



MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Board:

D. Lang, Chair
M. J. Blackmore (*via video conference*)
J. Bremner, Vice-Chair
S. Chew
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin (*via video conference*)
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter
L. Trenaman

Student Trustees:

Nil

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
C. Kerr, Director of Operations (*via video conference*)
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
S. Bruszkowski, Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Nil

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda – Nil

4. Consent Package Questions – Nil

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-001

THAT the Agenda for this September 10, 2024 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Receiving Public Presentations – Nil

7. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda – Nil

8. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

24/25-002

THAT the minutes from the June 11, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public BE ADOPTED, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking – Nil

10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Superintendent Succession Designate

Superintendent Smillie designated Assistant Superintendent Holitzki to take on her responsibilities for the current school year in case of her absence as outlined in the memo.

B. National Day of Truth and Reconciliation School Events

Superintendent Smillie invited Director Carriere who presented the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation School Events schedule as provided in the agenda package. Each school hosts a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation assembly during the final week of September so that students and members of the school community can recognize the importance of and commit to their own actions in truth and reconciliation.

C. Student Trustee Program

Superintendent Smillie welcomed Director Eaton to the Board table who highlighted the student trustee program as part of student leadership within the district. There will be three returning student trustees in 2024-2025. Two Student Trustees may represent each high school in the district. He outlined the application process and provided information on the orientation sessions prior to student trustees' participation in a public meeting of the Board of Education.

Director Eaton answered Trustees' questions on accommodations for candidates, school representation, a mentorship program, and further engaging student trustees at the Board table.

D. School Food Equity Programs

Superintendent Smillie invited Assistant Superintendent Holitzki who presented information on the School Food Equity Programs across the district.

In the meeting held on September 10, 2024, it was highlighted that School District 8 (SD8) has been actively implementing food equity programming since April 2023, following comprehensive planning and surveys conducted in 2022-23. The district has worked closely with Indigenous education partners and PAC groups to ensure equitable resource allocation, with a focus on supporting Indigenous and nominal roll students.

The BC Fruit and Vegetable Program has been expanded to provide universal access to fresh produce and additional dairy products to all schools. New funding has enabled the purchase of essential equipment and infrastructure improvements at various schools. Additionally, summer 2024 saw support for vulnerable families through local partnerships.

For the 2024-25 school year, SD8 will receive \$615,090 in Feeding Futures special purpose funding. This will support the continuation of food programs, including pilot meal delivery initiatives and enhanced food literacy efforts. The district remains committed to maintaining student dignity and confidentiality in its food programs.

Superintendent Smillie and Assistant Superintendent Holitzki answered Trustees’ questions on universal versus vulnerability-based programs, the impact of school food programs on student learning, food literacy, and addressing dietary restrictions within the programs.

11. Operations and Finance – Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer

A. 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur welcomed auditor David Bond from KPMG. Mr. Bond presented a clean audit final report. No issues were noted in the audit findings. No internal control deficiencies were flagged and there were no unadjusted errors. A clean auditor’s opinion was provided to School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake).

Trustees thanked the Secretary-Treasurer and her team for their solid work that gives provides great confidence.

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur thanked David Bond and his team for their work.

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements. She presented the financial results by fund as well as a comparison to the budget and the prior year. With an annual surplus of \$2.3 million after transfers for tangible capital asset purchases and an ending accumulated surplus of \$7.5 million in the operating fund, the district is in a strong financial situation. As per Board Policy 621, the district aims for a 3-5% targeted surplus level for achieving educational goals and addressing financial health, stability and risk. Restricting accumulated surpluses as outlined in ministry policy ensures consistency, transparency, and accountability across school districts. With accumulated surplus at targeted levels, the district will be able to do long-term planning for projects and replace ageing equipment, vehicles and classroom equipment and furniture.

Superintendent Smillie highlighted the district’s continued efforts towards funding classrooms. For example, last year, IT and furniture purchases were centralized allowing for lower prices for standardized products. While the district paid for these purchases, school budgets were not cut. SD8 focusses on supporting the strategic plan and through the school learning grant program. The program will be expanded to support teachers in their continuous improvement projects.

To improve cybersecurity, multi-factor authentication and further cybersecurity enhancements are being considered.

Superintendent Smillie and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur answered Trustees’ questions.

The Superintendent thanked Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur for her and her team’s work on the audited financial statements.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-003

THAT the appropriation of the accumulated surplus for the Operating Fund be increased by \$1,438,598 from \$2,683,806 to \$4,122,404 as stated in note 19 of the audited financial statements of the year ended June 30,2024, **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried with one opposed.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-004

THAT the appropriation of the accumulated surplus for the Capital Fund be increased by \$7,729 from \$139,939 to \$147,668 as stated in note 19 of the audited financial statements of the year ended June 30,2024, **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-005

THAT the Audited Financial Statements and Financial Discussion & Analysis for the year ended June 30, 2024, **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2023-2024 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur outlined the requirement of the SOFI report. It will be posted on the district website.

C. Quarterly Capital Plans Update

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur invited Director of Operations, Kerr to provide a presentation on the Quarterly Capital Update. He highlighted work that had been completed across the district in the last quarter on various facilities as outlined in the memo.

D. Approve Major Capital Plan Submission

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur reported that SD8 has submitted a Major Capital request for the 2025-2026 school year to expand Salmo Secondary School. This expansion, detailed in the SD8 2021 Long-Range Facilities Plan, aims to add eight classrooms for Grades K-7 at an estimated cost of \$18,702,875. Salmo Elementary currently funds upgrades to Salmo Elementary from the Annual Facility Grant and operating funds to provide a suitable learning environment for students.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-006

THAT the Board of Education conclude three readings at this meeting for the approval of the submission of the Major 2025/26 Capital Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-007

THAT the additional 2025/26 funding request of \$18,702,875 for an addition to the Salmo Secondary School to accommodate the Salmo Elementary School be approved. READ A FIRST TIME THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; READ A SECOND TIME THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approve Minor Capital Plans Submission

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur asked the Board for approval for the 2025-2026 Minor Capital submission as outlined in the memo. Director Kerr provided information on each of the requested projects. The district aims for as many of the new buses as possible to be electric buses.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-008

THAT the Board of Education conclude three readings at this meeting for the approval of the submission of the Minor 2025/26 Capital Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-009

THAT the 2025/26 funding request of \$37,500 for kitchen equipment under the Food Infrastructure Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME THE 10th DAY OF**

September 2024; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-010
THAT the 2025/26 funding request of \$195,000 for a new playground under the Playground Equipment Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-011
THAT the 2025/26 funding request of \$1,150,000 for window replacement and sprinkler upgrades under the School Enhancement Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-012
THAT the 2025/26 funding request of \$100,000 for Direct Digital Controls under the Carbon Neutral Capital Program be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-013
THAT the 2025/26 funding request for 8 buses be approved. **READ A FIRST TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A SECOND TIME** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024; **READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED** THE 10th DAY OF September 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Policy Approval for Field Testing

- Policy 173: Climate Action and Sustainability

Superintendent Smillie presented the draft Policy 173: Climate Action and Sustainability which is aimed at addressing climate change impacts and asked for the Board’s approval. The draft policy was developed with extensive public engagement by the Sustainability Policy Development Advisory Group and aligns with provincial strategies.

Trustee Shunter and Vice Chair Bremner reported on their positive experience in the Sustainability Policy Development Advisory Group and thanked the Superintendent for creating an effective and professional framework.

Once approved, the district will focus on operationalizing climate action.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-0114
THAT policy 173 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Approval

- Policy 770: Student Transportation

Superintendent Smillie outlined the changes in draft Policy 770: Student Transportation as developed by the Policy Review Committee and after public field testing reviewed at the Policy, Operations & Finance Partner Advisory Committee earlier in the day. The revised policy will incorporate previous Policy 771: Transportation for Independent School Students as well as Policy 780: Transportation Assistance and was brought to the Board for approval.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-015

THAT policy 770 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Rescind Policy

- Policy 771: Transportation for Independent School Students

- Policy 780: Transportation Assistance

Superintendent Smillie highlighted that policies 771 and 780 were incorporated into revised Policy 770 and, therefore, asked the Board to rescind these policies.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-016

THAT policies 771 and 780 **BE RESCINDED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees – Nil

B. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman gave a shoutout to the working session in late August. She has been reinstated as RDCK Rec 10 commissioner.
- Vice Chair Bremner highlighted the bus ride during the Nelson pride parade and the great SD8 turnout.
- Trustee Chew sits on the Rec commission for Area G. Salmo is looking for ways to keep infrastructure running for the community in collaborative and sustainable ways. Ideas from the Canadian School Board Association will be brought to BCSTA.

C. Chair

Chair Lang attended the BCSTA chair meeting, several BCPSEA meetings, and has been doing a lot of work in preparation for the KBB AGM later this month.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) – Nil

E. British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) – Nil

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) – Nil

G. Other – Nil

15. Comments or Questions from the Public – Nil

Superintendent Smillie responded to questions and comments from the public related to the budget.

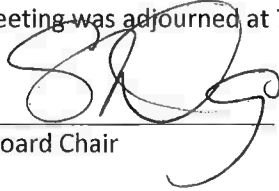
16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings


The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for October 8, 2024 in Creston.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer