



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)  
APRIL 15, 2014  
MORICETOWN MULTI-PLEX, MORICETOWN, BC

**PRESENT:** Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, P. Michell, L. Collingwood, K. Martinsen, J. McIntosh, S. Yaremco  
Regrets: M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools  
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer  
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm

**MOVED/SECONDED:** F. Farrell / S. Yaremco

***"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."***

CARRIED

- The Board returned to Regular session at 7:05pm.

**2. OPENING REMARKS**

- Chairperson Kearns thanked the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and Mr. Henry Alfred, Chief Ut'akgit for the opportunity for us to hold our meeting in their territory. Trustee Kearns welcomed our guest: Birdy Markert, District Principal Aboriginal Services. Mr. Kearns sent out congratulations to Kuri Daust who received a second place award at the Taiwan International Science Fair. HSS had their annual arts fair that highlighted the school projects in music and drama. Twain Sullivan had a careers day where Mr. Kearns was a presenter. Thank you to the Twain Sullivan staff for organizing careers day.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED/SECONDED** J. McIntosh / F. Farrell

***"That the agenda be accepted as presented."***

CARRIED

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 25, 2014; the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes March 25, 2014. There being none, the minutes of: March 25, 2014 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes March 25, 2014 were declared approved as presented.

## 5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

### District Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives to the board: The 2014 – 2015 staffing process is well underway. We have established a process that ensures that the allocation of staffing and resources is equitable, transparent, sustainable and student driven; 20 District Scholarships will be awarded this year, with the presentations being held the week of May 14<sup>th</sup>; Trustee Kearns encouraged trustee participation in the Dogwood presentations; Grade 4 feast was recently held. Mr. Cori Merriman brought three drummers from Lake Kathlyn. There is a series of Witsuwit'en videos available on our website. These videos brought back a lot of emotion for the Witsuwit'en peoples. The videos were compiled by Tyler McCreary. The Regional Science Fair was hosted at NWCC this past weekend; Ms. Brownlie returns to work with our teachers on April 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>; The April Education Forum will take place on April 30<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by our District Trades Coordinator Monika Strimbold. The Ed Forum will be about our current plans for Ace-IT, the upcoming Yes 2IT elementary trades opportunity and our long term plans for trades in general; The PLC/NOII group of 30+ teachers met on April 7<sup>th</sup> where they completed their examination of John Hattie's, Visible Learning for Teachers the final meeting will be on May 22; SSS student, Nico Palumbo competed at the Provincial Skills Competition where he placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 13! Superintendent van der Mark received an email from Mrs. Palumbo expressing what a great experience the Skills Canada competition was for her son.

### School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the school based initiatives to the Board: HSS recently held their Annual Arts Fair on April 11<sup>th</sup>, thanks to HSS staff for putting on the event; SSS Music program competed in Terrace where they produced some outstanding results.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trip received approval by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - TSE – 20 +/- Grade 4 Students to travel to Prince Rupert and Ayanish for their class year end field trip on June 9 through June 13, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - SSS – 15 Grade 11/12 Aviation Students to travel to Everett Washington to learn more about the aviation field and career opportunities on June 2 through June 6, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - WPS – 19 Grade 4 Students to Travel to Fort St. James on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for their year-end trip. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - LKS – 33 Grade 6/7 Students to travel to Takysie Lake for their year-end field trip on June 17 through June 20, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - SSS – 50 +/- Grade 8-12 Arts Academy Students to Travel to Prince George to attend Theater Northwest's production of "**Bemused**" on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - SSS – 20 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Education Students to travel to the Babine Mountains Provincial Park for some back country camping and hiking during the period of April 10-12, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - SSS – 14 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Education Students to travel to Nankia –Kidprice to take part in a wilderness canoe and camping trip during the period of May 22-25, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip received approval *in-principle* by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - SSS – 8 +/- Grade 8-12 Students to travel Vancouver to attend the Aboriginal Youth Conference during the period of May 11 – 14, 2014.
- **China Mission** – Superintendent van der Mark displayed gifts he received from his recent trip to China. There were many highlights for Mr. van der Mark, Mr. McAulay and Mr. Fehr, but some of them were: The exchange program has some really neat opportunities for student exchange, personalization and twenty-first generation of learning; arts and drama looked like SD54 classes. They were very kind and gracious hosts.

**OPERATIONS:**

- Provincial Labour Update: Superintendent van der Mark provided an updated on the Provincial Labour Dispute: Provincial bargaining is still ongoing, BCTF has done a strike vote and can give 72 hour strike notice anytime, when that happens, recess will be cancelled, the school day will start 15 minutes earlier. The bus schedules have been adjusted.

**6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE**

- Trustee Farrell presented the invitation to the April Education Forum on the District Trades program.

**6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Chairperson Michell presented the Operations Committee's Report from the April 1, 2014 meeting;
- Chairperson Kearns asked for unanimous consent to do all three reading tonight for Capital Bylaw # 126770 (2014 – 2015 AFG) . Unanimous consent was given.

**MOTION/ SECONDED** F. Farrell / L. Collingwood

***" The committee recommends that the Board give all 3 readings to the Capital Bylaw # 126770 (2014 – 2015 AFG)***

**CARRIED**

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**CAPITAL PROJECT BYLAW NO. 126770**

A BYLAW by the Board of Education of School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) (hereinafter called the "Board") to adopt a Capital Project.

WHEREAS in accordance with provisions of the *School Act* the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") has approved Capital Project **No. 126770 (2014-2015 AFG)**.

NOW THEREFORE the Board agrees to the following:

- (a) upon approval to proceed, commence the Project and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete the Project substantially in accordance with the Project Agreement or as directed by the Minister;
- (b) observe and comply with any rule, policy or regulation of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the Project; and,
- (c) maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the Project, as may be prescribed by the Minister.

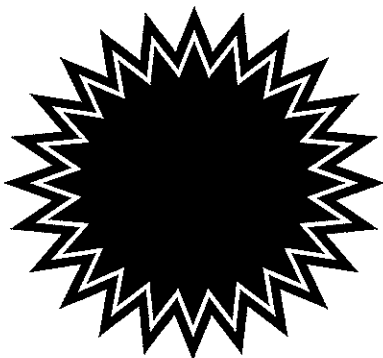
NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

1. The Capital Project of the Board approved by the Minister and specifying a maximum expenditure of **\$555,288** for Project No. **126770** is hereby adopted.
2. This Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126770

Read a first time the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

Read a second time the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.



NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Board Chair

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and original School District No. 54(Bulkley Valley) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126770 adopted by the Board the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Secretary-Treasurer

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- **Facilities Review Update:** Current facilities that are currently under review are: School District #54 (Bulkley Valley) portables; Learner Support Centre; School Board Office; disposing of properties including Chandler Park, Quick Elementary and the Bulkley Valley Learning Centre.
  - **High School Shop Grant :** Houston Secondary Shop has now been emptied and is starting to be renovated. School District #54 (Bulkley Valley) received a grant from the BC Construction Association in the amount of \$14,000 to assist with the HSS Project. (SD54 originally applied for a \$500,000 grant to go towards the HSS project.) Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid spoke with the BC Construction Association and ascertained that the original donation came from the Northern Gateway-Enbridge project. The trustees had a very frank discussion about accepting donations from a company engaged in controversial projects. Trustee Michell expressed to the Board that she really wants the Board members to think about accepting a donation from this company. She explained that the Northern Gateway Enbridge project plans to go through Witsuwit'en traditional territory and that the Witsuwit'en peoples still use these lands for traditional ways. Trustee Michell's house takes pride in bringing up younger generations in traditional ways. Superintendent van der Mark informed the Board that currently anyone can donate to the school district but the Board needs to address a bigger question, "How are we going to deal with donations? From industry or particular groups? " Trustee Yaremco provided some history on donations previously refused by the SD54 because there were "strings attached" to the donation. Mr. van der Mark added that a lot of public school districts deal with industry and questioned what exactly our ethical threshold is? Who would we accept a donation from? And Why? Trustee McIntosh reminded that Board that we have received grants and partnered with BC Hydro and PNG in the past and asked how does the Board go about drawing "the line"? Trustee Farrell commented that when you accept the gift from anybody, you accept their mantra. Trustee Farrell will vote no to this donation at this time. Review it on a case by case donation. We need to do the best for student learning. Trustee Kearns continued by saying if we looked back over the 20 years, cash or hamburgers – we have accepted a lot of things or money, and suggested this is an interesting conversation and it should be sent to the policy committee for future examination. But tonight's discussion is whether to deal with the donation or not. Mr. van der Mark added that we don't have to accept it or decline it at this point. There is a policy discussion with parameters. We don't have guiding principles as a Board. Trustee Kearns has asked if everyone was in favour to send to back to the policy committee. Mr. van der Mark reminded everyone that there is no response required at this time. Trustee Yaremco commented that when Policy Committee conducts their deliberations, she hopes the Policy Committee would look at who the donation is coming from. Trustee Farrell commented that if it comes up he is going to say "NO"; \$14,000 is not enough to buy us out. Trustee Kearns commented that he will vote the same as Trustee Farrell, and added that in the future it would be good to have a policy to fall back on.

- Town of Smithers Council – The trustees met with the Smithers Town Council to discuss the reciprocal use agreement, fees, facilities, organizational goals and current events. It was a very good meeting between both parties.
- Quick Plaque- The operations committee recommended that the Quick plaque remain with the SD54 for future display.

MOTION/SECOND P. Michell / F. Farrell

*"It is recommended that the plaque remain with the school district."*

CARRIED

#### 6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Collingwood presented the Policy Committee Report from the April 1, 2014 meeting: The committee continued their discussion on Policy #9.950 Student Choice and Policy # 11.140 Student Transportation. Secretary Treasurer Margerm reviewed the draft amended policies for the Board. Trustee Yaremco asked about removing Bus Rider Rules from the policy and questioned if there was ever a challenge and this policy has been removed. It has to be put in an administration manual somewhere. Secretary Treasurer Margerm responded to why the Bus Rider Rules were removed is due to if we wanted to change any we would have to go back to the policy committee i.e. cell phones. Mr. van der Mark agreed that those rules need to be somewhere else and there should be a line in the policy "a student shall a hear to bus ruled noted." Then we won't have to redo the policy again and again. Mr. Margerm suggested adding #5 "The rider shall follow bus rider rules."

MOTION/SECONDED L. Collingwood / J. McIntosh

*"Recommend that Policy 9.950 Student Choice and 11.140 Student Transportation be sent out for consultation to stakeholders."*

CARRIED

#### 6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- There were no trustee reports submitted this month.

#### 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) Instructional Time** - Superintendent van der Mark informed the board that the 2014 – 2015 School Calendar has been set, and that SD54 we will meet the Ministry requirements for instructional time. Administration has met with BVTU and explained to them that recess is not instructional time. Administration is currently working with the BVTU to come up with a plan to make up instruction time lost due to the two week spring break: 1) Extend Thursdays or 2) Maintain a version of early Thursday and use that time for teacher collaborations, staff meetings etc. A one year Letter of Understanding would be issued. These two options are will be presented at the BVTU AGM. Trustee Kearns asked if there is a timeline to receive their decision. Mr. van der Mark is hoping to hear from the BVTU President directly following the AGM. Mr. van der Mark reminded the Board that we will need to add 20 minutes or we will be breaking the law. Trustee Kearns questioned what was best for the students and inquired what do the parents want? He has heard that parents want to get rid of early Thursdays. This has been put in the public portion of the board meeting to get feedback.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1) The March 31, 2014 expenditure summary was included in the Trustees Board Packages.

**10. READING FILE**

Ltr frm: VISTA to: P. Fassbender re: openStudent March 31, 2014 Enrollment Figures	Ltr frm: HSS re: Graduation Invitation Ltr frm: MME re: Concours D'Art Oratoire Invitation Regional Skills Gap Analysis Feb 27, 2014
Ltr frm: Peter Cameron to J.Iker re: BCTFStrike Action Ltr frm: SD05 to C.Clark re: Bargaining and BCSC Ruling Ltr frm: SD57 to C. Clark and P. Fassbender re: Funding	Ltr frm: SD46 to P.Fassbender re: BCFT Bargaining Ltr frm: SD57 to P.Fassbender re: Stability for Students Action Plan
Ltr frm: SD71 to P. Fassbender re: Funding the BC Ed Plan Village of Telkwa Volunteer Appreciation Invitation	Ltr frm: SD71 to T.Stone; M.Corrigan; P.Fassbender re: BC Ferry Services

**MOVED/SECONDED:** J. McIntosh / L. Collingwood

*"That the information contained in the Trustee Reading File be received and filed."*


CARRIED

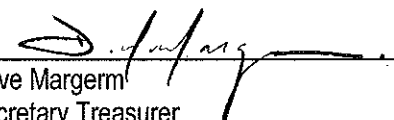
**11. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 commencing at 7:00 pm at the Silverthorne Elementary School.

**12. ADJORNED**

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

  
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 Les Kearns  
 Chairman of the Board of Education

  
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 Dave Margerm  
 Secretary Treasurer