



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: May 21, 2025 – 1:02 PM

PLACE: Visitor Information Centre – Tumbler Ridge, BC

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

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

REGRETS: Nil

Called to Order – 1:05 PM

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2025-05-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the May 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2025

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-05-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting April 30, 2025 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – April 30, 2025

(2025-05-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting April 30, 2025 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Students from Student Voice across the district participated in a Compassionate Systems Leadership workshop. The training is centred around Self Leadership, Relationship Leadership, and Systems Leadership.
- TRSS students are growing microgreens that are used in school food programs.
- The May 5th District focused Truth and Reconciliation Day was an inspirational day full of learning with speakers Madelaine McCallum and Kevin Lamoureux. Thank-you to TRSS students for making the Red Dress Day pins handed out at the event.
- Outdoor Education students at CSS are enjoying getting outside. The students made Bannock and cooked it over a fire.
- CSS partnered with the RCMP for community cleanup.
- Peace View Elementary School has adopted the motto: "One For All, and All For One." Students are really working together as a team with acts of cooperation and kindness.
- Little Prairie Elementary has been celebrating art, land and learning. The school just finished a wall mural art project that is a stunning winter nightscape. The mural honours the culture, stories, and wisdom of Indigenous communities who have long cared for the land.
- The grade 3,4,5 class at Canalta Elementary is learning about birds that are local to the area. The students will be going on a bird expedition to McQueen slough to see how many birds they can identify. The students at Canalta are also really enjoying the climbing wall in the gym.

- The Gwillim Lake Adventure Race will be held at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor Education and Environmental site on May 24th, 2025.
- Tumbler Ridge Elementary students had fun collaborating with the Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre in creating an art piece that showcased on World Art Day (April 16th). The grade 4/5/6 class built earthquake proof models that went through the earthquake test by Mrs. Edwards. The school also held a Build A Bus campaign that raised over \$14,000 for bussing costs for student field trips.
- The District Careers Department is hosting a Future Ready! Event in partnership with Northern Lights College. Denny Morrison, local speedskating Olympian will be the keynote speaker and a dual credit student panel will speak about their education and career journey.
- The District will celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 19th. Zoom Around the District will be held on June 20th.
- Andrew Shedden has been appointed as Vice-Principal at TRE, effective August 1, 2025.

R6.2 Truth and Reconciliation District Day

On May 5th, the District held a professional learning day with a Truth and Reconciliation focus. Kevin Lamoureux and Madelaine McCallum were guest speakers for the day. The day was a deep learning opportunity for all staff.

In the afternoon, high school students from Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Saulneau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations, did a profound presentation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Two-Spirited people. The presentation, "Say Her Name" highlighted family and community members we have lost. It provided a personal focus on the personalities and lives of the people, and how much they were missed by their families.

The day concluded with a round dance drummed by members of the Saulneau First Nations and closing remarks by West Moberly First Nations.

R6.3 PreVenture Program

PreVenture is an evidence-based program that teaches students how to cope with stress, handle peer pressure, and make positive choices. It is designed for implementation for students in grades 7-9. The goal is to give students the tools they need to avoid substance misuse and improve their overall well-being.

Students complete a short questionnaire that identifies students' personality traits linked to how they might cope with stress, emotions, or peer pressure. Based on their results, students are then grouped into targeted workshops that match their dominant personality style.

While the long-term plan is to regularly offer the program to Grade 8 students, due to time constraints, this year Grade 9 students at Central and CSS were selected to participate before they transition to Grade 10. Next year, the program will be offered to both Grade 8 and 9 students and then be back on track to complete it yearly with grade 8 students. TRSS is running the program with Grades 8 and 9 this year due to their smaller student population.

Each school identified staff members to be trained as workshop facilitators and assistants, along with members of the elementary counselling department and community partners who provide substance use counselling for youth. In total, 17 facilitators and 14 assistants were trained across the three communities.

Open Parachute is a mental health program used to support the emotional well-being and resilience of students from Kindergarten to grade 12. The program is for all students and is used as part of a regular classroom learning and contributes to creating a safe, caring school environment where every student feels supported.

R6.4 Graduation Ceremonies

The three high schools in the district will be holding their graduation ceremonies and events as follows:

Tumbler Ridge Secondary School:

Graduation Ceremony and Scholarship Presentations – June 20th @ 3:30 pm

Prom Dinner – June 21st @ 5:00 pm

Dawson Creek Secondary School:

Scholarships – June 18th @ 7:00 pm

Graduation Ceremony – June 20th @ 7:00 pm

Dry Grad – June 20th @ 10:00 pm

Red Carpet – June 21st @ 4:00 pm

Prom – June 21st @ 6:00 pm

Chetwynd Secondary School:

Prom – June 20th @ 7:30 pm with parade of grads and escorts prior

Graduation Ceremony – June 21st @ 2:00 pm

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Monthly Financial Report – April 2025

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly financial report ending April 30, 2025. As of the end of April, 12-month budgets should have 17% left and 10-month budgets are targeting to have 20%.

R7.2 2026-2027 Five Year Annual Capital Plan - DRAFT

The Secretary Treasurer presented a draft of the Five Year Annual Capital Plan to the Board. The plan includes major and minor capital project requests that are submitted to the Ministry for consideration. Capital funding from the provincial government covers most of the capital costs for site acquisition, new school construction, and school additions or renovations. Minor capital submissions include Carbon Neutral Capital Projects, Playground Enhancements, School Enhancement projects, and Bus Acquisition.

A final copy of the major submissions will be presented to the Board in June for approval. Minor capital submission will be presented in the September board meeting.

R7.3 Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since April 28, 2025 the following have occurred:

- City issued building permit for modular portion of project.
- Fort Modular confirmed manufacturing of modular sections will begin June 2, 2025.

- Force Engineering to provide documentation to post second tender for civil works on BC Bid May 21, 2025.
- Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer met with Crescent Park PAC to provide an update on the project.
- Director of Operations contacted the City to provide notice that civil drawings will be forwarded May 22 and to request dedicated time to review them.

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

Since April 28, 2025 the following have occurred:

- Decision made to proceed with the stick build option for the following reasons:
 - Streamlined process with 1 contractor, 1 tender, 1 building permit.
 - Schedule.
 - Class D Refined Modular will only become more expensive as the costing (Class C, B, A) is more refined thus shrinking the variances of cost of stick build to modular (4.5%-2.1%).
 - Recent challenging experience with Crescent Park Elementary Expansion: 2 tenders, 2 contractors, 3 building permits (third is sprinklers).
 - Increased cost will be requested and assumed funded from Ministry of Education and Child Care.
 - Ministry does not have a preference between stick build or modular.
- SD 59 project team met to discuss next steps.
- Architect sent Class A cost estimates for the stick build childcares. School District 59 will reach out to the Ministry to see about applying for more funding.
- The district will present 2 options for the Dawson Creek Childcare Facility to the ministry:
 - Option 1 without before and after childcare (original application)
 - Option 2 with before and after childcare (increased cost)

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

R7.4 2025-2026 Budget Process Debrief

Trustees and senior staff reflected on the 2025-2026 budget process, discussing what worked well and what improvements could be made for the next budget cycle.

R7.5 Secretary Treasurer's Report – May 2025

The Secretary Treasurer's report for May 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. Survey results from the AGM were positive. BCSTA has put out messaging regarding shortfall of funding province wide.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Both Chetwynd and Dawson Creek Indigenous Education Councils met on May 13th. The councils reflected on the May 5th Truth and Reconciliation focused day, reviewed the submissions from schools for National Indigenous Peoples Day, and selected the Indigenous student awards. The Courage to Endure Awards will be presented at the school district's evening celebration event on June 19th.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee presented changes to Policy 4660 Retention and Destruction of Records for review.

(2025-05-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve circulation of Policy and Regulation 4660 Media in Schools, for feedback for a minimum of 30 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 – June 18, 2025 (Dawson Creek)

ADJOURNMENT

(2025-05-008)

MOVED – Jones

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of May 21, 2025 be terminated. (2:24 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed By:

C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed By:

K. Morris Secretary Treasurer