

MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC AGENDA TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM PST

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM MST

In person: School Board Office, 811 Stanley Street, Nelson BC Via video conference: Zoom - Webinar ID: 657 3277 9733 – Password: 495118

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.

- 3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda
- 4. Consent Package Questions (p. 3)

App. 4

5. Adoption of Agenda

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the Agenda for this January 14, 2025 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

- 6. Receiving Public Presentations Nil
- 7. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda

The public may post comments or questions in the Q&A area on the webinar. These will be read aloud during the meeting.

8. Adoption of Minutes (p. 14)

App. 8

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the minutes from the December 10, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking (p. 19)

App. 9

- 10. Education Reports from the Superintendent
 - A. Online Learning Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025 (p. 20)

App. 10A

B. <u>Kindergarten Registration for 2025-2026</u> (p. 36)

App. 10B



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

A. 2025-2026 Budget Development Process (p. 38)

App. 11A

- 12. Governance and Policy Nil
- 13. Human Resources Nil
- 14. Trustee Verbal Reports
 - A. Student Trustees
 - B. <u>Trustees</u>
 - C. Chair
 - D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)
 - E. British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)
 - F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)
 - G. Other

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

The public may post comments or questions in the Q&A area on the webinar. These will be read aloud during the meeting.

16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for February 11, 2025.

17. Adjournment





SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 (KOOTENAY LAKE) CONSENT PACKAGE – PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

ITEI	М	
The	following Consent items are routine items received for information.	
1.	Board Correspondence Package	p. 4
2.	Superintendent's Report January 2025	
3.	Monthly Financial Report – for period ended November 30, 2024	p. 7
4.	Transactions over 50k – for period ended November 30, 2024	p. 11
5.	List of Trustee Recusals	p. 13





SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 (KOOTENAY LAKE)

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE PACKAGE JANUARY 14, 2025

ITEM DATE

1. Letter from Minister of Education to Board Chairs re: Establishment of Ministry of Dec. 16, 2024 Infrastructure





December 16, 2024

Ref: 303523

Dear Board Chairs:

We are writing to update you on the establishment of the Ministry of Infrastructure and what it will mean for your school district at this time.

On November 18, 2024, Premier David Eby appointed a new provincial cabinet that is ready to deliver on the core challenges people are facing throughout our province. Our government's top priorities include bringing down costs for families, strengthening health care, making communities safer, and growing the economy so everyone feels the benefits of helping build a more prosperous BC for future generations.

As a part of the cabinet announcement, the Ministry of Infrastructure was created. Governments worldwide are facing challenging construction markets and cost pressures on major capital projects. This new ministry is responsible for overseeing land acquisition as well as project planning, procurement, and delivery for vertical provincial capital projects such as schools, hospitals, post-secondary institutions, and other public buildings that BC communities need to continue to thrive. This does not include transportation infrastructure, which remains the purview of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

By assembling responsibility for vertical capital projects across the provincial government into the Ministry of Infrastructure, our provincial government is better able to improve the coordination and delivery of important community infrastructure that provincial services are delivered from, to people throughout BC.

For greater clarity, the Ministry of Infrastructure primarily deals with vertical projects requiring capital funding and will not be involved in the disbursement of any operating funding to partners. Operating funding that supports the delivery of your services will continue to come from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The changes being shared with you today are internal to the organization of our government ministries and do not change your role as an integral partner in the delivery of critical services. We will continue to communicate with you as we implement the new Ministry of Infrastructure. In the meantime, there should not be any interruption to how you engage with our government. Please continue reaching out to your existing contacts with any questions and/or feedback that you may have and be assured that our ministries will be working closely together to serve you well.

.../2



We are excited by the opportunities the new ministry provides and will ensure that our ministries work closely together to share information about your needs and how best to support you. Together, we will continue to build our province so British Columbians have the opportunity to grow, thrive and prosper for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Lisa Beare

cc:

La Bear

Minister of Education and Child Care

District Superintendents

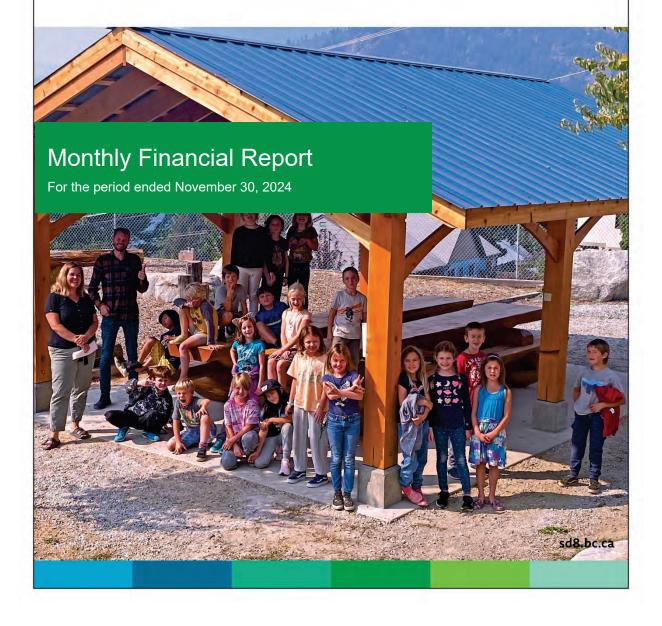
Bowinn Ma

Minister of Infrastructure

Meeting of the Board Held in Public







COMMENTS

Operating Expenditure Report

- The budget information is based on the 2024-2025 Budget approved by the Board on May 14, 2024.
- The last column shows whether the salaries expense is incurred based on the school calendar (10 months), or for the whole year (12 months), or a combination of both.
- The Operating Expenditure Report reflects five months of actual District operations and three months of School operations.
- The salaries and benefits are trending as expected based on the budgeted amounts and the applicable months for principals and vice-principals, teachers, educational assistants, support staff and other professionals.
- The Student Transportation, Professional Development and Travel and Utilities are higher in the latter part of the year. Dues, fees and insurance are more heavily weighted to the earlier part of the year.

Special Purpose Expenditure Report

- The budget information is based on the 2024-2025 Budget approved by the Board on May 14, 2024.
- The Special Purpose Expenditure Report reflects five months of actual District operations and three months of School operations.
- Other than the Annual Facility Grant, spending on the special purpose funds occurs primarily during the school year.





OPERATING EXPENDITURE REPORT							
	November 2024 Actuals	2024 - 2025 Budget	\$ Available Budget	% Available Budget	Applicable Months		
Salaries			<u> </u>	*			
Principal & Vice-Principal Salaries	1,803,442	4,393,591	2,590,149	59%	12		
Teacher Salaries	7,304,504	23,281,146	15,976,642	69%	10		
Educational Assistants	1,110,285	3,925,608	2,815,323	72%	10		
Support Staff	2,834,104	8,112,498	5,278,394	65%	10/12		
Other Professional Salaries	1,179,662	2,938,064	1,758,402	60%	12		
TOCs/Relief Salaries	1,198,846	3,317,015	2,118,169	64%	10/12		
Total Salaries	15,430,843	45,967,922	30,537,079	66%			
Employee Benefits	3,737,715	11,582,652	7,844,937	68%	10/12		
Total Salaries and Benefits	19,168,558	57,550,574	38,382,016	67%			
Services & Supplies							
Services	872,521	2,423,721	1,551,200	64%			
Student Transportation	77,242	377,202	299,960	80%			
Professional Development & Travel	254,015	673,745	419,730	62%			
Rentals and Leases	51,001	120,751	69,750	58%			
Dues and Fees	68,231	101,485	33,254	33%			
Insurance	197,091	200,000	2,909	1%			
Supplies	1,572,954	3,419,644	1,846,690	54%			
Utilities	257,035	1,769,878	1,512,843	85%			
Total Services & Supplies	3,350,090	9,086,426	5,736,336	63%			
Total Operating Expense	22,518,648	66,637,000	44,118,352	66%			



November 2024 2024 - 2025 \$ Available % Available Budget **Budget Actuals Budget** Ministry of Education and Child Care Funds **Annual Facilities Grant** 279,640 279,640 0% Classroom Enhancement Fund 2,824,688 9,610,352 6,785,664 71% Community Link 171,818 750,517 578,699 77% Early Care and Learning Fund to Schools 65,438 175,000 109,562 63% Early Years to Kindergarten 1,054 17,946 19,000 94% 80,156 ECE Dual Credit program 80,156 100% Feeding Futures 98,335 615,090 516,755 84% First Nation Transportation 24,697 24,697 100% Health Career Work Experiential Learning 3,700 5,000 1,300 26% Learning Improvement Fund 63,959 223,017 159,058 71% Mental Health in Schools 18,657 55,000 36,343 66% **OLEP** 24,936 89,101 64,165 72% Ready Set Learn 15,751 39,200 23,449 60% Seamless Day Kindergarten 55,400 38,869 16,531 70% StrongStart 30,784 160,000 129,216 81% Student & Family Affordability Fund 9,043 200,000 190,957 95% Work Experience Enhancement Initiative 50,000 50,000 100% **Total MOECC Funds** 3,624,334 12,431,170 8,756,836 70%

3,683

15,999

19,682

15,591

4,250

520,406

540,247

4,184,263

62,134

27,000

89,134

39,000

25,000

1,250,000

1,314,000

13,834,304

SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Other Provincial Special Purpose Funds

Health Promoting Schools

School Generated Funds

All Special Purpose Funds

Total MOECC Funds

Other Special Purpose Funds School Scholarships and Bursaries

Total MOECC Funds

ASSAI

Donations

94%

41%

78%

60%

58%

83%

59%

69%

58,451

11,001

69,452

23,409

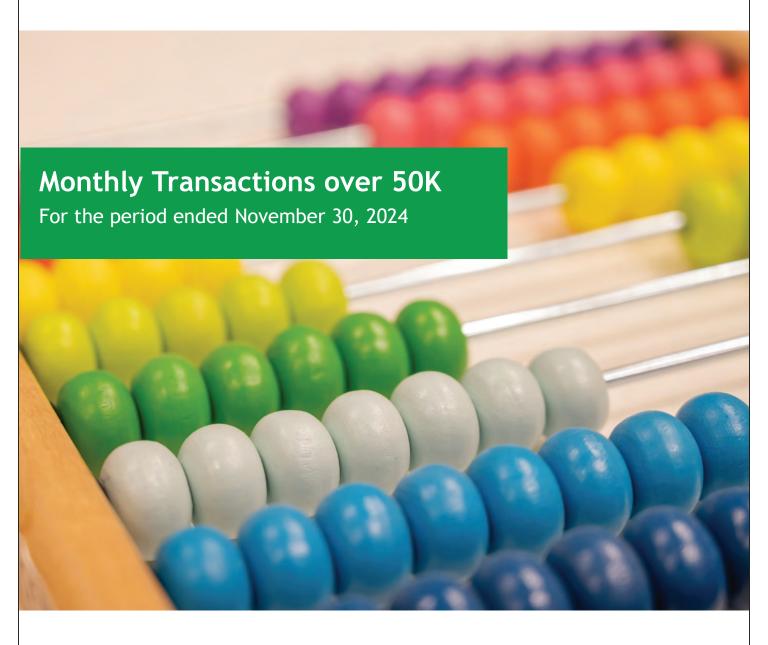
20,750

773,753

9,600,041

729,594





PAYMENTS IN NOVEMBER 2024 OVER \$50K (CHEQUES AND EFT)

Vendor Name	Amount
Kootenay Lake Teachers Federation	\$ 89,356.92
BMO Mastercard	\$ 76,725.17
BC Teachers Federation	\$ 54,450.01
British Columbia Teacher Federation	\$ 66,227.05
Pacific Blue Cross	\$ 181,115.37
Pebt In Trust c/o Morneau Shepell	\$ 128,326.86
Western Canada Bus	\$ 572,996.16





LIST OF TRUSTEE RECUSALS 2024-2025

Date of Meetings held in the absence of the public with one or more declared Conflicts of Interest
August 26, 2024
October 8, 2024
October 15, 2024
November 12, 2024
December 9, 2024
December 10, 2024





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

Board: D. Lang, Chair

J. Bremner, Vice-Chair

M. J. Blackmore

S. Chew (via video conference)K. Etheridge (via video conference)A. Gribbin (via video conference)

S. Nazaroff M. Shunter L. Trenaman

Student Trustees: M. Gretchen, MSSS

E. Lecompte, KRSS

<u>District Staff:</u> T. Smillie, Superintendent

C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer

L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (via video conference)

B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent

C. Kerr, Director of Operations

C. Makeiv, District Literacy Teacher Coordinator

S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Guests: Nil

Regrets: Nil

1. Call to Order

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

circulated.

- 2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory
- 3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda Nil
- 4. Consent Package Questions

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur answered questions raised by a Trustee on the monthly financial report. Expenditures are largely trending as projected. The amended budget is presented in February with a detailed analysis of budget trends.

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED**: 24/25-026 **THAT** the Agenda for this December 10, 2024 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as



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**:

24/25-027

THAT the minutes from the November 12, 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. Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025, highlighting SD8's commitment to improving literacy and numeracy and supporting priority learners, including Indigenous students, children in care, and English Language Learners. The 2024-2027 action plan emphasized educator development, expanded child care spaces, and data monitoring. Past achievements showed increased literacy, numeracy, and improved early learning environments. Community engagement and reconciliation were highlighted as vital for a thriving educational ecosystem. Priority learners' progress is closely tracked, with improvements in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning and opportunities to connect learning to real-world contexts.

B. Child Care Provision Update

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki updated the Board on SD8's 2024-2025 child care initiatives, aligned with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's goals for accessibility, affordability, and quality. The report outlined progress since 2018, including fee reductions, the \$10-a-day program, and increased support for providers. It also reviewed operational programs, health and safety compliance, and collaboration with community agencies. Future plans include expanding child care spaces through the New Spaces Fund, addressing community needs in Creston, Nelson, and Crawford Bay.

- C. Trustees thanked Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and her team.
- D. Graduation Ceremonies 2025

Superintendent Smillie presented the schedule for the 2025 graduation ceremonies at secondary schools within the district. Trustees are invited and encouraged to attend these ceremonies, with a designated trustee representative scheduled to speak at each event. The specific times and locations of the graduation ceremonies will be confirmed as the dates approach.

- **11. Operations and Finance** Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer
 - A. Quarterly Capital Plan Update

Director Kerr presented updates on SD8's capital projects, including Minor Capital Operations, the Annual Facility Grant, and the Food Infrastructure Program. Highlights



include addressing the "Do not drink" order at Brent Kennedy Elementary, completing new infrastructure, and ongoing HVAC upgrades at Mount Sentinel Secondary. Jewett School's Firesmart project is removing hazardous trees while Kootenay River Secondary's kitchen supports the Feeding Futures initiative. South Nelson Elementary and Winlaw Elementary addressed drainage and safety concerns, and Trafalgar Middle is installing sprinklers. New bus charging stations are being commissioned in Nelson and Creston. Multiple Food Infrastructure Program projects are approved and progressing. A question was asked about including project costs in the quarterly capital update. This would be complex and potentially confusing due to varying projects for which the Annual Facility Grant is used. The Quarterly Capital Updates focuses on progress rather than financial specifics.

12. Governance and Policy

A. <u>Election of BCPSEA Representative</u> (11 month term)

Chair Lang was acclaimed BCPSEA Representative.

Trustee Chew was acclaimed BCPSEA Alternate.

- B. <u>Destruction of Ballots</u> (if there is a secret ballot vote held) Nil
- C. Appointment of Committee Representatives and Alternates by the Chair

Chair Lang announced the appointments of committee representatives and alternates:

- Accessibility Committee: Trustee Nazaroff (Rep), Trustee Blackmore (Alternate)
- Joint Safety Advisory Committee: Trustee Trenaman (Rep), Trustee Nazaroff (Rep)
- Policy Review Committee: Trustee Etheridge (Chair of Policy, Operations and Finance Committee), Chair Lang (ex officio), Vice Chair Bremner (Chair designate), Trustee Chew (Trustee appointment)

With two representatives for JSAC, an alternate is not required.

D. Approval of KBB BCSTA Motions

The Board reviewed the motions to be brought forward at the Kootenay Boundary Branch motion building session in January.

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

24/25-028

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the development of Provincial Climate Action and Sustainability Curriculum; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

24/25-029

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding for school districts to financially support District



Parent Advisory Councils in developing and facilitating a coordinated parent advocacy program; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

24/25-030

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding to school districts to financially support District Parent Advisory Councils to access Director's insurance; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

13. Human Resources - Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. <u>Student Trustees</u>

- Kootenay River Secondary School (Student Trustee Lecompte)
 Kootenay River Secondary School celebrated winter season at the winder dance on December 6th as well as with the winter parade held on December 7th. The KRSS Career Class will be hosting the winter carnival with an array of mini events on December 20th and invites Trustees to attend.
- Mount Sentinel Secondary (Student Trustee Gretchen)
 Due to technical difficulties, Student Trustee Gretchen was unable to share the report for Mount Sentinel Secondary.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman attended the BCSTA Academy in Vancouver, as well as BCSTA Bylaw Review Committee.
- Trustee Chew mentioned the Recreation Commission meeting for Salmo & Area
 G.
- Trustee Blackmore attended the BCSTA Academy and found the setting of remaining with the same cohort throughout the event beneficial.
- Trustee Shunter commended the focus on student voices at the BCSTA Academy.
- Vice Chair Bremner enjoyed the professional learning at the BCSTA Academy, including the tracking tools presented and the details about coherence across the province. She attended DPAC meeting virtually and learned about their priorities during this term.



C. Chair

Chair Lang was unable to attend the BCSTA Academy. She attended the KBB meeting and DPAC meeting remotely. The new Minister of Education and Child Care, Honourable Lisa Beare, is reaching out all Board Chairs. Chair Lang was able to speak with her about declining enrollment as well as infrastructure needs in Salmo. Chair Lang asked about a timeline for implementing initiatives that were promised during the election campaign. Chair Lang will meet with MLA Anderson in January to advocate for education in the communities.

- D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Nil
- E. <u>British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)</u> Nil
- F. <u>District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)</u> See above.
- G. Other Nil
- 15. Comments or Questions from the Public Nil
- 16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders
 - A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for January 14, 2025.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.						
Board Chair	Secretary-Treasurer					





Board Meeting	Resolution #	Resolution Summary	Resolution	Assignment	Action Taken w/ Date	Complete
Resolutions in Pro	gress					
February 26, 2019	18/19-092	Properties Sell or Defer	WHEREAS there are nine Board owned properties under consideration for sale in the existing 2016-2026 Facilities Plan, which the Board has previously resolved to selt; WHEREAS the Board is currently in the process creating a new facilities plan (the "2019-2029 Facilities Plan"), for which it is currently consulting with stakeholders and has contracted Baragar Systems to provide long-range enrolment projections and demographic analysis; Moved by Trustee Lang , seconded by Trustee Chew: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in line with past Board resolutions, the following property interests be sold forthwith: 1.Former Crawford Bay maintenance yard; 2.Retallack land; 3.Former Yahk Elementary, and; 4.Ymir Land; THAT the sale of the following property interests be deferred until the Board adopts the new 2019-2029 Facilities Plan: 1.Former Al Collinson Elementary; 2.Former Gordon Sargent Elementary; 3.Kin Park in Creston, and; 4.Salmo tennis court & pool land	Secretary-Treasurer	As of April 2023, the following properties have not sold: - Former Crawford Bay maintenance yard; - Retallack II; - Ymir Land - Salmo Tennis Court & Pool Land	In Progress
Standing Resolution	ons					
Resolutions for Re	neal or Repla	acement				
Completed Resolutions		W22 11 11 2 11 11				
December 10, 2024	24/25-030	KBB Motion Building - Advocate for DPAC Director's Insurance funding	THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding to school districts to financially support District Parent Advisory Councils to access Director's insurance; and THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.	t		Complete
December 10, 2024	24/25-029	KBB Motion Building - Advocate for DPAC coordinated parent advocacy program funding	THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding for school districts to financially support District Parent Advisory Councils in developing and facilitating a coordinated parent advocacy program; and THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.	t		Complete
December 10, 2024	24/25-028	KBB Motion Building - Advocate for Climate Action and Sustainability Curriculum	THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the development of Provincial Climate Action and Sustainability Curriculum and THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.	;		Complete
December 10, 2024	24/25-027	Adoption of Minutes	THAT the minutes from the November 12, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public BE ADOPTED, a circulated.	S		Complete
December 10, 2024	24/25-026	Adoption of Agenda	THAT the Agenda for this December 10, 2024 meeting BE ADOPTED, as circulated.			Complete
November 12, 2024	24/25-025	Adoption of Minutes	THAT the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public BE ADOPTED, a circulated.	S		Complete
November 12, 2024	24/25-024	Adoption of Agenda	THAT the Agenda for this November 12, 2024 meeting BE ADOPTED, as circulated.			Complete
October 8, 2024	24/25-023	Send letter to all provincial candidates	THAT the Board of Education send a letter with these 3 questions to candidates and that the results ar published on the district website.	9		Complete
October 8, 2024	24/25-022	Rescind Policy	THAT policy 910 BE RESCINDED.			Complete
October 8, 2024	24/25-021	Approve Policy	THAT policy 140 BE APPROVED.			Complete
October 8, 2024	24/25-020	Approve Policy	THAT policy 120 BE APPROVED.			Complete



Memorandum to the Board of Education Public

From: Trish Smillie, Superintendent

Date: January 14, 2025

Subject: Online Learning Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025

For Information

Introduction

This memo provides an overview of the <u>Online Learning Continuous Learning Report</u>, reflecting the strategic priorities for online learning in School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (SD8) for the 2024-2025 school year.

Background

In alignment with the British Columbia mandate for public education, our district is steadfast in its commitment to enhancing online learning opportunities through our strategic plan, which supports equitable, diverse, and continuous learning experiences.

The report celebrates the successes of SD8's online programs, Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks, which have been instrumental in providing flexible learning options that cater to the varied needs of our students, including those from Indigenous backgrounds and learners with diverse abilities. It highlights our progress in expanding course offerings and promoting inclusivity within our online learning environments.

The Elev8 DESK program has experienced a significant increase in cross-enrollment figures, reflecting its growing reputation as a flexible and accommodating option for students. The Elev8 Homelinks program effectively implements blended learning instruction, emphasizing the importance of parental involvement and tailored educational pathways.

Looking ahead, the report outlines our district's future plans to adhere to the Ministry's revised guidelines and to continue prioritizing strategic initiatives that will foster an environment conducive to online learning.

As we move forward, SD8 remains dedicated to supporting the academic journey of our students by building upon their strengths, celebrating their achievements, and ensuring that every learner is equipped to become an educated and connected citizen.







ONLINE LEARNING CONTINUOUS LEARNING REPORT 2024-2025

JANUARY 14, 2025



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	. ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	.iv
INTRODUCTION	. 1
ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	. 2
EVIDENCE OF LEARNING	. 3
Funding Model for Online Learning	. 5
Enrolment	. 6
Future Directions	. 8
CONCLUCION	4.0

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goals of K-12 Education

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (SD8) supports all learners with continuous improvement in their learning so that each learner may graduate with purpose and options for their future. This aligns with the B.C. mandate for public education outlined in the Statement of <u>Education Policy Order</u>, <u>the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Policy</u>, and <u>the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</u>.

"The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy."

B.C. Statement of Education Policy Order Mission Statement

To support government to achieve their mission, school districts in B.C. are tasked with educating each child so they can become "the Educated Citizen." This is a child who throughout their schooling demonstrates intellectual development — literacy and numeracy — human and social development, and career development.

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning policy requires that boards of education will set, create and maintain a strategic plan that articulates the vision, mission, and values of the school district and identifies priorities that guide the district towards its short and long-term goals.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act represents the province's reconciliation framework and the commitments that Board of Education must support in furthering reconciliation.

Aligning to Our Strategic Plan

The SD8's strategic plan has clearly outlined its mission, vision, values, and priorities. This is used to guide the ongoing development of the online learning provided within the district.

The SD8, Kootenay Lake's Elev8 program, is still in the infancy stages of being a designated Provincial Online Learning School (POLS). As we enter the second year of operation as a POLS, the strength of the program and its growth is expected as we aligned and are influenced by the SD8's strategic plan. Learners in this program will be developed as lifelong learners connected to others in a caring and inclusive learning environment. They will be prepared for post-graduation as culturally- and identity- sensitive individuals ready to pursue a career achieving these priorities differently from traditional bricks and mortar schools.

This Online Continuous Learning Report shows how online learning is utilized to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

Action Plan

Outlined in this Online Continuous Learning Report are actions that serve as strategies for continuous improvement. The items in our action plan will be given high priority for the 2024-2025 school year. SD8 continually monitors these priorities to ensure continuous improvement for all learners - Indigenous learners, learners with diverse abilities, children and youth in care, and English language learners.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the online learning is divided into two distinct parts in the district, Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks, the priorities within the action plan may look different within each program.

- Ensure all course offerings are robust, relevant, and beneficial to students.
 Strategic Priorities: Lifelong Learners, Connected Learners, Cultural and Identity Development, Career Development.
- 2. Expand course choices to make SD8 programs more diverse and attractive.

 Strategic Priorities: Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture, Cultural and Identity Development.
- 3. Provide a welcoming and inclusive learning experience for all.

 Strategic Priorities: Lifelong learners, Connected Learners, Cultural and Identity Development, Career Development.
- 4. Develop clear vision for each program, Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks.

 Strategic Priorities: Lifelong learners, Connected Learners, Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture, Cultural and Identity Development, Career Development.
- 5. Increase the public awareness of the Elev8 program and what it offers around the province. Strategic Priorities: Connected Learners.

A Focus on Student Success

SD8 continues to look for ways to build on strengths and celebrate learner success. By referring to data that informs decision-making, planning and practices, and by working with education partners, the district can make a difference for all SD8 learners. The annual Online Continuous Learning Report supports the district's mission and vision:

MISSION

We inspire and support each learner to thrive in a caring learning environment.

VISION

Our learners grow as global citizens in an innovative and inclusive community.

This report outlines how SD8 supports learner success in the online learning programs.

INTRODUCTION

SD8 online learning has two distinct programs within it, Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks. Each has its own unique approach to student services and delivery methods.

Background

DESK

Elev8 DESK, originally known as the "Correspondence School of the Kootenays", has been involved in provincial learning programs since the 1970s. In the 1990s, it was reconfigured to be "The Distance Education School of the Kootenays", or DESK. Operating under this name until 2019, the district undertook a redesign and rebranding of the program, leading to its current iteration as Elev8. Elev8 was established to manage, operate, and continue to develop the district's two distinct and unique distributed learning programs: the online program formally known as DESK, and the district's "blended-learning" Homelinks programs.

In 2023, SD8 entered into a three-year agreement with the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Through this agreement, Elev8 was designated a Provincial Online Learning School (POLS), encompassing both Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks. This designation allows Elev8 to enrol students from across the province.

HOMELINKS

The Homelinks program has been in operation since the early 1990's. It has been implemented in several communities, including Creston, Nelson, Kaslo and the Slocan Valley, with Creston being the largest and longest running location. What distinguishes the Homelinks program from the DESK program is its unique "blended-learning" model, which incorporates both at-home, face-to-face, and classroom learning on a weekly basis. Students in this program can attend school for a maximum of 49% of the regular school week for face-to-face support, with the expectation that most of their learning and work is completed at home. Parental involvement is crucial in the blended-learning model, including participation in the design and implementation of each Individual Learning Plan.

PROVINCIAL ONLINE LEARNING SCHOOL (POLS)

Provincial requirements to maintain a POLS designation include the following:

- use of a provincially supported Learning Management System (LMS);
- assurance of support for Indigenous online learners; and
- assurance of support for diverse online learners.

A limited number of POLS were created provincially. Being a designated POLS enables growth in online education opportunities within Elev8.



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ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) (SD8) endeavors to improve student learning through interest-based, competency-based, flexible and innovative approaches. Online learning is a key platform used to achieve this. Each of the five strategic priorities is achieved within the unique programing that online learning provides. Aspects of online learning that fit into each of the priorities are the following:

LIFELONG LEARNING

Unique course offerings.

Flexible scheduling.

Interest-based course material.

Multiple ways of demonstrating learning.

CONNECTED LEARNING

Digital citizenship.

Electronically connected to local and global communities.

CARING AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING CULTURE

Self-paced learning.

The teaching and use of accessibility tools.

CULTURAL AND IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

BC First Peoples 12, English First Peoples 12 and Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 courses are offered.

Safe learning environment.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Variety of course selections of interest to students.

Career-Life-Education, Career-Life-Connections courses offered.



EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Graduation Numbers

Graduation data represents the number of students who graduate from the identified program each year. In the Elev8 programs, grades 10-12 students are often cross enrolled with a different school of record; therefore, very few students are officially graduating from these programs. Graduating students from Elev8 are often adults, having previously faced challenges in traditional school models.

GRADUATING STUDENTS

	2019 Adult	2019 Regular					2022 Adult	2022 Regular		2023 Regular
Homelinks	0	9	4	2	0	15	2	9	0	4
DESK	5	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	3

Graduation Assessments

Most of Elev8's grades 10-12 students are cross-enrolled with other schools which serve as their school of record. This results in the appearance of a low number of participants from our programs taking these assessments because they are recorded in their school of record.

NUMERACY 10 ASSESSMENT (PROFICIENT OR EXTENDING)

	Elev8 Ho	omelinks	Elev8	DESK
	Number of Students	Percentage	Number of Students	Percentage
2020-2021	5/30	17%	6/14	43%
2021-2022	10/26	38%	4/9	44%
2022-2023	7/18	39%	4/5	80%
2023-2024	6/15	40%	3/3	100%

LITERACY 10 ASSESSMENT (PROFICIENT OR EXTENDING)

	Elev8 Ho	omelinks	Elev8 DESK		
	Number of Students	Percentage	Number of Students	Percentage	
2020-2021	25/38	66%	8/10	80%	
2021-2022	21/26	81%	5/5	100%	
2022-2023	14/19	74%	4/6	67%	
2023-2024	11/15	73%	4/5	80%	

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

LITERACY 12 ASSESSMENT (PROFICIENT OR EXTENDING)

	Elev8 Ho	omelinks	Elev8	DESK
	Number of Students	Percentage	Number of Students	Percentage
2021-2022	7/10	70%	5/5	100%
2022-2023	2/3	67%	4/5	80%
2023-2024	6/7	86%	4/6	67%

Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA)

Online learning students do most of their learning at home. However, the Homelinks program does offer a chance for some in-person learning. This setup greatly affects how students and families interact with assessments like the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA). Despite the promotion and opportunity for students and families to participate in the FSA, the engagement has been minimal.

Other Provincial Assessment Tools (Student Learning Survey, EDI, MDI, YDI)

Students engaged in online learning predominantly study in their home environment. Both DESK and Homelinks are categorized as non-attending programs. Assessments considered non-mandatory by many families create challenges for collecting data. Families involved in online learning generally perceive these assessment tools as non-essential and tend to decline the school's invitations to participate.

FUNDING MODEL FOR ONLINE LEARNING

Online Learning Programs receive funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care at four different times during the year: September, February, May and July, to accommodate continuous enrolment.

While funding levels are consistent through all grades at \$7200.00 per FTE, there are differences in how this funding is calculated, depending on the grade levels. It is also important to note, a standard school is funded at \$8915.00 per FTE.

Kindergarten to Grade 7

Students in kindergarten to grade 7 are funded on a "per program" basis. The district must demonstrate active involvement in the K to 7 program to claim funding for the student. If a student joins the K-7 program after the initial September funding count, they are then funded at half the original funding level, or \$3600.00. If the student enrols following the February funding count, they are then funded through the May count, at a third of the original funding level, \$2400.00. Provincial funding in February or May only occurs if the student is enroling from outside of SD8.

Grades 8 and 9

Students in grades 8 and 9 are funded on a combination of program and course-based models. They are funded at 0.25 FTE per course until they are enrolled in 4 courses. Students with four or more courses are funded at 1.0 FTE. The same funding reductions that apply to K to 7 programs for the February and May count also occur. Students must be enrolled from out of district to be funded in either the February or May count.

Grades 10 to 12 and Adults

Students in grades 10 to 12, as well as adults, are funded strictly based on course enrollment, with each course being the equivalent to 0.125 FTE. This funding model applies to all three funding periods.





Online Learning Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025



ENROLMENT

In the current 2024-25 school year, the September enrolment was 270.0625 FTE, with the February and May 2025 1701 count still to come. Previously, the February and May 2023-2024 school year had a total of 95.125 FTE added to its initial 280.3125 September FTE count. This enrolment can be broken down with 139.25 FTE at Elev8 DESK, and 130.8125 FTE at Elev8 Homelinks. This September 2024 count is an increase of approximately 10% FTE at Elev8 DESK and a decrease of 15% FTE at Elev8 Homelinks from last year.

Since being designated a Provincial Online School (POLS), the Elev8 DESK program has seen an increase in enrolment each year. The number of current active learners in courses in grades 10-12 is approximately 50% higher than at the same time last year.

Elev8 DESK

The Elev8 DESK K-7 program consists solely of 1.0 FTE learners. The majority of grade 8 and 9 learners are 1.0 FTE, with a small number of cross-enrolled students. The majority of the learners are from within SD8 boundaries, but since the creating of the POLS designation the number of students from outside our boundaries has been increasing. Notably, applications are received throughout the year as learners look for a change in their learning circumstances. This is especially seen in the middle school years. The end of year enrolments in these grades typically end up being higher than the September count. Learners are choosing Elev8 DESK K-9 because of the opportunity to be flexible on the time, location, and pace that learning can take place, which can be adapted to meet each family's lifestyle. Some learners seek an alternate learning experience from the traditional setting.

Learners from all over the province are part of our Elev8 DESK grades 10-12 program. Some of the learners are continuing with their online learning, as they had been previously enrolled in an online grade 9 program; however, most of our learners in grades 10-12 are not enrolled at 1.0 FTE with Elev8 DESK. Most grade 10-12 learners are only taking a few courses at Elev8 DESK and are cross enrolled with another provincial school. They choose to supplement their learning with courses not offered or not fitting into their timetable at their school of record. Elev8 DESK diverse course selection options encourages more enrolment in our program. Currently Elev8 DESK grades 10-12 has almost 200 more active learners in courses than last year at this same time.

As a result of Elev8 DESK grades 10-12 being a continuous enrolling program, learners can begin their course at any time of the year and pace it to finish it at any time within a year. This results in teaching and learning occurring all year, including throughout the summer.

Elev8 Homelinks

Learners often choose Homelinks for its flexibility and connections to home. As Elev8 Homelinks is a blended program. Families often choose it for the flexibility it offers and the opportunity for family involvement in the learner's experience. All k-9 learners in Elev8 Homelinks are 1.0 FTE. In contrast, grade 10-12 learners may be 1.0 FTE, but are often cross enrolled with the local secondary school.

Students with Disabilities or Diverse Abilities

Both Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks offer services to students who have been identified as having diverse needs. Elev8 DESK provides supports for eight students with diverse needs, while Homelinks provides support for a total of 16 students. This support looks different for each student and for each location, but includes adapted programming, access to an Inclusive Support Teacher, and access to district itinerant staff, such as Speech and Language Support or Occupational Therapy. The Homelinks program also provides education assistant support during the blended learning component of the program.

ENROLMENT

Indigenous Students

This year, as in past years, the Elev8 Homelinks program has provided support of Indigenous students, delivered by the school's Indigenous Academic Success Teacher. This program has supported the 27 self-identified Indigenous learners facilitated by the blended-learning model within Elev8 Homelinks. This teacher monitors the progress of students, connects with families, and offers opportunities for students to participate in connection building group activities and individualized academic support sessions.

The Elev8 DESK program, dedicated to online learning, reaches out annually to all self-identified Indigenous learners' families to query whether any Indigenous programming and supports are desired. Elev8 DESK is working with the SD8 Indigenous Education department this year to look for ways to connect digitally and support Indigenous learners within this program, which includes support of an Indigenous Academic Success Teacher, monitoring of academic progress and engagement, and team academic reviews for primary and grade 12 students three times per year.

Course Offerings

The Elev8 Homelinks program offers a wide range of courses for students to choose from. All the courses necessary for a complete and comprehensive year in grades K-9 are provided. Through the partnership between the school and home, these learners are exposed to a well-rounded educational experience. Currently, there are a total of 35 different courses offered to grade 10-12 learners, and these courses provide the necessary variety to meet graduation requirements. When necessary, partnership between the local secondary school (Kootenay River Secondary School) and Elev8 Homelinks enables students to cross-enrol to meet individual needs and wants in course selection.

In the Elev8 DESK program, K-9 learners are fully immersed in a comprehensive program that meets all their learning needs for a complete set of studies for the year. Currently there are 92 FTE in grades K-9.

At the 10-12 grade level, 37 courses are offered. This variety enables students to choose courses to meet their graduation requirements. Most learners in the Elev8 DESK work on one or two courses at a time, while cross-enrolled at various secondary schools throughout the province. Only 136 of the current 504 learners in grades 10-12 have Elev8 DESK as their school of record. Adult learners finishing up their programs or taking additional courses make up 94 of the 136 Elev8 DESK learners. The 358 cross-enrolled learners come from all over the province, including other SD8 schools.

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FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Provincial Online Learning Schools (POLS)

Looking towards the future, a key aspect is the Ministry of Education and Child Care's revision of the Online Learning (previously referred to as Distributed Learning) Policy and Guidelines. Within those changes the MoECC has created clear and concise guidelines for future online learning programs within the province, both public and private. In July 2023, Elev8 DESK and Homelinks were, together under the school name "Elev8", designated one of the twenty-one public Provincial Online Learning Schools (POLS) that can offer programming to students throughout British Columbia.

The three-year action plan for online learning focuses on the five priorities in the table below:

	Online Action Item	Strategic Priority
1	Ensure all course offerings are robust, relevant, and beneficial to students.	 Lifelong learners Connected Learners Cultural and Identity Development Career Development
2	Expand course choices to make SD8 online programs more diverse and attractive.	 Lifelong learners Connected Learners Cultural and Identity Development Career Development
3	Provide a welcoming and inclusive learning experience for all.	Caring and Inclusive Learning CultureCultural and Identity Development
4	Develop clear vision for each program (Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks).	 Lifelong learners Connected Learners Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture Cultural and Identity Development Career Development
5	Increase public awareness of the Elev8 program and what it offers around the province.	Connected learners

- 1. Ensure all course offerings are robust, relevant, and beneficial to students. This will be done by doing a scan of the current course offerings. The scan will be used to do the following:
 - Try to identify the reasons for the levels of enrolments in individual courses.
 - Determine if the course material being offered is currently relevant to what our learners are looking for.
 - Determine if the presentation method chosen is attractive to learners.
 - Ensure teaching resources are appropriate to the number of learners in the program.
- 2. Expand course choices to make SD8 programs more diverse and attractive. To attract new learners, we will add new course offerings, diversifying our range. Decisions on new courses will consider learner inquiries, societal needs and learner interest. Potential areas for expansion include second language courses and high interest elective courses. This approach will involve prioritizing time and resources within the program to maximize efficiency.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- 3. Provide a welcoming and inclusive learning experience for all. SD8's strategic plan for education encompasses an inclusive mission, vision, and values which guides Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks. Both programs are committed to meeting the needs of all learners by incorporating inclusive teaching practices. Access to assistive technologies and support are provided to learners with diverse abilities as needed.
- 4. Develop a clear vision for each program, Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks. As both programs fall under the Provincial Online School, as of September 2023, the uniqueness and identity of each needs to be explored and defined. By outlining student services, programming and methodologies for each, we aim to achieve increased efficiencies and enhanced learner experiences.
- 5. Increase public awareness of the Elev8 program and its offerings. We plan to undertake a public awareness campaign to draw positive attention to Elev8's offerings, aiming to increase enrolment. This campaign will employ advertising, social media, word of mouth and other channels to spotlight the strengths of our program.



CONCLUSION

SD8 is committed to providing inclusive, caring, and quality learning opportunities for all learners, preparing them for lifelong learning and career opportunities. With the new designation of being a Provincial Online School, new possibilities await. Developing, expanding and analyzing Elev8 aligns with the 2024-2029 SD8 Strategic Plan to encourage lifelong learners that are ready for life post-graduation.

SD8 strives to be the first choice for online learners around the province, offering quality, inclusivity and diversity in its programming.







FROM: Trish Smillie, Superintendent

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Registration for 2025-2026

For Information

Introduction

This memorandum provides an overview of the kindergarten registration process for the 2025-2026 school year in School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)(SD8).

Background

Kindergarten registration assists with school planning and district budget planning processes. Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year opens on January 6, 2025. Children who turn 5 by December 31, 2024, are eligible to enrol in kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year.

Caregivers must register their child at their neighbourhood catchment school.

<u>SD8 Policy 410 (School Choice and Catchment)</u> and <u>Administrative Procedure 3101 (School Choice, Student Transfer, and Catchment)</u> provide relevant definitions, describe the SD8 school catchment areas, provide information about school registration, and outline the application for transfer process for families who would like have their child attend a school other than their catchment school.

Information

SD8 kindergarten registration is advertised through local media and is posted on the <u>SD8 website</u> and all SD8 elementary school websites. In addition, local child care programs, StrongStart programs, and West Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral (WKCCRR) are provided with information about kindergarten registration.

During the months of January through March, elementary schools provide their kindergarten enrolment projections to the district office to assist with SD8 planning processes.

SD8 provides opportunities for families to learn about kindergarten at their catchment school. In May or June 2025, each elementary school will host a "Welcome to Kindergarten" event to welcome incoming kindergarten families. During this open house, each child who has registered for kindergarten and their caregivers have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten teacher and school principal and familiarize themselves with the school. Each family also receives items to support school preparedness, including the pamphlet: Kindergarten - Let's Get Started.





In addition, each elementary school creates a short video "storywalk" about their school which is sent to incoming kindergarten learners. The video includes photos of the school such as the kindergarten classroom, library, gymnasium, school bus location and playground. The video storywalk can be viewed at home by the family and helps familiarize children and their families with their school.



Provincially, the transition to kindergarten is supported by the child-friendly When I go to Kindergarten document, the parent/caregiver Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide, the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Support the Transition to Kindergarten information page, and the Kindergarten Curriculum Guide.

SD8 staff strive to ensure children and their families enter kindergarten each September with confidence, anticipation, and excitement. Assisting families with the registration process as well as hosting kindergarten transition open house events and individual school/family meetings help to ensure a seamless transition to kindergarten each year.



FROM: Cathy MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 - 2026 Budget Development Process

For Information

Introduction

This memorandum provides information on the 2025 - 2026 Budget Schedule.

Background

An internal and public consultation process is undertaken to identify budget priorities. The district incorporates those priorities into the preliminary operating budget as directed by the Board. By June 30th each year, the Board must adopt a budget for the upcoming school year.

Information

The public budget consultation process for the 2025-2026 school year is scheduled to commence on March 12, 2025. The schedule as outlined in the table below was approved at the May public Board meeting.

Date	Time	Meeting	Meeting Description/Tasks	Attendees/Responsible	Location
March 12, 2025	n/a	Surveys to KLPVPA, Students & Public	Invitation to comment. Preliminary Draft Budget Posted Online.	Public, Partner Groups and Students	Online Survey & Invitation to Comment
April 8, 2025	9:00PM – 3:00PM	Board Working Session	Preliminary Draft Budget Review.	Trustees	Board Office & Zoom
April 22, 2025	11:00AM – 12:30PM	Indigenous Education Council, KLPVPA, CUPE, KLTF, DPAC	Focused Draft Budget Discussions.	Trustees, Senior Staff & Partner Groups	Board Office & Zoom
April 22, 2025	1:00PM – 2:00PM	Policy, Operations & Finance Partner Advisory Committee Meeting	Preliminary Draft Budget Review.	Trustees, Senior Staff & Committee Members	Board Office & Zoom
April 24, 2025	6:00PM – 7:30PM	Public Webinar	Presentation of Updated Budget, Survey Results, Public Q&A.	Partner Groups & Public	Zoom Webinar
May 13, 2025	1:30PM – 2:30PM	Policy, Operations & Finance Partner Advisory Committee Meeting	Superintendent's Recommended Budget.	Committee Members	Board Office & Zoom
May 13, 2025	5:00PM – 7:00PM	Meeting of the Board held in Public	Superintendent's Recommended Budget. Planned Readings 1, 2 & 3 of Budget Bylaw.	Trustees	Board Office & Zoom