



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (Bulkley Valley)
MAY 26, 2026
HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL - HOUSTON, BC**

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

Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent
 J. Fox – Assistant Superintendent
 D. Margem – Secretary Treasurer
 L. Smaha-Muir – Incoming Secretary Treasurer
 B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm.

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 commented that she always looks forward to the annual Houston Board meetings.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"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 April 28, 2026 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 28, 2026. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2026 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of April 28 2026 were declared approved as presented.
- BCSTA Long Service Awards were presented to: Trustee Priscilla Michell – Lifetime service Award 25 years; Trustee Jennifer Williams 12 years. Trustee Farrell and Trustee Kearns received their long service awards at the BCSTA AGM in April.

5. LEARNING PORTION: Twain Sullivan Elementary Music Program – Mr. Loyd Curley, Ms. Raquel Timms presented a report and video to the Board about the Twain Sullivan Music program. One of the highlights is that the Twain choir (Grades 4-7) attended the Burns Lake Music Festival. The students exceeded expectations and won a gold ribbon and their presentation has been submitted to the provincial competition .

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district-based initiatives to the Board. Students are preparing for the District Track and Field event taking place on June 12th. The Indigenous Education Department in partnership with the BVTU, hosted Dr. Gillian Judson and Leona Prince on May 14 & 15. A team of teachers and administrators attended the provincial NOII symposium. District Scholarship presentations took place the week of May 11. SD54 has started the staffing process for the 2026-2027 school year. MME held their annual Career Day on May 21 and a number of classrooms are being supported with the use of hand tools and the mobile 3D printer lab through the Trades Department. District staff (Scott Richmond) and two (2) SSS Students participated on a keynote panel at the Minerals North Conference. The topic was centred on career-oriented learning outside the classroom. They were very well received by the delegates. Grade 8/9 ADST students at SSS will be designing and delivering mentorship workshops to elementary classes from MME, WPS and Telkwa. The District Principal of Learner Support met with the Northern Accessibility Working Group to discuss priorities for the next three (3) years. The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed by the Accessibility Committee before being finalized.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives to the Board. Graduation season is upon us. Telkwa Elementary hosted Indigenous author Maya McKibbin recently. MME hosted their annual career day – a highlight for Mr. McDiarmid was a mountain biker jumping over a group of grade 3 students. It is always a great event for the students supported by the business community. Silverthorne hosted their third annual reading contest. Schools are busy preparing for the District Track and Field say; lots of planned field trips; lots of spring sports activities taking place. SSS held student interviews with a sample of Grade 8-12 students. The interviews consisted of questions around the student's school experiences; what can the school do better? ; and student voices. HSS has their last elective wheel happening which consists of golf, yoga, small engine repair.. Welcome to K days have been taking place in our District Elementary Schools. Learning has moved outdoors now that the weather is getting better. The District received a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation recognizing SD54 students, staff and parents for contributing \$ 3,431.55 in 2025 with a accumulated total of \$ 114,724.20 raised to date by SD54 students!

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **HSS – 70+/-** Grade 8-9 students from Houston Secondary to travel to Silverthorne Recreation Site on May 29, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to participate in a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Day. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS – 25+/-** Grade 10-12 students from Houston Secondary to travel to Mount Harry Davis on two separate occasions (June 8 and June 22, 2026). The purpose of these trips is to support the Outdoor Education and Physical Health Education curriculums. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **HSS – 25+/-** Grade 10-12 students from Houston Secondary to travel to various local lakes in the Houston, B.C. area (Klinger, Irrigation, Helen lakes) on three separate occasions (May 20, May 27 and June 10, 2026). The purpose of these trips is to support the Outdoor Education and Physical Health Education curriculums. All Board requirements have been met for these trips.
 - **SSS – 30 +/-** SSS Track and Field athletes from Smithers Secondary to travel to Prince Rupert, BC to attend and participate in the 2026 Track and Field Zone Championships during the period of May 22-23, 2026. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **MME – 35+/-** Grade 7 Students from Muheim Elementary School to travel to Rock Nest Ranch on June 3-5, 2026, The purpose of this trip is to take part in the Grade 7 year- end celebrations, community building, health and health and physical fitness. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

- **SSS – 30 +/- SSS** Ultimate Athletes from Smithers Secondary to travel to Surrey, B.C. to participate in the Ultimate Provincial Championships at the Newton Athletic Park during the period of May 24-27, 2026. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **WPS – 120 +/-** Grade k-3 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Rough Acres on June 22, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the primary year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **WPS – 43 +/-** Grade 7 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Rock Nest Ranch on June 8-9, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to support the Physical and Health Education curriculum, foster social responsibility, teamwork and provide students with an opportunity to participate in year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **WPS – 23 +/-** Grade 6/7 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to the Joe L'Orsa Cabin on June 16-17, 2026. The purpose of this trip is to support the Physical and Health Education curriculum, foster social responsibility, teamwork and provide students with an opportunity to participate in year-end celebrations. 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 May 12, 2026 committee meeting. One item was moved to the Old Business portion of the meeting.
- **2026 General Elections** - The committee recommended that Incoming Secretary Treasurer Lauren Smaha-Muir and Bobbie Kingsmill, Human Resources Administrator be appointed Chief Elections Officer and Deputy Chief Election's officer respectively.

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

"The approves that pursuant to Section 41(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act, Lauren Smaha- Muir, Incoming Secretary Treasurer, be appointed Chief Election Officer for conducting the 2026 general local elections with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 general local elections; and that Bobbie Kingsmill, Human Resources Administrator, be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 general local election."

CARRIED

-
- The Board discussed the proposed Draft Board Meeting Calendar and approved that the Trustee Information Night be held on September 1st .
 - Next meeting date Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 3:30pm.

7.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell presented the Policy Committee's Report from the May 12, 2026 committee meeting.
- **Bylaw #1 Trustee Elections** – The committee recommended approving the amended draft Bylaw #1 Trustee Elections as presented.

Chairperson Williams asked for unanimous consent to do all three readings tonight for the Bylaw #1 Trustee Elections. Unanimous consent was given.

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

"That the Board approve the amended Bylaw #1 Trustee Elections as outlined."

CARRIED

- Next meeting date Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 5:00pm.

7.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS

- There were no Trustee Reports submitted this month.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **8.1) 2026 – 2027 Draft Annual Budget** - Secretary Treasurer Margerm – provided an overview of the draft 2026 – 2027 Annual Budget. The strategic plan has been instrumental in developing the 2026-2027 Annual Budget. The budget is balanced.
- The committee recommended proceeding with the third reading of the Draft 2026-2027 Budget Bylaw .

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

"That the Board proceed with the third reading of the 2026 - 2027 Annual Budget Bylaw."

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

- **9.1) Proposed Letter to Sharon Hartwell – MLA** – Trustee Krishan spoke on the Human Rights Code Repeal Act. MLA Tara Armstrong moved a motion in the B.C. Legislature to introduce a bill called the Human Rights Code Repeal Act. The motion was defeated 50 to 37 . Sharon Hartwell – MLA Bulkley Stikine voted in favour of introducing it . Trustee Krishan explained to the Board that this bill would have repealed the B.C. Human Rights Code, eliminated The Human Rights Tribunal, removed the Human Rights Commissioner, and cancelled outstanding tribunal orders.

Trustee Krishan introduced a motion requesting that the Board send a letter to MLA Hartwell seeking a clear explanation of her support for the introduction of the bill.

The board had a fulsome discussion on this very important issue as it goes against everything the Board of Education including stands for.

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

"That the Board approve sending a letter to MLA Sharon Hartwell requesting a clear explanation of her support for the introduction of the bill."

CARRIED

Chairperson Williams will send a draft letter to the Trustees for approval prior to it being sent.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

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

11. READING FILE

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

"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, June 23, 2026, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office, in Smithers, BC.

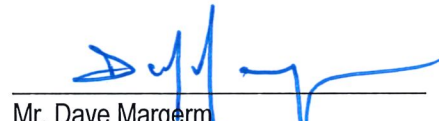
13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Approved by:



Ms. Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Mr. Dave Margem
Secretary Treasurer