



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 20, 2026 – 1:00 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 *via Zoom*
T. Jones *via Zoom*

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

REGRETS: Nil

Called to Order – 1:07 PM

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2026-05-014)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the May 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2026

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2026-05-015)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting April 22, 2026 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – April 22, 2026

(2026-05-016)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting April 22, 2026 approved as presented.

R1.3 – Excerpts Special Closed Meeting – April 29, 2026

(2026-05-017)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the special closed board meeting April 29, 2026 approved as presented.

R1.4 – Excerpts Special Closed Meeting – May 5, 2026

(2026-05-018)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the special closed board meeting May 5, 2026 approved as amended. (Adjournment Time).

R1.5 – Excerpts Special Closed Meeting – May 7, 2026

(2026-05-019)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the special closed board meeting May 7, 2026 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:

- Parkland Elementary students are enjoying the track and field and badminton clubs.
- Devereaux Elementary students have been growing vegetables in their hydroponic system and harvested their crops on Earth Day to make salads. Students dressed as their favourite sport star on Spirit Day. Intermediate students had a field trip to IMPACT,

- a presentation from a local dance group, and the primary students enjoyed their field trip to the local gymnastics club.
- Moberly Lake Elementary students made red dresses to hang in the forest surrounding the school to honour MMIWG on May 5th. Caribou Guardians, who are hired to protect and restore endangered caribou populations visited the school to provide an update on the Caribou study that Moberly students actively participate in by collecting lichen for the caribou. In partnership with Saulteau First Nations, the students are learning about land stewardship. Students had fun tapping birch water and trying maple taffy.
 - Ecole Frank Ross had French recording artist, Eloiz from France perform at the school as part of a BC schools tour. Ecole Frank Ross held a school-based science fair students and from there, some students attended the regional science fair. The annual Tombola festival was recently held, and a group of students performed the musical, Alice. Primary students are working on numeracy and literacy centres.
 - Tremblay Elementary students participated in the arts festival. Two of the classes were invited to perform at the honors concert. Students also participated in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser.
 - Canalta Elementary hosted a 'bring anything but a backpack' day. Students are focusing on social emotional learning. Intermediate students are learning to summarize children's stories and then teach the stories to primary classes. Many classes in the school are hatching chicks. Intermediate students are learning about Ancient Egypt.
 - Welcome to Kindergarten events are being held at schools across the district.
 - Students and staff throughout the district enjoyed receiving cookies from the Smile Cookie campaign sponsored by Tim Hortons and local businesses.
 - TRSS students and staff moved into the new modular classrooms. Picnic tables and bike racks were moved over to the new campus, and flowers were donated to make the space welcoming for everyone.
 - DCSS-Central Campus foods class is learning the art of making homemade pies. The art class has been producing some beautiful artwork that is shown throughout the school.
 - Students at Tumbler Ridge Elementary School have been learning about the Seven Teachings from Artist in Residence, Wayne LaRiviere.
 - Indigenous students from across the district visited the Indigenous Career Fair hosted by Northern Lights College on the Dawson Creek Campus. Indigenous rapper, Dreezus, shared his story and performed for the students.
 - Don Titus Montessori students are busy conducting science experiments. Students and staff participated in Multi Age Learning Teams (MALT) where students choose from 16 activities that they can participate in. Intermediate students sampled a 'Book Tasting' that was set up in the school library.
 - Chetwynd Secondary Students are learning about eyeballs and sight in their science unit. Students are exploring the limits and advantages of sight as they had to draw while blindfolded then navigate the school hallways.
 - The District held their annual Indigenous professional development day on May 5th. Madelaine McCallum presented her 'I Am Enough workshop' and Kevin Lamoureaux shared teachings and talked about our own personal role in Truth and Reconciliation. Student artwork was showcased in the gym and the day ended with local drummers and a welcome dance around the teepee.
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day is recognized in the district throughout the month of June. The District will host Zoom Around the District on June 19th and the public evening celebration on June 23rd.

R6.2 Tumbler Ridge Phase 2 Update

The transition to the Kodiak Campus is now complete. Staff and students transitioned to the modular classrooms from May 11-13th.

A multipurpose modular is being built that will be placed in the centre area and will consist of the school office, washrooms, common area,

Phase 1 has been packed up and moved away, some of the modulars have been around the outside edge of the new Kodiak Campus and are being used for temporary washrooms, school office, network/security, storage, etc.

R6.3 Agriculture Safety Day

All grade 6/7 students in the district will have the opportunity to attend the Agriculture Safety Day on June 11, 2026 hosted by SD59 at the Dawson Creek Exhibition Fairgrounds. Students will learn about all aspects related to safety, including handling of farm machinery and chemical substances.

R6.4 Enhancing Student Learning Feedback Report

The District received a feedback letter from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the Enhancing Student Learning Report. The feedback recognized that the district team has a continuous improvement approach in place to enhance student learning outcomes which includes processes to review data and evidence, reflect on and adjust targeted strategies, and focus on priority learners.

R6.5 Graduation Dates

Dawson Creek Senior Secondary – South Peace Campus

Graduation Ceremony – June 19, 2026

Red Carpet/Prom: June 20, 2026

Chetwynd Secondary School

Graduation Ceremony – June 20, 2026

Tumbler Ridge Secondary School

Graduation Ceremony – June 19, 2026

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Banking Services

The Secretary Treasurer requested a one-year extension on the banking services contract that is set to expire in November 2026.

(2026-05-020)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve a one (1) year extension of the current banking services arrangement with CIBC, with the extension to expire no later than December 31, 2027.

CARRIED

R7.2 Annual Capital Plan Update

The Secretary Treasurer provided an overview of the annual five-year capital plan, which included the proposed 2027-2028 capital plan submissions (major and minor) that will come before the Board in June and September Board Meetings for adoption.

The Secretary Treasurer reported the district submitted applications for the Child Care Expansion funding which is a new category that provides funding for renovations to open up new childcare seats in existing spaces. The submission is to use existing modulars at Crescent Park and Canalta elementary schools.

R7.3 2026-2027 Budget Update

The trustees received a summary of consultations completed in relation to the 2026-2027 projected budget.

(2026-05-021)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) accepts the 2026-2027 Projected Budget “What We Heard” report regarding consultations with staff and families, as information.

CARRIED

R7.4 BCSTA Compensation Survey

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2026 BCSTA Compensation Survey Report.

(2026-05-022)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Mounsey

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) accepts as information the 2026 BCSTA Compensation Survey Report as presented.

CARRIED

R7.5 Monthly Financial Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for April 2026.

R7.4 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Final stages of the expansion are being completed. Civil work continues, new electrical service will be completed in early June and once school is out, final tie-ins for water and sewer will be completed.

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

With the confirmation of the additional funding, planning is moving forward with both childcare facilities to finalize the facility and site plans.

Tumbler Ridge Phase 2 Complex Update

Students and staff are now in the Kodiak Campus complex. Five wildfire modulars have been moved over as well for storage, washrooms, network/utilities, and other services. Phase 1 has been packed up and moved away. The field where Phase 1 was located will be remediated.

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.

Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) Conference – July 5-8, 2026. Trustee Gulick will attend in her role as director with the BCSTA.

R8.2 Tumbler Ridge Consultation Update – C. Anderson

The Board Chair provided a summary of the Tumbler Ridge Consultation Reports that were completed by Safer Schools Together. The reports are available on the school district website: [Tumbler Ridge Preliminary Consultation Report | School District 59](#)

R8.3 Board of Education Motion – C. Anderson

The following motion was adopted in the Special Closed Meeting of May 7, 2027 and approved by Board to be released in the media:

“THAT the Board of Education hereby requests to the BC Government a replacement school building be provided for the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School with a process conducted through a trauma-informed lens guided by provincial school safety experts;

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT the Board of Education requests to the BC Government that the replacement school building be site-built, and offer similar or enhanced educational opportunities and amenities as the school building to be replaced;

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT the Board of Education requests to the BC Government the replacement school building be located on a new site within the Tumbler Ridge community as agreed to with the Board of Education and in consultation with the local community and BC Government;

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT the Board of Education requests to the BC Government regarding the school building for replacement that it be removed and the land be remediated at the earliest timeframe reasonable;

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT the Board of Education affirms their responsibility and expectation to approve the future of the current school building site, in consultation with the local community and the BC Government.”

R8.4 Press Release – C. Anderson

The joint press release between the Federal Government and Government of BC that was released on May 7, 2026 to announce the support of a new secondary school in Tumbler Ridge was shared.

R8.5 Letter of Permission Policy Update – C. Anderson

Ministry of Education has updated the Letter of Permission policy that now allows for LOP certifications to be approved for a period up to three years with supporting documentation.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek council met on May 12, 2026. The planning has started for the Indigenous student celebration and achievement awards. Attendance rates and goals were considered in planning for the next agreement.

R9.2 Indigenous Education Council – C. Hillton

Trustee Hillton reported the Indigenous Education Council meeting will be held on May 27, 2026.

R9.3 Policy Committee

The previously adopted Trustee Elections Bylaw was amended to include a clause about publication means other than a newspaper.

(2026-05-023)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

THAT, the Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 2026-01-2 be read a first time.

CARRIED

(2026-05-024)

MOVED/SECONDED – Mounsey/Hillton

THAT, the Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 2026-01-2 be read a second time.

CARRIED

(2026-05-025)

MOVED/SECONDED – Schurmann/Jones

THAT, the Board allows the third reading of the Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 2026-01-2 to occur in this meeting.

CARRIED

(2026-05-026)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Schurmann

THAT, Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 2026-01-2 be read a third time, passed and adopted.

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 – June 17, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

(2026-05-027)

MOVED – Hilton

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Regular Board Meeting of May 20, 2026 be terminated. (3:07 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed By:
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed By:
P. Neale, Secretary Treasurer