



# School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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

11600 – 7<sup>TH</sup> Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

### Open Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: March 12, 2025 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:

C. Anderson (Chair)  
R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)  
C. Hillton *via zoom*  
S. Mounsey  
A. Schurmann  
C. Wards  
T. Jones

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

REGRETS: Nil

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

(2025-03-005)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Jones

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the March 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

## **1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION**

### **R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2025**

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-03-006)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting February 19, 2025 approved as presented.

### **R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – February 19, 2025**

(2025-03-007)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting February 19, 2025 approved as presented.

## **2.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

## **3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS**

## **4.0 PRESENTATIONS**

## **5.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

R5.1 February 19, 2025 - Letter to Minister of Education (Re: Barriers to Education)

R5.2 March 4, 2025 – Letter from Minister of Education (Re: Funding for Child Care on School Grounds)

## **6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

### **R6.1 School/Student News**

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- The Elementary Basketball Tournament was held on March 7 & 8, 2025. Teams from across the district participated in the round robin format. The gyms were full, and students were excited to finish off the basketball season with a tournament.
- Canalta Elementary students have been busy studying the phases of the moon and land formations, working in literacy circles and focussing on increasing fluency, creating poetry with visual art representation of the poem, using their imagination in a creation project where students created different types of vegetation and determined what climate the plant needed to survive, preparing for the spring music concert, and the PAC group hosted a family dance. Canalta held a school Spirit Day where students and staff could dress as a teacher or a student. The school also celebrated Pink Shirt Day and 100's Day.
- Tremblay Elementary is part of the Classroom Champion program and will be meeting their athlete champion Annie Tansley, from the Canadian Olympic Ski Team, in April.
- Ecole Frank Ross students continue to learn about local First Nations and have created a bulletin board about Saulteau First Nations. The school's enhancement goal is to build Indigenous representation in the school. The students and Artist in Residence, Wayne Lariviere created a beautiful mural which incorporates school spirit with an Indigenous focus.

- Devereaux Elementary students took part in a wind chime building activity.
- Tumbler Ridge Secondary School students have been learning about wind energy and the art students are creating many forms of pottery. Student Voice at TRSS is planning a student dance. The boy's basketball competed at zones.
- Tyler McGregor, a paralympic athlete spoke at TRSS and DCSS school assemblies on achieving goals, accessibility, and overcoming challenges. Mr. McGregor is the captain of the Canadian men's national para ice hockey team and was in the area to participate in the announcement that Dawson Creek will host the 2025 Para Cup November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Oviniv Events Centre.
- Student Voice students will be taking Social Generative Fields training.
- Little Prairie Elementary students are having fun with class competitions to see who can create the best leprechaun catcher. The entire school participated in a school wide leadership activity that had students playing rock-paper-scissors to compete for leis.
- Don Titus Montessori intermediate students are having fun reading to younger classes in the school. The students learn about leadership but also practice reading fluency.

#### R6.2 How Are We Doing? Indigenous Education Report

The How Are We Doing? report is an annual report published by the Ministry of Education and Child Care that provides data in three main areas of focus: Intellectual Development, Human and Social Development, and Career Development. The report considers the data for all students, students with disabilities or diverse abilities and Indigenous students and helps to identify areas for intervention.

The Superintendent reported the following key takeaways:

- Graduation rates are down 1%;
- Drop in students during grade-to-grade transitions, specifically between grade 7 & 8 and grade 9 & 10;
- Disproportionate number of Indigenous students in workplace math 10 versus a higher-level math.

The full report for the 2023-24 school year is available on the Ministry website at [B.C. Education System Performance - Peace River South School District](#).

#### R6.3 BCPSEA Pre-Employment Hiring Incentives-2025

BCPSEA has reviewed school district applications for Round 3 hiring incentives.

School District No. 59 (Peace River South) has been approved to offer the following Round 3 hiring incentives for enrolling teacher positions:

- 5x Teacher for \$10,000 (Tier 1) available for Tumbler Ridge
- 2x Teacher for \$10,000 (Tier 1) available for Chetwynd

These incentives are available for new hire employees that commence employment April 1, 2025, or later.

#### R6.3 2025-2026 School Calendar

The 2025-2026 School Calendar was brought back to the Board for adoption. In total, feedback was received from two people. The feedback focused on the scheduling of the early dismissal days for parent-teacher interviews. After reviewing the feedback, no revisions were made to the draft calendar.

(2025-03-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

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

CARRIED

## 7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

### R7.1 2024-2025 Amended Budget Amendment

The Secretary Treasurer informed the Board that amendments were made to the 2024-2025 Amended Budget. The three changes included recording the Literacy Professional Learning Grant as a Special Purpose Grant; allocation of additional funding from the Ministry Funding Re-calculation; and the treatment of capital projects in the capital schedule of the Ministry budget template.

A revised bylaw is required.

(2025-03-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw-02 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,817,590 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year be read a first time.

CARRIED

(2025-03-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Jones

THAT the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw-02 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,817,590 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year be read a second time.

CARRIED

(2025-03-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Schurmann

THAT, the Board allows the third reading of 2024-2025 Amended Budget Bylaw-02 to occur in this meeting.

CARRIED

(2025-03-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

THAT the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw-02 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$68,817,590 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year be read a third time, passed, and adopted.

CARRIED

#### R7.2 2025-2026 Annual Budget

The Secretary Treasurer presented the following information regarding the 2025-2026 Annual Budget:

- a) **Survey Results**  
Part of the budget development included a survey. The survey closed on March 5<sup>th</sup> and had 191 responses. A draft report is under review internally and will be presented in the special open meeting on April 2, 2025.
- b) **MOECC Funding Announcement**  
The Ministry funding announcement will be made on March 13, 2025. The Secretary Treasurer is expecting the funding envelope to remain stable. There is a change to Capital which is no longer under the Ministry of Education and is now under the Ministry of Infrastructure.
- c) **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Budget Bylaw**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the first draft of the 2025-2026 Annual Budget.

(2025-03-013)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

THAT the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2025-2026 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures and the total budget bylaw amount of \$67,864,605 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year be read a first time.

CARRIED

The Board will be hosting a consultation meeting on April 2, 2025 to receive further feedback from stakeholders.

#### R7.3 Capital Projects Report

##### Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since the last board meeting, Fort Modular, Force Engineering and SD59 project team met to discuss project timelines, building permits and interior finishes. A further consultants' meeting was held to discuss and finalize structural, mechanical and electrical details in preparation for manufacturing.

##### ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

The architect continues to wait for the modular build estimates for both centres. The Secretary-Treasurer has escalated the timeline concern with the architect. The budget remains unchanged from February 19, 2025.

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

#### R7.4 Secretary Treasurer's Report – March 2025

The Secretary Treasurer's report for March 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. The AGM will be held in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025. Extraordinary motions are sent out prior to the AGM for review as no amendments are allowed at the AGM.

### R8.2 Board Chair Partner Liaison Meeting – C. Anderson

Trustee Anderson attended a Board Chair's meeting that included an update from the provincial Rural and Remote Committee, Trustee panel on bargaining, and managing difficult conversations and board operations. The second day was a combined Partner Liaison Meeting with Board Chairs, Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers where the Ministry provided information on new initiatives and updates.

## 9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Dawson Creek Council met at the end of February and reviewed the How are We Doing? report. Council will not be meeting in March due to Spring Break.

Trustee Hillton reported the Chetwynd Indigenous Council meeting on March 11, 2025 was held at Saulteau First Nations and the meeting ended with a tour of the First Nations new cultural centre.

### R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has Policy 4585 Media in Schools circulating for feedback. Feedback will be accepted until April 4, 2025.

The Policy Committee is reviewing Policy 4660 Retention and Destruction of Records and Policy 4180 Grading Practices.

## 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 – Special Open Board Meeting – April 2, 2025

R13.2 – Public Consultation - 2025-2026 Annual Budget – April 2, 2025

R13.3 - Regular Board Meeting – April 30, 2025

## ADJOURNMENT

(2025-03-014)

MOVED – Jones

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2025 be terminated. (2:30 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed by:  
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed by:  
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer