



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
MAY 27, 2025
HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL - Library, HOUSTON B.C.

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Farrell, F. Krishan, K. Graham, L. Kearns, J. Williams, J. Krauskopf,
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 5:45pm.

2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered here today on the unceded traditional territory of the Laksilyu, Small-Frog Clan, home of the Witsuwit'en Nation.
- Chairperson Williams's personal reflection on the land had her travelling across the country and back again in the past two weeks. She said coming home and seeing the mountains after seeing the ocean was like she was living the best of the both worlds. The mountains around us are so grand and majestic and she is very thankful to be living in this part of the country.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Trustee Krishan noted that on the agenda his name was reported as "*J. Krishan*" when it should have been "*F. Krishan*".

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

"That the amended 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 22, 2025 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 22, 2025. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of April 22, 2025 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 25, 2025 were declared approved as presented.

5.) LEARNING PORTION:

- **Indigenous Cultural Practices & Student Learning at HSS.** Presented by Geoff Dickieson – HSS Teacher and Liz Moore HSS Indigenous Support Worker (Marisa Chambers was unable to attend the presentation). They spoke about their hide tanning and carving and Indigenous Cultural Practice workshops with HSS Students. They were the recipients of many grants and were able to work with a number of local Indigenous partners in the community. They also participated in two Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) field trips.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district initiatives report to the Board. District Elementary Track meet will be held on June 6, 2025 at SSS. Local elementary school have been hosting their own "mini-meets" in preparation for the district wide event. The Indigenous Education Department hosted a pro-d event called "Yintah Land-Based Learning" at Tyhee Lake on the May 16 professional development day. A number of teachers and administrators travelled to Vancouver in May to attend the NOIIE Symposium. District Authority Scholarship presentations took place during the week of May 12. Round one of the teacher staffing for the 2025-2026 school year has been completed. Currently round two is underway. SD54 has introduced "SafeArrival" a new reporting system will allow parents and caregivers to use an app to reports their students' absences. The Trades and Technology department had a number of pro-d events through the month and arranging for new programs for the 2025-2026 school year. MS. Preston has been taking the District Trades van around to a variety of elementary classrooms to support the delivery of the ADST Curriculum, particularly in the areas of trades and careers. with The Early Learning department has been gearing up to host their annual "Ready Set Learn" and "Welcome to Kindergarten" events.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board. Graduations ceremonies will be holding their respective ceremonies in June. All district schools were very busy with events and programming for their students. While the staff participated in a number of professional development offerings.

Field Trip Proposals

- **HSS** – Grade 9-12 Outdoor Education students from HSS will participate in the following field trips during semester two:

Excursion Date	Destination	Purpose	# of Students
May 21, 2025	Klinger Lake	Canoeing	20
May 27, 2025	Helen Lake	Canoeing	20
June 4, 2025	Owen Lake	Canoeing	20
June 11, 2025	Mr. Harry Davis	Mountain Biking	20
June 4-6, 2025	Joe L'Orsa Cabin	Camping & Experiential Education	20
June 19, 2025	China Nose	Experiential Education / Hiking	20

All Board requirements have been met for these trips.

- **HSS** – 80 +/- Grade 8-9 students from Houston Secondary School to travel to Silverthorne Lake on May 23, 2025. The purpose of this trip is to take part in a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) field trip. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **SSS** – 15 +/- Grade 8-12 Track and Field students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Prince Rupert, BC on May 10, 2025 to participate in the Track and Field Zone meet. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **SSS** – 5 +/- Grade 8-12 Track and Field students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Langley, BC on June 5-8, 2025 to participate in the BC Provincial Track and Field Championships. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **MME** – 35 Grade 6/7 students from Muheim Memorial Elementary to travel to Rock Nest Bible Camp on June 16-17, 2025. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the class year end class celebrations, outdoor education, community building and health and physical fitness.
- **SSS** – 20 +/- Grade 11-12 Ultimate Athletes from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Surrey, BC on May 21-24, 2025 to participate in the Provincial Ultimate Championships. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

7.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Committee Chairperson Kearns presented the Operations Committee's Report from the May 6, 2025 committee meeting. One item was moved to the Unfinished Business portion.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 3:30pm.

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's Report from the May 6, 2025 committee meeting.
- **Policy 1.200 Superintendent Evaluation** – The committee recommended that the Board review and discuss revised policy language with the intention to approve any revisions. The draft policy will be brought back to the Policy Committee for further review and discussion.
- **Policy 11.140 Student Transportation** – Committee recommended that draft policy 11.140 Student Transportation be approved as outlined. Assistant Superintendent Fox provided the background on the policy revision.

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

"That the Board approve the amended draft policy 11.140 Student Transportation as outlined."

CARRIED

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- Next meeting date Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 5:00pm.

8.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were eight (8) Trustee reports this month. Trustees reported on their trip to the BCSTA AGM that was held in April 2025. In addition, Trustee Farrell submitted a report regarding his participation in the Inclusion and Accessibly working group. Trustee Krishan submitted an additional report regarding Motion 37 which focused on funding and support for community engagement in inclusive education (specifically around SOGI) from the BCSTA AGM.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **8.1) Draft 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget Bylaw:** The Operations Committee recommended that the Board proceed with the third reading of the Draft 2025-2026 Annual Budget Bylaw.
- Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided an overview of the budget process over the past three months. There was a fulsome discussion around the table about the proposed 2025 – 2026 Annual Budget and planning for future school years. Mr. Margerm presented the draft 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget report to the Board for review and discussion.

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

"That the Board approves the Draft 2025-2026 Annual Budget be sent out for public consultation as outlined."

CARRIED

11. OTHER BUSINESS

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

12. READING FILE

- There was no reading file this month.

13. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office in Smithers, BC.

14. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Approved by:



Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer