



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: November 27, 2024 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

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

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

REGRETS: R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)

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

(2024-11-005)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Schurmann

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the November 27, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2024

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2024-11-006)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting October 23, 2024 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – October 23, 2024

(2024-11-007)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting October 23, 2024 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

R5.1 – From: Union of BC Indian Chiefs re: UBCIC Resolution 2024-57 “Provincial MMIWG2S+ Anti-Violence Curriculum”

R5.2 – To: Pouce Coupe Mayor and Council re: feedback of draft Official Community Plan

(2024-11-008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) receive the correspondence.

CARRIED

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Halloween activities took place at schools around the district.
- Remembrance Day assemblies were held at all schools. Students engage in the assemblies by sharing stories, poems, artwork, and leading the moment of silence.
- A Student Symposium was held as part of the Board’s 2025-26 budget process.
- Tumbler Ridge Secondary Students enjoyed hands-on learning with the culinary program offered through Northern Lights College.
- Congratulations to the five Grade 11 students from TRSS that were accepted to attend the BC Youth Parliament session in Victoria at the legislature building from December 27th to 31st.
- TRSS volleyball team travelled with Fort Nelson students to a tournament in Mackenzie.

- As the volleyball season ends, students across the district were excited to participate in their final tournaments.
- Tremblay Elementary School held a winter clothing and toy swap.
- The Rotary Club of Dawson Creek donated funds for school hot lunch programs.
- Canalta Elementary held a 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) day. Kindergarten students mixed carving pumpkins with science and numeracy lessons. Canalta also held a student speech contest focused on what students would like to see in the school.
- Mrs. Nilsen's grade 6-7 class is learning about circuiting and coding as part of the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) curriculum. Canalta students also completed a project-based learning activity where they planned a mock field trip to Banff.
- Peace View Elementary enjoyed the new fresh snow and participated in building a large snowman.
- Louis Riel Day was recognized on November 16th. The District Resource Centre has Metis cultural books and resources available for school use.
- Grade 7's from elementary schools in Chetwynd and Moberly Lake Elementary had their first transition day at Chetwynd Secondary School. The students tour and take part in activities at the high school which helps in the students transition from grade 7 to grade 8.
- Devereaux Elementary's Grade 1- 2 class are learning about healthy eating. The students are studying Canada's Food Guide and looking through local flyers for healthy food choices.
- The new mural at Parkland Elementary School incorporates local agriculture with unique geographic land formations.
- Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus held a career night in partnership with Northern Lights College to promote dual credit and career/education pathways.
- School District No. 59 was honoured to accept the Inclusive Workplace award presented at the Dawson Creek Community Awards Gala.

R6.2 Montessori Program Review

The Superintendent will be initiating a review of the Montessori program being offered at Don Titus Elementary School. The review is fulfilling a 2018-19 review recommendation to conduct a review of the program every five years. The intent of the review is to ensure that the Montessori program is operating in accordance with Montessori principles. As a school of choice with a Montessori program, it is important that the Board of Education have the confidence in supporting and recognizing that the program is authentic and sustainable.

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Appointment of Auditors

The current audit services contract is expiring in March 2025 and allows for an extension for an additional two years if mutually agreed upon.

(2024-11-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Schurmann

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) extend the audit contract of Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP to March 31, 2027.

CARRIED

R7.2 Monthly Financial Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report. At the end of November, budgets on a 12-month cycle should have 80% left and 10-month budgets should have 67% of their budget remaining.

R7.3 2024-2025 Budget Change Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the budget change report, indicating changes from the Preliminary Budget approved in May 2024. The report indicated a small increase in SPP and decrease in staffing due to remedy.

R7.4 Secretary Treasurer Report – November 2024

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

R7.5 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

A rendering has been completed that shows the outside of school and is posted at the school along with the floor plan and site plan. Discussions have been held with the engineer regarding the tendering process; two tenders will be issued: one for the modular construction and the second for site preparation, foundation and prep for modular arrival.

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

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge

The SD59 project team has received drawings and preliminary cost estimates from the architect. Updates are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

R7.6 Student Symposium

A Student Symposium was held on October 30th at McLeod Community Hall. The symposium was part of the Board's 2025-2026 budget engagement process. Forty students from all three high schools attended and participated in four discussion topic sessions: Technology, Cultural Responsiveness, Advocacy and Engagement, and a completed a budget simulation exercise.

8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R8.1 BCSTA Update

In the absence of Trustee Gulick, Trustee Anderson presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA.

Trustees and senior staff attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy in Vancouver from November 21-23, 2024.

There is discussion that the Northern Interior Branch meeting will be hosted with the Northwest Branch in the fall of 2025.

Lisa Beare, MLA from Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, has been appointed as the new Minister of Education and Child Care.

R8.1 Trustee Code of Conduct

The Board of Education completed an annual review of its Trustee Code of Conduct policy on November 6, 2024.

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Both Councils held their annual Enhancement Agreement meeting. School principals, coach mentors, senior staff and parent representatives attended the meetings to develop and share the school goals for this year. Trustees were also in attendance for these meetings.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee brought forward two policies for circulation.

(2024-11-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) circulate the following policy for feedback for a minimum of 30 days:

- 4270 Policy/Regulation District Scholarship Awards
- 4330 Policy/Regulation Dismissal of Students

CARRIED

The committee is conducting a review of the following policies:

- 4660 - Retention and Destruction of Records (2000)
- 4180 – Grading Practices (2013) to ensure alignment with new reporting order and inclusion of a section on fair assessment
- 4585 – Media in Schools (2013)

10.0 DIARY

11.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

12.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

13.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.1 - Regular Board Meeting – December 18, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

(2024-11-011)

MOVED – Jones

THAT, the Regular Board Meeting of November 27, 2024 be terminated. (1:43 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed by
C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed by
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer