



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
FEBRUARY 24, 2026
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

PRESENT: Trustees: F. Krishan, J. Williams, L. Kearns, P. Michell, J. Krauskopf, K. Graham,
Regrets: P. Michell, F. Farrell,
Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent of Schools
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 5:30pm.

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 reached out to the Board chairperson to of SD59 – Tumber Ridge to extend SD54's condolences. She also wanted to send out condolences to the Town of Tumbler Ridge and to acknowledge how important mental health is. Given that Tumbler Ridge is a community similar in size to Houston, many residents know the students and staff personally, which deepens the impact of the loss.
- Trustee Farrell and Trustee Michell sent their regrets.

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. LEARNING PORTION – Muheim Memorial Elementary Principal Liliana Pesce, MME teacher Angie Neiser and two MME students presented the initiative Growing in Community – A Living Roots Farm Partnership to the Board. This initiative has grown expediently since 2023 after being initially approached by the Zoller Family to provide Land Based Learning on the Living Roots Farm. MME Teacher Sondra Young is also a teacher lead with Ms. Neiser on this initiative. This initiative also meets the District Strategic and School goals.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2026 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of January 27, 2026. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2026 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of January 27, 2026 were declared approved as presented.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the District update to the Board. 16 - \$1,250 District Authority Scholarships have been allocated to SD54 this year. Scholarship presentations will take place on May 11-13, 2026. The District has a lot of professional development scheduled for its staff members to partake in over the next few months.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. Pink Shirt Day is on February 25 and the district schools will hold a variety of activities to ERASE bullying. The Inclusive Education department is hosting a number of workshops. Mr. McDiarmid also thanked Ms. Dufresne for coordinating a rapid response with her team, to support SD54 staff after the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge. The career and trade programming is up and running for the second semester. Mr. McDiarmid highlighted the new dual-credit Graphic Design program through SFU.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board. Muheim Memorial celebrated their annual Carnival celebration last week. Twain Sullivan & HSS are hosting the District basketball playdate on February 27. Telkwa teacher, Brennan Anderson is taking the entire school of Telkwa Elementary to the Lakes District Festival of Performing Arts in April. HSS is continuing its partnership with the local Friendship Centre. The most recent workshop had the students hide tanning with birch bark, processing porcupine quills for jewelry work and making rawhide boxes using hides processed earlier in the year. The Provincial Ski & Snowboard Championships will be held on Hudson Bay Mountain on March 2-4, 2026. Silverthorne celebrated Literacy Week with a Morning Mystery Reader each day, including Houston's RCMP Liaison Officer.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **TES** – 120+/- Grade k-7 students from Telkwa Elementary School to travel to Burns Lake, BC on April 17, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to participate in the Lakes District Performing Arts Festival and to support the music curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **MME** – 54+/- Grade 6-7 students from Muheim Elementary School to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on three separate occasions (March 4, March 18 and April 9, 2026). The purpose of these trips is to support the physical literacy curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **WPS** – 29+/- Grade 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel up to Hudson Bay Mountain on three separate occasions (March 5, March 19 and April 8, 2026). The purpose of these trips is to support the physical literacy curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **SSS** – 16 +/- Senior Drama / Theatre Tach students from Smithers Secondary to travel Prince Rupert, BC to attend and participate in the 2026 Northwest Zone Drama Festival on February 20-23, 2026. 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 February 10, 2026 committee meeting. One item was moved to the Unfinished Business portion of the meeting.
- Next meeting date Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 3:30pm.

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented the Policy Committee's report from the February 10, 2026 committee meeting. Unfortunately, the Policy Chairperson fell ill and was unable to attend the board meeting to present the Policy Committee report.

- The Board engaged in a thorough and thoughtful discussion regarding the proposed revisions to Policy 1.150 (Committee Structure) and Policy 1.120 (Board Meetings).
- Next meeting date Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 5:00pm.

7.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Farrell submitted a trustee report on the February Indigenous Council meeting in which he attended on behalf of the Board of Education.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **8.1) Draft 2025 -2026 Amended Budget** – The committee recommended that the Board proceed with the third reading of the 2025 – 2026 Draft Amended Budget Bylaw at the February 24, 2026 board meeting. Secretary Treasurer presented the draft 2025-2026 Amended Budget to the Board.

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

“The Board approved the third reading of 2025 - 2026 Amended Budget Bylaw.”

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

- **9.1) Board Authority / Authorized (BAA) Courses** – Assistant Superintendent Fox presented the board with six BAA courses for approval. They are Principles of Sport - Volleyball 10, 11, 12 and Peer Tutoring 10,11,12.

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

“The Board approved the six (6) Board Authority / Authorized Courses as outlined.”

CARRIED

10. OTHER BUSINESS

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

11. READING FILE

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

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

CARRIED

12. CLOSING REMARKS

- The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office in Smithers, BC.


13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Approved by:



Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Mr. Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer