



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.59

11600 – 7TH Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

Open Session Minutes

DATE & TIME: April 23, 2020 – 1:00 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek

(Note: Due to COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was scheduled using zoom for members to attend electronically.)

PRESENT: Trustees:
T. Ziemer – via zoom
C. Hillton (Vice-Chair) – via zoom
R. Gulick – via zoom
T. Jones – via zoom
C. Anderson (Chair)
B. Borton – via zoom
J. Lalonde – via zoom

C. Clouthier, Superintendent
C. Fennell, Assistant Superintendent – via zoom
M. Panoulis, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

Called to Order – 1:02 PM

“We acknowledge that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: R5.5 - French Immersion – CSS
R7.3 – Joint MLA Meeting

Deletions:

(2020-04-008)
MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Lalonde
THAT, the Regular Meeting agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2020

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2020-04-009)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting March 12, 2020 approved as presented.

R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – March 12, 2020

(2020-04-010)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting March 12, 2020 approved as presented.

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

R5.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Schools are adjusting to offering continuity of learning in a new way.
- TRE challenging students to make a recycle-a-sauras. The challenge is to build a dinosaur out of recycled materials only.
- TRSS is engaging students with fun at home cooking lessons. These lessons have created fun family connections as other family members at home are participating as well.
- Many teachers are finding creative ways to have students do projects at home. Students are sending in pictures of their assignments.
- Shop students at DCSS – Central Campus are being given challenges to build and design projects like pinball machines and puck games.
- Videos and pictures were presented from Little Prairie, DCSS and Don Titus were shown all the different ways students are learning at home. Highlighted student learning activities included lessons in literacy, numeracy, physical education, STEM, woodworking and cooking.

R5.2 Student Discipline Report

The student discipline summary report for the month of March 2020 was presented. A total of 16 suspensions were reported. Following is a breakdown of the main offences:

- Safety of Others 9
- Controlled Substance 3
- Fighting 3

R5.3 COVID-19 Update

The school district has been focusing their efforts in the following four areas:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
2. Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Protocol has been implemented at all school district sites to ensure the health and safety of all staff. Procedures have been established for parents or students to pick up education materials at the schools.

Child care is being offered for Tier 1 essential workers in all three communities. Four sites are currently being used. The district will continue to work with parents/guardians identified as essential workers to provide child care if required.

Meal support is being provided in all three communities. Breakfast and lunch kits are being delivered to families each week. Kits are assembled at Chetwynd Secondary, Tumbler Ridge Secondary, and Tremblay Elementary.

Staff have been working diligently to transition to a new way of learning for students. The focus has been on the social emotional well-being of students, support of meaningful curriculum and setting reasonable expectations for the amount of time each child spends learning at home each week. There are many innovative solutions happening as we navigate this new type of education. Students and teachers are being creative in the way they present learning.

The district also recognizes this is an incredibly difficult time for many families and encourages anyone that is having difficulty to reach out to their school teacher or principal for support.

The Ministry has announced new assessment requirements. Report cards for students in the primary grades will be much the same with teachers using different ways of assessing learning.

Students in Grade 4 to Grade 9 will be receiving, at minimum, a final letter grade for Language Arts/English, Math, Science and Social Studies. There may be anecdotal or letter grades for other areas of learning like PE, Art, French etc. Third or fourth term marks will be primarily through anecdotal comments.

Students in Grades 10-11 will receive final grades for courses in second semester and will receive at a minimum, anecdotal comments for third term. Grade 12's will receive third term marks as post-secondary institutions still require them for early admissions. Students who are on track to graduate need to complete sufficient requirements for the courses in which they are registered in order to complete requirements for graduation.

The Board Chair thanked everyone for their work in adapting to this new way of learning and providing service during COVID-19.

R5.4 Principal Announcements

The Superintendent announced the following appointments, effective August 1, 2020:

- Shane Mould, Principal of Chetwynd Secondary School
- Dianne Bassendowski, Principal of Windrem Elementary

R5.5 French Immersion – CSS

The Superintendent reviewed the recent history of the French Immersion program in Chetwynd. The elementary stream of the program was closed in 2018 and only existing high school students were being transitioned through an adapted program at Chetwynd Secondary School. Since then, the number of students enrolled in the program at the high school level has declined.

With only two students enrolled in the French Immersion program at Chetwynd Secondary School, the program is no longer feasible academically or financially. The Superintendent will be bringing forward a recommendation in the May board meeting to discontinue the program.

6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER

R6.1 Finance Reports

The monthly finance reports were reviewed.

R6.2 2020-21 Preliminary Grant Funding

The Secretary Treasurer discussed the Preliminary Grant Funding as announced at the end of March for the 2020-21 school year.

7.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

R7.1 BCSTA Update – T. Ziemer

Trustee Ziemer presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. With the cancellation of the BCSTA AGM, the election process for the BCSTA's 2020-21 Board of Directors will be held electronically.

Trustees are to email the board chair by Friday with their candidate selections for BCSTA Director positions. The board chair will submit the vote electronically on behalf of the board by 3:00 pm on April 24, 2020.

R7.2 Board Meetings – C. Anderson

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the format for holding public board meetings will be different. Because of the change in practice, the trustees voted to hold board meetings electronically with a live stream option for public viewing. The live stream format will allow for a public question and answer period.

(2020-04-011)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Ziemer

THAT, the open board meetings be offered in an online format to allow members of the public access to the meetings while the public gallery is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R7.3 Joint MLA Meeting

The Board chair has received an invitation from SD60 to participate in a joint meeting with the local MLA. A meeting date has not been arranged yet.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

R8.1 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee brought forward the following recommendations:

R8.1.1 Policy for Discussion

Policy 5180 Benefits on Leave of Absence was brought forward to the policy committee requesting the Director of Human Resources have the discretion to modify the policy under extenuating circumstances directly related to the coronavirus pandemic.

(2020-04-012)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Lalonde

THAT, the board give authority and discretion to the Director of Human Resources to modify, under extenuating circumstances, the requirement of the employee to pay both portions of the benefit premium (per Policy 5180) while on leave of absence if the leave is directly related to COVID-19 circumstances.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R8.1.2 Policies for Adoption

The Policy Committee presented Bylaw 3-08 Student Appeal Procedure for the final reading and adoption.

(2020-04-013)

MOVED/SECONDED – Lalonde/Gulick

THAT, amended Bylaw 3-08 Student Appeal Procedure be read a third time, passed, and adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R8.1.3 Policies for Repeal

The Policy Committee recommended repealing the following policies as they were combined into other policies that were previously adopted.

(2020-04-014)

MOVED/SECONDED – Hillton/Gulick

THAT, the board repeal the following policies, effective immediately:

- Policy 2155 Board Authority and Responsibility (Combined into Policy 2150)
- Policy 2200 Trustee Stipend (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2230 Trustee Reimbursement of Expenses (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2231 Trustee Benefits (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2235 Trustee Recognition (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2270 Delegations to Board Meetings (Combined into Policy 2260)
- Policy 2280 Participation by the Public (Combined into Policy 2260)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.0 DIARY

10.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

11.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A question and answer period was provided.

12.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

R12.1 - Regular Board Meeting – May 28, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

(2020-04-015)

MOVED – Jones

THAT, the Regular Meeting be terminated. (2:00 PM)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

(C. Anderson) Board Chair

(M. Panoulis) Secretary Treasurer