



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.54 (*Bulkley Valley*)
NOVEMBER 15, 2022
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS B.C.**

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

Via Zoom: F. Farrell

Trustee Regrets: P. Michell

Staff: M. McDiarmid – Superintendent
 M. Monkman – Assistant Superintendent
 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 Trustee Williams acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en – Bear Wolf Clan.
- Chairperson Williams welcomed everyone to the first official meeting of the board. Welcome to our new board member Trustee Graham. Trustee Williams is looking forward to the next four years with the new Board of Education. Trustee Michell sent her regrets.
- Chairperson Williams then handed the meeting over to Secretary Treasurer Margerm

3. BOARD ELECTIONS

- Secretary Treasurer Dave Margerm explained the Board Election as per Board Policy 1.160 Annual Board Elections.
- Mr. Margerm requested a motion to appoint Mr. McDiarmid and Mr. Monkman as scrutineers for the election proceedings.

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

“That Mr. McDiarmid and Mr. Monkman be named as scrutineers.”

CARRIED

- **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Williams.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Williams was elected the Chairperson by acclamation.

- **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Kearns.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice - Chairperson and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Kearns was elected the Vice - Chairperson by acclamation.

- **ELECTION OF BCPSEA REPRESENTATIVE**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Kearns and Trustee Williams.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative, and called for nominations.
 - Trustee Williams withdrew her expression of interest.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Kearns was elected to the position of BCPSEA Representative by acclamation

- **ELECTION OF BCSTA PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received from Trustee Farrell.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor, and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time. Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Farrell was elected the BCSTA Provincial Councilor by acclamation.

- **ELECTION OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**
 - Mr. Margerm informed the Board that expression of interest was received no expression of interest.
 - Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Graham. Trustee Graham accepted the nomination.
 - Mr. Margerm opened the floor for nominations for the position of Indigenous Education Council Representative, and called for nominations.
 - Mr. Margerm called for nominations a second time.
 - Mr. Margerm then called for further nominations a third and last time, and hearing none declared the nominations closed.
 - Mr. Margerm announced that Trustee Graham was elected the Indigenous Education Council representative by acclamation.

- Trustee Williams assumed the Chair as Presiding Officer.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of September 27, 2022 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 27, 202. There being none, the regular meeting minutes of September 27, 2022 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of September 27, 2022 were declared approved as presented.

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent McDiarmid presented activities happening around the district to the Board. Two SD54 employees were both finalists for a Premier Award in Education this year. Ms. Birdy Markert won the award in her respective category. On November 14th, staff gathered to participate in an Indigenous education professional development session lead by Ms. Leona Prince and Ms. Carolyn Roberts. The PLC/NOII community held their first session of the year in early November. Senior Administration and Principals attended the BCSSA Fall conference in Vancouver. Local CUPE bargaining will commence in early December.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the District initiatives report to the Board. Ms. Krall, Ms. Bolton and Ms. Neto lead a session for lead teachers in a session around the redesigned K-12 performance standards. Ms. von Seydlitz and Mr. Mark Fehr will be leading the Physical Literacy Initiative again this year. 12 Innovation grants were handed out to our Teachers who are pursuing inquiry projects to improve learning for all students. Each innovation project has to have a direct correlation to goals from the District Strategic Plan. Fall Professional Growth Conversations have begun with our Administrators. The District is in the process of opening the Hasadini Preschool which is a pilot program for Indigenous children. The District has also started working on an Environmental Scan which will determine what the early learning and childcare needs are for the district. In Houston, the District is working with Houston Links to Learning and Thomas Robinson Consulting to open a 'Just B4" preschool program at Silverthorne Elementary.
- Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school-based initiatives report to the Board. Carolfest will be held on the evening of December 7th, more information to follow. Remembrance Day Ceremonies were held across the district on November 10th.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
- **SSS/HSS** – 2 +/- Grade 11-12 Swim Team students from Smithers Secondary and Houston Secondary to travel to Richmond B.C. on November 17-20, 2022. The purpose of this trip is for the students to participate in the High School Provincial Championships. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- **SSS** – 6 +/- Grade 10-12 students from Smithers Secondary to travel to West Vancouver on November 18-20, 2022. The purpose of this trip is to support the robotics curriculum by testing and refining semester-long robotics projects while participating in the Annual VEX Competition. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

- The following field trip requires final approval by the Board of Education:
 - **SSS** – 35 +/- Concert, Jazz Band and Choir Students in grades 10-12 from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Cuba on May 15- May 24, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to take part in the "*Educational Performance – Tour de Cuba*". All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

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

"That the Board approve the proposed trip to Cuba during the period of May 15 - May 24, 2023 as presented."

CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1) Class Size Reports - Superintendent McDiarmid provided current class sizes across the district. HSS & SSS class sizes have increased this year while historically they remained low. The District is working through class composition pressures in a couple of schools currently.

8.2) Enrollment Reports – Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided a synopsis of the 1701 Report that was submitted on September 30, 2022. 20 FTE students higher FTE than projected in the spring enrollment projections. We are expecting to have over 2,000 students this school year, which is the highest level seen for many years.

8.3) Annual Facility Report – Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided the Annual Facility Report to the Board.

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

"That the Board request that senior administration continue the process of upgrading facilities in terms of:

- a. Flexible learning spaces***
- b. Building envelopes***
- c. Classrooms places"***

CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

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

10. READING FILE

- There were no items in the reading file this month.

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Closing Remarks –The next regular Board Meeting will be held on December 6, 2022 at the School Board Office in Smithers B.C., commencing at 7:00 p.m. Next Committee meetings will be held next Tuesday, November 22 at 4pm and 5 pm. Committee assignments will be sent out tomorrow to the Board.

13. ADJOURNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Approved by:



Approved by Jennifer Williams, Chairperson
of the Board of Education



Dave Margem
Secretary Treasurer