



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: June 18, 2025 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:

C. Anderson (Chair)
R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)
C. Hillton
S. Mounsey
A. Schurmann
C. Wards

C. Fennell, Superintendent
K. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: T. Jones

Called to Order – 1:00 PM

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2025-06-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Hillton

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the June 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2025

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-06-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting May 21, 2025 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – May 21, 2025

(2025-06-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting May 21, 2025 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

R4.1 Student Voice – Compassionate Systems Leadership

Students from Student Voice talked about the compassionate systems leadership training they took with Joanne Schroeder earlier this year. The students presented on what compassionate systems is and how it can be incorporated into every day life including the school day. The students learned the Iceberg Model, a system used to look at problems and identify issues and potential solutions to address the experiences that are happening. This approach fosters empathy and addresses the root causes of behaviors, rather than just reacting to surface-level action.

The students identified two priority issues (classroom structures and technology) and using the Iceberg model, the students worked through identifying the problem and key issues, what structures are in place and mental awareness of the issue. Through this, the students offered potential solutions to address the root cause.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Tumbler Ridge Senior Secondary students had fun with several ADST projects that had them building and launching rockets and coding remote control cars that were tested by running through a maze that was set up in the school gym; students also learned to two step lessons and then invited the StrongStart in to teach them!
- McLeod Elementary held an event called 'Donuts for Dads' where students invited individuals that were important to them to celebrate them by sharing some donuts!
- The Indigenous Education Department held their year-end celebration at Moberly Lake Elementary School.

- Don Titus Elementary has created Multi-age Learning Teams (MALT) where students are grouped into multi-age teams and together, they choose activities like hiking, archery, library visits, science, fitness, cooking, crafting, drama, cheerleading mask making, etc.
- Mrs. Brown's grade 6/7 class at Ecole Frank Ross implemented the Respecting Diversity program that is part of Universal Design for Learning. Students are learning about their own strengths and differences and respect for others while promoting inclusion.
- Kindergarten students at Devereaux Elementary are creating oral story boards. Students enjoyed mural painting with Wayne Lariviere and the grade 2 class learned about the lifecycle of a butterfly.
- Grade 1 & 2 students at Little Prairie Elementary participated in a session hosted by the Chetwynd Public Library about 3D printing. Students also enjoyed a fun afternoon of interactive learning stations that included lego building, face-painting, broccoli painting, pin making block tower challenges, and marshmallow structures. Little Prairie students are also learning about community and real-world exploration. The students enjoyed field trips to the mayor's office, police station, and a grade 7 trip to the parliament building in Edmonton, Alberta where the students held a mock session of parliament trying to pass a bill to make school a 4-day school week!
- Relay Education visited Chetwynd Secondary School to present their heat and chill energy efficient workshops where the students learned about different types of energy.
- Tremblay Elementary hosted a used book fair, students participated in many activities celebrating Pride Week and Mr. Bricker's class went on a field trip to Gwillim Lake.
- The FutureReady! event hosted by the Careers department in partnership with Northern Lights College was a huge success. The event included a keynote speaker and a dual credit alumni panel.
- Ecole Frank Ross participated in Pride Week events and hosted the fire department for a tug of war and of course the highlight was getting sprayed with water from the fire trucks!
- Canalta has been celebrating spirit days, mural painting with Wayne Lariviere. Canalta has a student leadership board that lists all the leadership events for the school.
- South Peace Elementary students have been beading and learning about the lifecycle of butterflies.
- Windrem Elementary participated in the grade 7 transition event at Spirit Park. Students went on field trips to Gwillim Lake and Tumbler Ridge where they visited the dinosaur museum and had a guided tour of Flatbed Falls where they explored dinosaur tracks. Inside Education Energy Expo also visited the school.
- Parkland Elementary hosted an agriculture safety day for students and families to learn about all aspects of safety on the farm.
- DCSS South Peace musical theatre program is presenting the 9-to-5 musical with evening performances June 12-14th.
- Samantha Hammer has been appointed as Vice-Principal at Tremblay Elementary, effective August 1, 2025.

R6.2 Accessibility Update

Based on the data from the accessibility surveys completed during the 2023/2024 school year, the Director of Instruction, Jan Proulx, worked with Matt Lindgren, Director of Operations, and Dave Broadway, Facilities Manager, to set priorities and plan improvements aimed at improving accessibility for all students, staff, and visitors. The plan prioritized student needs by removing physical barriers, improving access, and creating more inclusive learning spaces across our schools. The Superintendent highlighted the projects completed in the 2024/2025 school year and planned projects for the 2025/2026 school year.

R6.3 Don Titus Montessori Program Review

Paul Chisholm, Director of Instruction and Catharine Leroux, District Principal presented the findings of the Montessori Program Review. The review included the foundations of the 2019 review which was based on principles of the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector. Additional information was gathered from a variety of resources including Foundational Skills Assessments, student learning surveys, Fountas and Pinnell, SNAP, anecdotal interviews and surveys with staff and parents. Over the course of the review, it was found that the school has a positive school culture among staff, parents, and students. The findings showed that Montessori practices are intentionally weaved throughout the school day but it's difficult to maintain the integrity of the BC Curriculum with the foundational criteria of a true Montessori program, such as adhering to class size and composition, reporting expectations, and local limitations on professional development.

Next steps are to present the findings with the Don Titus community (staff and parents) to formally present the review. District staff will consider the review, and the options presented to bring a recommendation to the board in the fall of 2025.

R6.4 Reading Recovery Program Update

The Superintendent reported that the Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery has notified the district that they will no longer be supporting the Reading Recovery program beyond the 2025-2026 school year. The District will navigate next steps for literacy support with the absence of the one-on-one literacy program; however, the District does utilize a variety of other literacy supports and is continually assessing and implementing new resources.

R6.5 Principal Retreat at Gwillim

The District and Peace River South Principals and Vice-Principals Association will be jointly hosting a leadership retreat in August at the Gwillim Lake Educational Site. The group has requested the board allow for the serving of alcohol with the dinner meal.

The Board discussed this annual request and agreed to grant approval for the next two years.

(2025-06-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT the Board approve the serving of alcohol at the principal retreat dinner to be held at the Gwillim Lake Educational Site in August 2025 and August 2026.

CARRIED

The Chair called a recess from 2:45 pm to 2:53 pm.

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 2026-2027 Five-Year Annual Capital Plan

The Secretary Treasurer presented a revised major capital plan. The Major Capital Plan includes a gym addition request for Moberly Lake Elementary and a replacement of Chetwynd Secondary/Windrem Elementary and Canalta Elementary schools.

The minor capital plan will be presented in the September board meeting.

The Ministry will advise in Spring 2026 of supported projects in the District's plans.

(2025-06-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

In accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) hereby approves the Major Capital Submission of the 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan as presented, for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

CARRIED

R7.2 Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since May 13, 2025, the following have occurred:

- Site and earthworks RFP posted on BC Bid, closes June 13th; Ministry advised.
- Site and earthworks tender drawings were delivered to the City to be reviewed for the building permit.
- Principal Richer formed an Expansion Committee made up of school staff, custodian and Health and Safety Coordinator to plan for construction and impacts. Questions and items of discussion were forwarded to Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer.
- Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer attended a voluntary school staff meeting to answer questions above and discuss plans and schedule.
- Fort Modular construction of the modular units commenced.
- Mandatory site visit for the site and earthworks tender proponents.
- Director of Operations and Facilities Manager met with City of Dawson Creek to provide an update on the project.

Total spent to date: \$1,156,737 (12.5%)

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementaries

Since May 13, 2025, the following have occurred:

- Secretary-Treasurer contacted Ministry to determine requirements for application for additional funding; Ministry to contact within 10 days.
- Secretary-Treasurer contacted neighbouring district in the Northern Interior Branch to request suggestions/advice on their submission for additional funding.
- Ministry sent a guide to preparing the submission including current budget status and variances for the additional request.
- Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer to prep submission before meeting with the team to finalize the submission.

Total spent to date:

- Dawson Creek: \$214,039
- Tumbler Ridge: \$218,888

Further updates are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca).

R7.3 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates

The board meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year were presented. The dates will be posted on the district website.

(2025-06-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates as presented.

R7.4 Secretary Treasurer's Report – June 2025

The Secretary Treasurer's report for June was provided for information.

8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R8.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Reminder to trustees to access the BCSTA portal for more information.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Partnership Advisory Councils

Both Chetwynd and Dawson Creek Indigenous Education Partnership Advisory Councils held their end of year BBQ and celebration at their June meeting. Long service awards were presented to long service members.

Dawson Creek Partnership Advisory Council is hosting the Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration on Thursday, June 19th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at South Peace Campus. The celebration will include a free BBQ hosted by Secure Energy, jigging with Metis Bev, live music by Reckless Love, face painting and other outdoor activities. Endure Awards will be presented to Grade 12 recipients.

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 – September 17, 2025 (Dawson Creek)

ADJOURNMENT

(2025-06-010)

MOVED – Hillton

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of June 18, 2025 be terminated. (3:19 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed By:
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed By:
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer