



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: October 22, 2025 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: Little Prairie Elementary School – Chetwynd, 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 & 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

(2025-10-006)

MOVED/SECONDED – Wards/Hillton

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2025

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-10-007)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting September 17, 2025 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – September 17, 2025

(2025-10-008)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting September 17, 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:

- Schools throughout the district recognized Truth and Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day.
- Moberly Lake Elementary students are learning orienteering skills and learning about the forest and being on the land with guided tours and tree planting activities.
- Little Prairie has started their morning breakfast club and created a bulletin board to honour Truth and Reconciliation.
- The Earth Rangers Science group visited many schools in the district. The program empowers kids to become environmental leaders at home, in school and in their communities.
- Mr. Ford's grade 5/6 class at Crescent Park Elementary created a beading project to honour Residential Schools. Canalta also had great participation in the cross-country running club for their fall season. Crescent park staff and students are eagerly awaiting the opening of the schools five classroom expansion project.
- Schools throughout the district participated in Terry Fox runs and raised money through a variety of activities, many of the challenges for raising money were aimed at staff - challenging them to dye hair, wear wigs, kiss a duck, or wear a tutu.
- Crescent Park Leadership students Gwillim Lake Outdoor Education site
- Central visited outside agencies to inform them of Orange Shirt Day and held their annual walk from the school to the Mile 0 post to honour Truth and Reconciliation. The school raised \$800 for the Terry Fox Foundation and grade 9 students attended an Open house at Northern Lights College.

- Ecole Frank Ross has a boot swap where students can trade in boots. Students are enjoying the French presentations from as part of the French Immersion program where they have different song writers and artists come in.
- Chetwynd Secondary School has had many field trips already to the Outdoor Education site at Gwillim Lake. Metis focussed beading work was presented at the Truth and Reconciliation assembly. Students are having a great time developing an ADST project creating stop motion pictures.
- McLeod Elementary enjoyed their field trip to Gwillim Lake, especially the evening where they played instruments and sang songs around the fire. Students are painting a mural with Wayne Lariviere that will go up in the gym & community centre.
- Don Titus students participated in a STEM activity that challenged students to create displays to hold their pumpkins. Students also enjoyed learning about different animals during Pet Week.
- Many schools had thanksgiving themed lunches.
- Windrem Elementary students are learning about different cultures and are enjoying experiencing many cultural activities.
- Devereaux Elementary is continuing their Minute to Win It challenges at their monthly assemblies. Students are excited the buddy reading program has started.
- Tremblay Elementary has started their focus groups (athletics, ADST, coding and music).
- Canalta Elementary received a donation from the Landry Woman in Agriculture Foundation – they used the donation for a student field trip to Murphy's Pumpkin Patch where they learned about growing and harvesting pumpkins. Canalta harvested 3000 lbs of potatoes that they as a school fundraiser. Students are using math skills to design and engineer haunted houses and then focus on language arts when they write about how haunted their houses are.
- Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Week activities happened throughout the district. Many school partner with the local fire departments who bring their firetruck and do presentations about fire safety and prevention.

R6.2 Enhancing Student Learning Report - DRAFT

The Superintendent presented the draft version of the Enhancing Student Learning Report. The report is an annual report that is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and focuses on equity of learning outcomes for Indigenous learners, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities or diverse abilities.

R6.3 Montessori Program Review Recommendation

After further review of the 2024/25 Montessori Program Review report that was presented in the June 2025 board meeting, the Superintendent added a third option that supports the continuation of the school maintaining a Montessori themed program in Chetwynd.

(2025-10-009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Wards

That the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) support the Superintendent's Option C recommendation for Don Titus Montessori school resulting from the Spring 2025 program review;

WHEREAS the following shall occur:

- the school name remains Don Titus Montessori;
- the school remains a school of choice;

- the school is Montessori themed and focuses on some of the philosophies of Montessori, while continuing to use the British Columbia Kindergarten to Grade 7 curriculum in a public school;
- add 'Montessori Programming' to the portfolio of one of the senior leadership team members;
- reinstate language outlining the desired qualifications of teachers applying to work at Don Titus Montessori;
- maintain structures that promote inclusivity, relationship-building, and a supportive school culture; and
- create a professional learning community and/or in-service opportunities to research and apply the Montessori delivery of instruction led by the current Principal who is trained in Montessori.

CARRIED

7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R7.1 Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis Report that was submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The report is meant to accompany the audited financial statements for a more in-depth narrative. The full report is available for review on the school district website: [Financial Statement discussion & analysis](#).

R7.2 2024-2025 Executive Compensation Report

The 2024-2025 Executive Compensation Disclosure report was presented. The report is an annual reporting requirement and includes the compensation philosophy of the district, including labour market comparators, cash and non-cash compensation, compensation administration and accountability. The disclosure includes the executive level decision makers with compensation of over \$125,000. The report is reviewed by both BCPSEA and PSEC.

(2025-10-010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Wards

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) receive the 2024-2025 Executive Compensation Report as presented.

CARRIED

R7.3 2025-2026 Final Preliminary Enrollment

A final enrollment count of 3648.8 FTE was submitted to the Ministry. The enrollment count is a decrease of 74 FTE from the preliminary report. Enrollment decline is observed across elementary and secondary levels throughout the district.

R7.4 2025-2026 Budget Change Report

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2025-2026 Budget Change Report, indicating changes from the Preliminary Budget approved in April 2025.

R7.5 Enrollment Review

The Secretary Treasurer recommended an enrollment review of all schools to understand the variance in enrollment over time and enrollment decline's impact on the district in an effort to provide stability and sustainability into the future.

R7.6 Monthly Financial Report – September 2025

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance report for September 2025. As of September, 12-month budgets should have 75% left and 10-month budgets should have 90% of their budget remaining.

R7.5 Secretary Treasurer Report – October 2025

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

R7.6 Capital Projects Report

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Work continues on the modulars that are in place, pricing for the new electrical kiosk has been received, civil plans have been submitted to the City of Dawson Creek for approval, and contractors met to finalize the plan for the fire alarm system

ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

Since the last board meeting, the SD59 project team and architect met to finalize the request to the Ministry for additional funding for both Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge projects. Quarterly reports and project extension requests have been submitted to the Ministry for both projects and updated costing information has been received.

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.

Mr. Anderson reported the Minister has provided a response to the BC Teachers Council on a number of requests for action and a requirement for a report on progress by February 2026.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provided an update on the employment placement incentives, practicum placement awards and shared new initiatives including the launch of Northern B.C. Return of Service Award Program where teacher candidates who commit to working for three years in one of the participating northern schools will be eligible to receive an award of up to \$18,000 during the final year of their teacher education program. This funding will be applied directly toward their tuition costs.

In regard to the request to streamline the LOP process, The Ministry of Education and Child Care is focussed on bringing more people into the teacher profession rather than extending LOPs permission.

Upcoming BCSTA Events:

BCSTA Provincial Council – October 24, 2025 - Virtual

BCSTA Academy – November 27-29, 2025 – Vancouver

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R9.1 Indigenous Education Partners' Advisory Councils

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek council will meet on October 28, 2025. – similar agenda to Chetwynd's Council meeting that was held October 21, 2025.

Trustee Hillton reported the Chetwynd Council met on October 21, 2025. The meeting focused on reviewing Orange Shirt Day activities (district wide), and an update was provided on the Learning Enhancement Agreement negotiations with Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations. The next council meeting will focus on the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement's annual goals. Council reviewed the process to develop a new enhancement agreement as the current agreement expires in 2026.

R9.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee provided an update to the policies they have in the queue for review.

The committee is working on developing a new policy that must be in place in relation to the Ministerial Order Amendment (July 1, 2025) requiring all Board of Education to establish, maintain, and make publicly available a policy (by December 31, 2025) for responding to unexpected health emergencies at schools in the district. This policy must ensure that lifesaving first aid tools, including Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone kits are readily accessible and maintained in every school.

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 – November 19, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

(2025-10-011)

MOVED – Hillton

THAT, the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2025 be terminated. (2:48 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Original Signed by:

C. Anderson, Board Chair

Original Signed By:
K. Morris Secretary Treasurer