



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59 (PEACE RIVER SOUTH)

11600 – 7TH Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

Open Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: April 22, 2026 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:
C. Anderson (Chair)
R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)
C. Hillton
S. Mounsey - absent
A. Schurmann
C. Wards
T. Jones

C. Fennell, Superintendent *via Zoom*
P. Neale, Secretary Treasurer
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Nil

Called to Order – 1:05 PM

The Board Chair acknowledged that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2026-04-003)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Jones

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the April 22, 2026 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2026

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2026-04-004)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting March 11, 2026 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – March 11, 2026

(2026-04-005)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting March 11, 2026 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- R5.1 – March 9, 2026 – Received from District of Tumbler Ridge – Re: Invitation to District of Tumbler Ridge Let's Talk
- R5.2 – March 24, 2026 - Received from Ministry of Education and Child Care - Re: Child Care Capital Funding Program (Dawson Creek)
- R5.3 – March 24, 2026 - Received from Ministry of Education and Child Care - Re: Child Care Capital Funding Program (Tumbler Ridge)
- R5.4 – March 31, 2026 – Received from Ministry of Infrastructure – Re: Funding for Modular Classroom Complexes at Tumbler Ridge Secondary

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Intermediate students at Tremblay Elementary made poetry cards and then sent them over to the local hospital. The Kindergarten and Just B4 students have been going on some field trips together. The students visited the Mile 0 Academy for gymnastics and Dawson Creek Dance Company for interpretive dance lessons. Intermediate students at Tremblay are learning about astronomy. The students presented their learning to the office staff.
- Schools celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Bus drivers were met with signs and posters as they arrived at the schools, and many were presented with flowers, plants, other small gifts and cards to celebrate their day!
- At Canalta Elementary, the Library Club is having fun learning how to play a variety of games. Students are using strategies of Visible Learning, an evidence-based educational approach focusing on making student learning and teacher impact visible, transparent, and measurable. Students are also using the Jigsaw Model, a cooperative learning strategy where students become “experts” on a topic and then teach it to others.

Students worked together to learn more about the topic, 'What Did We Learn About Hamsters'. The school also has Soup Day – students bring their own mug and enjoy a cup of soup. Students always look forward to Flashlight Fridays – the lights are turned out, and students read their favourite books with flashlights.

- Parkland Elementary students are studying about electricity in science by building circuits and learning how they work.
- At Devereaux Elementary, Mrs. Edwards class earned a classroom party, and they chose to have a bright colour party. The classroom was decorated with bright coloured streamers everywhere! Students are enjoying the warmer weather outside by having boat races. Spring artwork is filling up school bulletin boards.
- Don Titus Montessori students are helping water move away from their playground area. Students had fun creating rivers and dams to move the water. On the colder days, students enjoyed having snowball fights in the school gym using paper balls and socks as snowballs.
- DCSS – South Peace Campus Indigenous studies class is learning about Metis culture and art. The students created dot art pictures.
- DCSS South Peace teacher, Mr. Chau held their own Skills Competition for digital media and photography since all the registrations were from SD59. This allowed five students to travel to Abbotsford to compete in the provincial competition where Johnny-Rose Pollitt placed 3rd in graphic design.
- Windrem Elementary School has been hosting family nights which have been well attended.
- The Early Years Health Fair was held on April 15, 2026. The School District partnered with outside agencies to host the event. The event included booths and activities for families to participate in and learn more about the local services available to families with young children.
- Adventures in Health Care is a 3-day event to learn about health care services and career opportunities in the region. Students toured various sites including the new hospital build in Dawson Creek. Student had the opportunity for hands on activities and learned about the local post secondary options available to them.
- The District is hosting Maria Walther in district from April 22-24, 2026. Ms. Walther is an educator, author, and literacy expert. The District is very excited to have her share her knowledge with our educators.
- The Career Team will be holding their FutureReady! event in the evening of April 22, 2026. The event is co-hosted with Northern Lights College. Students and families are encouraged to attend to learn more about dual credit and the programs available. The information session also has an alumni panel of past dual credit students that share their experiences and opportunities that have led them to where they are now.
- The annual professional development Truth and Reconciliation Day is May 1, 2026. Madelaine McCallum and Kevin Lamoureaux are guest speakers at this district wide event. The theme of the event is 'Reconciliation Within Myself.' Staff will learn about recognizing truth and identifying their own bias.

R6.2 Field Trip Requests

The following field trip applications were submitted for board approval:

DCSS Central Campus field trip to Quebec and Ontario – May/June 2026

(2026-04-006)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) grant final approval to Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace (?) Campus to proceed with the French Immersion Trip to Quebec & Ontario from May 27, 2026-June 5, 2026.

CARRIED

DCSS South Peace Campus international trip to Greece – spring 2027

(2026-04-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) grant approval, in principle, to Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus to proceed with planning the international field trip to Greece in the spring of 2027

CARRIED

R6.3 Windrem Elementary Mural Request

Windrem Elementary school submitted a request for approval to paint and install a mural on the outside wall of the school library. The mural ties into their biodiversity unit in their science class and identifies fish that live in Moberly Lake.

(2026-04-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve Windrem Elementary School to proceed with planning the wall mural as presented; WHEREAS, the planning must follow the process established in Policy 6060.

CARRIED

R6.3 Tumbler Ridge Phase 2 Update

The Superintendent reported on the timeline for the Phase 2 project. Double-wide portables are in place to become classrooms in this phase. Work is continuing on the walkways, installation of phone, PA and alarm systems, power hook-ups and the installation of shelving, projectors, screens, and whiteboards.

The District will communicate to students and families once a final move in date is set. The move in will happen over three days. On the first day, teachers will set up their new classrooms (students do not attend classes), students and parents/guardians can visit the new campus on the second day, and the third day will be a full return to classes.

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Monthly Financial Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for March 2026. Most budgets are on track with 70% (10 month) and 75% (12 month) spent.

R7.2 2026-2027 Capital Plan Response Letter/Bylaw

The Secretary Treasurer announced Ministry approval of the following 2026-2027 minor capital projects:

Facility:	Project:	Funding:
Don Titus Montessori	SEP – Roofing Upgrades	\$650,000
Tremblay Elementary	SEP – Roofing Upgrades	\$650,000
Tremblay Elementary	CNCP – HVAC Upgrades	\$575,000

Crescent Park Elementary	FIP – Kitchen Equipment and Infrastructure Upgrades	\$40,000
Bus Approval		
A-1591	Internal Combustion Engine – Type C (0 wheelchair space)	TBD
A-1593	Internal Combustion Engine – Type C (0 wheelchair space)	TBD

Note: Bus funding amounts will be identified in the Bus Standing Offer.

Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD59-01 was presented to the Board for approval.

(2026-04-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Wards

THAT, the Capital Project Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD59-01 of the Board approved by the Minister as outlined in the letter received from the Capital Management Branch dated March 27, 2026 be read a first time.

CARRIED

(2026-04-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

the Capital Project Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD59-01 of the Board approved by the Minister as outlined in the letter received from the Capital Management Branch dated March 27, 2026 be read a second time.

CARRIED

(2026-04-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

THAT the Board allows the third reading of Capital Project Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD59-01 to occur in the April 22, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED

(2026-04-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Hillton

the Capital Project Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD59-01 of the Board approved by the Minister as outlined in the letter received from the Capital Management Branch dated March 27, 2026 be read a third time, passed, and adopted.

CARRIED

R7.4 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

The following project updates occurring since the last meeting:

- BC Hydro confirmed SD59 will have to give BC Hydro a right of way for the new service. BC Hydro has started the paperwork.
- Civil work was awarded to Northern Legendary.
- Work continued in the interior of the addition
- Fence was installed on top of the retaining wall

- Water and sewer work will begin as soon as the ground is thawed

Costs to date are within budget and the Board's capital bylaw, including contingency.

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

The Ministry of Education and Child Care approved the District's submission for additional funding for both childcare applications. The District will receive an additional \$5.7 million which brings the total funding for the two childcare facilities to \$13.7 million.

Planning will commence to move forward with both childcare facilities as awarded.

Tumbler Ridge Campus

Phase 1 Complex Update

The following updates were provided by the Secretary Treasurer:

- Sound barriers were placed around generators to lower the noise for the neighbors.
- Dividing walls were installed in trailer 1 to create two counsellor offices.
- Work in the parking area with thawing conditions is creating mud. Some rig mats were installed.

Phase 2 Complex Update

- Two camera trailers were placed on the roof of TRE for better coverage of the school.
- Eight portables were lifted off their blocking and placed to the side.
- Ground where portables are to be placed was thawed out.
- Excavation and framing for foundations.
- Concrete poured for foundations.
- Portables were placed onto the new foundations.
- Electrical distribution sea-can arrived onsite and was placed.

Multiple meetings have been held with consultants, contractors, Safer Schools Together, Fire Chief, RCMP, school district and project managers to coordinate all the work that must be completed.

The Government has shared that the modulares being placed on-site will be under the ownership of the school district. As such, \$2,603,052 is recognized as a capital asset.

In early April, the District submitted a reimbursement request of \$328,310 and requested a carryover of \$880,000 for unspent dollars in February and March. Both were supported by the BC Government.

Total dollars available to support the recovery of the staff and students in the Tumbler Ridge have been committed to the school district at \$3.775 million for April 2026 to March 2027 as a needs-basis.

Full updates on the capital projects are available at <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/capital-projects>.

8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R8.1 BCSTA Update – C. Anderson

Chair Anderson presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. The BCSTA AGM was held in Vancouver from April 9-11, 2026.

The Board has applied to present to the Select Standing Committee at the budget consultation meeting being held in Dawson Creek.

Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) Conference – July 5-8, 2026

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Partners' Advisory Council (Dawson Creek) – T. Jones

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek council met on April 21, 2026. The planning has started for the Indigenous student achievement awards. A brief update was provided to council on the development of the new Enhancement Agreement. The current Enhancement Agreement will be extended into the fall to allow more time to develop the new agreement.

R9.2 Indigenous Education Council – C. Hillton

Trustee Hillton reported the Indigenous Education Council meeting was held on April 14, 2026 at Saulteau First Nations. The current Enhancement Agreement expires in June; however, it will be extended into the fall to allow more time to develop a new agreement. Council also looked at the 'How Are We Doing?' report and grad rates. Council was informed that a reduction in student enrolment is being projected for the 2026-27 school year which will affect the overall Indigenous Education budget.

R9.3 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee developed a new policy to implement formalized procedures for course withdrawal in accordance with the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the School Act.

(2026-04-013)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) circulate Policy and Regulation 4105 Student Withdrawal for feedback for a minimum period of thirty days.

CARRIED

10.0 DIARY

11.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

12.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

13.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R13.1 - Regular Board Meeting – May 20, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

(2026-04-014)

MOVED – Jones

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Regular Board Meeting of April 22, 2026 be terminated. (2:07 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Officially Signed By:
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Officially Signed By:
P. Neale, Secretary Treasurer