grade 4/5 class and Kindergarten class danced and sang a song with residents
 - Pink Shirt Day Assembly Feb 26th; jar raffle winners announced, Ms. L'Orsa leads a xylophone presentation, recognition of our friend Ms. Palmer as our model of compassion, school wide singing of "You Can Count on Me" song
 - February 14th ProD: Numeracy at MME; grounding ourselves in our "why" ; Self-Regulation and Mindfulness are foundations to connection & learning; Book Creator; Unpacking Numeracy Strategies and Resources; POPFASD: Neurodiversity & Complex Needs
 - Carnaval de Muheim! Kick-off assembly, pancake breakfast, dancing and photos with Bonhomme, February 28th Outdoor Carnaval Day with eight (8) stations including games, face-painting, French music and story-telling, maple taffy and more!
 - Jump Rope for Heart; school-wide initiative to learn more about and give to the Heart & Stroke Foundation

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- **Twain Sullivan Elementary**
 - Professional Development Day actives for the staff included:
 - Numeracy collaboration: strategies & resources
 - POPARD
 - OH&S training
 - First Aid
 - NOIE Impact Study
- **Telkwa Elementary**
 - On the Feb. 14 Pro-D day teachers participated in various forms of pro-d. Some attended the POPEYE workshop, others collaborated with Leone MacDonald and some focused-on writing strategies.
 - Ms. MacDonald will also be coming to our School Thursday staff meeting day to share and collaborate on writing strategies with a focus on how to tweak lessons to address the diverse needs of our students.
 - Science World came to our school to teach and demonstrate 'Fantastic Forces'.
 - Scott Richmond will be coming in to work with our grade 6 boys on a Candy Dispenser ADST project.
 - On Feb. 26 we will be celebrating Pink Shirt day and our grade 6/7 leadership team will be organizing some fun activities.
 - The District's Safeteen Team will be coming to our grade 6/7 class to teach and discuss personal safety.
- **Walnut Park Elementary**
 - We had a school wide winter house event. We spent an afternoon outside going to a variety of different stations which included, sliding, snowshoeing, frisbee golf, dodgeball etc.
 - We are continuing to work on our school goal of kindness using the book "Be a good ancestor" by Leona Prince. Currently, classes are adopting a common area of the school to take care of.
 - Our intermediate teachers are planning to start literature circles to improve reading and comprehension.
 - Our learner support and primary teachers are working on early learning profiles.
 - Many of our classes have been taking part in field trips such as skating, gymnastics and skiing.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – 26 +/- Grade 8-12 Ski and Snowboard Students from Smithers Secondary to travel to Quesnel to participate in the High School Ski and Snowboard Provincials at Troll Mountain Ski Resort on February 23-26, 2025 All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TSE** – 170 +/- Grade 4 - 7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary to travel to Silverthorne Lake May 29, 2025. The purpose of this trip is to support the TEK Curriculum and for a fun day of spring outdoor activities. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

February 18th, 2025

3:30 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 3:38 pm – 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

1. Draft 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 District Calendar

Ms. Fox reviewed the Draft 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Calendars public consultation feedback. The consultation feedback came from parents, employees and a few public. There were a few minor concerns with the timing of placement of holidays or non-instructional days. Overall, the feedback was generally in agreement with draft calendars.

Motion: The Committee recommends the Board approve the Draft 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Calendars as presented.

2. Draft 2024-2025 Amended Budget

Mr. Margerm reviewed the briefing note provided for the Draft 2024-2025 Amended Budget. There were increases in revenues from general operating and other grants funds, as compared to projected, creating gains of \$1,014,740. Projected expenses increased by \$327,026. The amended budget accounts for a \$772,575 appropriation from operating surplus. The net increase to the district balance is \$696,087. This amount constitutes the surplus left in special purpose funds. The amended 2023-2024 budget continues to be balanced. Consequently, Mr. Margerm will review the Draft 2023-2024 Amended Budget update at the February Board Meeting.

Motion: Subject to the Draft 2024-2025 Amended Budget presentation, the Committee recommends the Board approve the Draft 2024-2025 Amended Budget as presented.

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3. Draft 2025-2026 Budget Timeline Update

Spring 2025 Draft Budget Timeline

- February: Enrollment, class configurations generated, district departmental budget meetings
- March: District staffing meetings and preparation of initial draft budget.
Receive projected funding from Ministry.
- April: First readings of bylaw and initial presentation of budget and strategic plan to the Board, consultation with Indigenous Council, unions and educational stakeholders.
Reconciliation of funding with proposed expenses.
- May: Continued consultation with stakeholders, and any revisions required to balance budget, third reading of bylaw.
- June: If necessary, third reading of bylaw.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 8th, 2025 at 3:30 pm

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 18th, 2025

5:00 PM

School Board Office

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

The meeting was conducted from 5:01 pm – 5:15 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.”*

AGENDA

PREVIOUS MEETING OF January 14th, 2025

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
1.500	<i>Traditional Welcome Acknowledgement Teacher Survey on Mental Health/Wellness</i>	New New	In-committee	Yes No

NEW BUSINESS

Policy	Description	Type	Status	Consultation
1.500 1.120	<i>Witsuwit’en Territory Acknowledgement consultation Board Meetings</i>	New Revision	In-committee In-Committee	Yes Yes

Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 8th, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

1. Policy 1.500 Witsuwit'en Territory Acknowledgement Consultation

The consultation period has ended without the district receiving any public input.

Motion: The committee recommends the Board approve draft Policy 1.500.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

2. Policy 1.120 Board Meetings

The committee discussed a policy revision to Policy 1.120. The revision brought forward by Trustee Williams was to propose beginning public board meetings at an earlier time. The committee discussed options for different start times prior to 7 pm for the public meeting, and the coinciding start time for the in-camera meeting.

Motion: The committee recommends a resolution for the public board meeting to start at 5:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

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



TRUSTEE REPORT
Indigenous Education Council Meeting
February 4, 2025

On February 4th from 1-3pm, I attended my first Indigenous Education Council Meeting held at the Learner Support Centre in Smithers. This Council is made up of all stakeholders of Wet'suwet'en Territory meeting in the advancement of Indigenous education within our schools.

From the vantage point of a newcomer to the council I was attempting to understand and digest as much as I can from the first meeting. Amongst the items tabled included:

1. School-Based Reports and District staff reports;
2. 1.31 Working Budget (2024-2025);
3. New Legislation with a new term of reference- stay the course;
4. C' idimsggin'is plain Paris France.

A couple of notes from the agenda:

1. I was informed that during the delegation that visited Paris France also visited areas under the Eiffel Tower that Wet'suwet'en and other Indigenous soldiers were forced to stay during war time duty. Another example of the segregated treatment that Indigenous faced while serving Canada.
2. Discussion of Bill 40 and how its implementation will affect the work of the council. It was concluded that the work of the council shall remain as "stay the course". Noting that the process in place is working and not deviating from the intent of Bill 40.

All in all, the meeting was informative and along with all other participants included Assistant Superintendent Fox fellow Trustee Michell along with Principal of Indigenous Education Birdy Markert providing me with great insight.

Next meeting is scheduled April 1st at 1pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank Farrell
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 BCPSEA AGM Coast Coal Harbour, Vancouver January 30-31, 2025

On January 30th & 31st I participated in the Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association. The format of the AGM involved one day of BCPSEA business and the following day of Representative Council sessions, with a focus on teacher and support staff bargaining.

Day 1 Business Sessions

- reports by the BCPSEA Board Chair (Eve Flynn) and CEO (Bruce Anderson)
- explanation, for the benefit of new Trustees, who BCPSEA are and what they do
- “Conflict of Interest” workshop in preparation for Day 2 sessions
- 2023/24 audited financial statements
- 2024/25 budget approval
- passing of a resolution to change the name of the Powell River School District to qathet
- election to fill 4 open positions for BCPSEA Board of Directors (all 4 candidates won by acclamation).

Day 2 Representative Council Sessions

several of these sessions were not available to representative in conflict

- welcome by Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care
- local teacher and support staff bargaining updates
- bargaining in a new era and communication strategies
- update and review of recruitment and retention strategies

if you have any questions, please contact Jen or I

Submitted by:
Trustee Les Kearns
BCPSEA Representative



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PO Box 758
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0
Ph (250) 877-6820

TRUSTEE REPORT BCPSEA AGM Coast Coal Harbour, Vancouver January 30-31, 2025

The BCPSEA AGM was held on January 30-31, 2025, at the Coast Coal Harbour. The session officially began with a Territorial Acknowledgement by Eve Flynn, Chair of the BCPSEA Board of Directors, followed by a welcome and opening remarks. Tracy Loffler, Vice-President of the BC School Trustees Association, also provided greetings.

The Board Chair Report was presented by Eve Flynn, followed by the CEO Report from Bruce L. Anderson. Deneka Michaud, Chief Communications Officer, provided an overview of BCPSEA's role and ongoing initiatives.

The morning session resumed with a discussion on conflict of interest led by Chris Beneteau, Executive Director of LR. This was followed by the business session, during which financial statements for 2023-2024 were reviewed, the 2025-2026 budget was approved, auditors were appointed, and proposed resolutions were debated. Nominations for the Board of Directors were also accepted all positions were filled by acclimation. There were no changes to the board of directors. The business session resumed with candidate acceptance speeches.

The final segment on January 30, "Moving Forward in a New Era Part 1," focused on bargaining objectives and was facilitated by Justin Rempel, Executive Director of Labour Relations. Attendance for this discussion required no conflict of interest.

On January 31, the Representative Council session began with a Territorial Acknowledgement and welcome from Bruce L. Anderson, CEO of BCPSEA. Key topics included a Local Teacher Bargaining Update presented by Alison Jones and Tara Sweet, as well as a speech from the Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care. There wasn't a Q and A due to time constraint.

Further discussions included Local Support Staff Bargaining and a Provincial Bargaining Discussion, led by Justin Rempel. Deneka Michaud presented Communication Strategies for Bargaining, followed by a session on Recruitment and Retention presented by Bailey Blencowe, Stephanie Low, and Cloë Nicholls.

The event concluded with an AGM Summary by Bruce L. Anderson and closing remarks from Eve Flynn, Chair of the BCPSEA.

The sessions were informative and focused on the upcoming provincial bargaining as well as recruitment and retention initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jennifer Williams
Board Chair/ BCPSEA alternate rep