

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025**

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

Student Trustees: B. Ashe, KRSS (*via video conference*)

District Staff: 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
K. Wiens, District Principal – Online Learning & Student Information
J. Yasinchuk, District Teacher Coordinator
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Guests: Nil

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

5. Adoption of Agenda

Item 11B “Monthly Financial Statements – ‘Ready, Set, Learn’ Expenditures” was added to the agenda.

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

24/25-031

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

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:** 24/25-032
THAT the minutes from the December 10, 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. Online Learning Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025

District Principal Wiens and district teacher coordinator Yasinchuk presented the Online Learning Continuous Learning Report for School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) for the 2024-2025 school year which outlines strategic advancements in the Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks programs. These programs are recognized for effectively meeting diverse learner needs, including those of Indigenous students and learners with diverse abilities, through flexible and inclusive educational offerings. The report highlights significant enrollment growth, successful learning outcomes, and future strategies aimed at enhancing course relevance and public awareness of the programs. As a designated Provincial Online Learning School, SD8 is set to expand its reach and impact across the province, aligning with its strategic plan to foster lifelong, connected learners prepared for future career opportunities.

B. Kindergarten Registration for 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the kindergarten registration process for the 2025-2026 school year, which opened January 6, 2025. The district promotes registration through various media and hosts orientation events like the “Welcome to Kindergarten” open house to help families transition smoothly into the school environment. These initiatives are supported by provincial resources and are aimed at ensuring a confident and exciting start for incoming students and their families.

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

A. 2025-2026 Budget Development Process

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2025-2026 budget development process for School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake). The process includes public and internal consultations starting in March to gather input on budget priorities. Key activities include online surveys, several review sessions with trustees and partner groups, and a public webinar to discuss the draft budget. The Board aims to adopt the final budget during the Meeting of the Board Held in Public in May.

B. Monthly Financial Statements – “Ready, Set, Learn” Expenditures

The budget allocations for the "Ready, Set, Learn" initiative are designated for early learning programs. Traditionally, a significant portion of these funds is expended in the spring, though expenditures for year-round programs like the child care program in Winlaw are distributed throughout the year. These budgetary provisions ensure that all programs are adequately financed.

12. Governance and Policy – Nil

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

- Kootenay River Secondary School (Student Trustee Ashe)
Kootenay River Secondary School celebrated a spirit week which included several events, such as the winter carnival. After winter break, a fundraiser was held to support a local food bank. One student leadership class is planning a hot chocolate and cookie sale to raise money for a cancer patient who is related to a KRSS student. Another student leadership class will update some displays at the school. The student council considers organizing a spring dance.

The following reports were presented by Board Chair Lang, as the Student Trustees were unable to attend the meeting and submitted their reports prior to the meeting.

- Mount Sentinel Secondary School (Student Trustees Gretchen and Metcalfe)
With input from students, parents, and staff, Mount Sentinel Secondary School has identified the school's values "Responsibility, Opportunity, Attitude, Respect (ROAR)". The acronym refers to wildcats, which play a vital role in the school's identity.
The Fine Arts Coffee House event was postponed due to power outages. Drama scene nights will be held on January 22 and 23.
Students enjoy the winter ski program. The Outdoor Recreation and Culinary Arts (ORCA) program will be launched in the second semester. Over \$11,000 were raised in fundraising and through community support for the Graduation Ceremonies.
- LVR (Student Trustee Solarik)
The home basketball tournament was hosted at LVR on the Friday prior to the Board meeting. The event was organized by the Rec Leadership class.
The e-bike friendly bike racks that LVR student council worked hard for were approved.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Nazaroff attended the Brent Kennedy and Winlaw Elementary winter celebration events and gave a shoutout to everyone involved in organizing the events.

C. Chair

Chair Lang gave a shoutout to all the fundraisers that took place before the holiday season. During the break, she connected with the other Trustees.

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

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

Chair Lang will attend the AGM at the end of January.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) – Nil

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 February 11, 2025.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer