

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Board:**

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

**Student Trustees:**

B. Ashe, KRSS (*via video conference*)  
M. Gretchen, MSSS (*via video conference*)  
D. Lamoureux, JVH (*via video conference*)  
R. Metcalf, MSSS (*via video conference*)  
E. Zuk, JVH (*via video conference*)

**District Staff:**

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

**Guests:**

Nil

**Regrets:**

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

**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**

One Trustee inquired about sharing and discussing two letters that were received. They were informed by the chair that those were not placed.

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

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

24/25-044

**THAT** the Agenda for this March 11, 2025 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:** 24/25-045

**THAT** the minutes from the February 11, 2025 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. Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the 2024-2025 Caring and Inclusive Learning Communities Continuous Learning Report which focuses on enhancing physical and mental well-being through social-emotional learning to create compassionate learners. This includes strategies like improving learning environments, deepening health and wellness, and ensuring all students feel safe and they belong.

B. SD8 Accessibility 2024-2025

Superintendent Smillie and Assistant Superintendent Holitzki informed the Board that School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) has developed an accessibility plan in response to the Accessible British Columbia Act, which mandates the formation of Accessibility Committees, the creation of Accessibility Plans, and the establishment of feedback mechanisms by September 2023. The district has implemented a variety of initiatives, including accessibility scans, the establishment of an Accessibility Committee, and a feedback tool, to identify and mitigate barriers to full participation for individuals with disabilities. Going forward, SD8 will continue to refine its Accessibility Plan through collaborative stakeholder engagement, aiming to enhance physical, informational, and technological accessibility within the district's educational environments and report back to the Board on an annual basis.

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

A. 2024-2025 Information Technology Annual Report

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2024-2025 Information Technology report which provides an update on the operations of the Information Technology (IT) department at School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake), highlighting the annual progress in supporting educational and operational goals through technology. The IT department is integral in implementing the district's strategic plan by improving technological access and support for both students and staff, with efforts described in the attached Information Technology Annual Report for the Board's review. Major initiatives include enhancing IT infrastructure, standardizing processes, and maintaining a dynamic support system that aligns with the district's mission to provide a technologically enriched learning environment.

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur answered Trustees' inquiries by outlining the relevance of device equity and prioritizing cybersecurity.

B. 2025-2026 Enrolment Projections, Projected Revenue, and Budget Survey

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the enrolment projections and associated funding impacts for School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) for the 2025-2026 school year, with a forecasted decrease in regular K-12 enrolments partially offset by an increase in online learning enrolments. The projected decline in student full-time enrolments (FTEs) is expected to result in a total funding reduction of approximately \$680,797.

In response to a Trustee's inquiry regarding potential cost-saving measures, Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur indicated that an examination into areas where the district could reduce expenses is currently underway. A review of the preliminary, high-level budget is scheduled for the Board meetings in April to further address these considerations.

C. 2025-2026 Trustee Remuneration

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur informed the Board on details for the annual adjustments to trustee remuneration for the Board of Education, effective July 1, 2025, in line with Policy 131: Trustee Indemnity. Based on a 2.6% increase in the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (BC CPI) from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2024, trustee salaries will see an adjustment to keep pace with inflation. The updated remuneration will see the Chair's salary adjusted to \$25,079, the Vice-Chair's to \$22,713, and a Trustee's to \$21,728 for the 2025-2026 period.

One Trustee suggested to forego the increase as an effort of the Board to support cost saving in the current climate of economic uncertainties and decrease in student enrollment. Discussion took place around the appropriate process, such as rescinding Policy 131: Trustee Indemnity with the intention of reintroducing it at a later point.

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

24/25-046

**THAT** the discussion of Policy 131 be added to the agenda.

The motion carried was **defeated** with 3 in favour.

One Trustee Trenaman reminded the Board of appropriate process. A pro-forma to change or rescind the policy could be considered as well as waving the policy and the increase as a one-time event by a two-thirds majority.

D. Quarterly Operations Update - Spring 2025

Director Kerr presented the Quarterly Operations Update - Spring 2025 as provided in the agenda package. School District No. 8's capital projects are part of the Board's Capital Operations Plan, highlighting key initiatives across various schools. Notable progress includes enhancements to the water system at Brent Kennedy Elementary aimed at lifting a health order, HVAC efficiency improvements via new Direct Digital Controls systems at L.V. Rogers Secondary and Creston Operations, and infrastructure upgrades such as septic and irrigation systems. Other district-wide efforts include the installation of electric bus charging stations, fire safety upgrades at Trafalgar Middle School, and major HVAC and boiler replacements at Mount Sentinel Secondary, with many projects expected to complete in the coming months.

In response to questions from the Trustees, Director Kerr provided updates on several operational aspects. He confirmed the installation of additional chargers for electric buses in Nelson, noting that the Manager of Transportation is closely monitoring the resulting savings in operational costs. Additionally, he highlighted the district's ongoing efforts to prioritize Canadian suppliers for goods and services, wherever feasible.

## 12. Governance and Policy

### A. Approve 2027-2028 School Calendar

Superintendent Smillie presented the 2027-2028 School Calendar for approval. No feedback was received from the public during the field-testing period.

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

24/25-047

**THAT** the 2027-2028 school calendar **BE APPROVED**.

The motion carried unanimously.

### B. Policy Approval

Superintendent Smillie presented Policy 410: School Choice and Catchment for approval. No feedback was received from the public during the field-testing period. Catchment areas are available on an interactive map through the district website.

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

24/25-048

**THAT** the Policy 410 **BE APPROVED**.

The motion carried unanimously.

## 13. Human Resources – Nil

## 14. Trustee Verbal Reports

### A. Student Trustees

- KRSS (Student Trustees Ashe)

KRSS Student Trustee Ashe reported that the grade 12 career's class has organized a spirit week filled with themed days, like dress like a teacher day and pajama day, culminating before spring break, enhancing school spirit and providing great photo opportunities. Meanwhile, student council was busy with both fun activities and advocacy, including arranging ski days, a "spring fling" dance, and pushing for improved privacy in male change rooms, all while supporting community engagement through events like the successful staging of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

- JVH (Student Trustees Lamoureux and Zuk)

On February 26th, JVH held a student-led Pink Shirt Day assembly. Two Grade Ten students MCed the event, which featured speeches, songs, and presentations from Kindergarten to Grade Nine. It was a huge success, highlighting our school's kindness and unity.

In February, the school enjoyed three ski days each for high school and elementary students. Additionally, the Outdoor Education class participated in five free ski days at Whitewater, where they learned about alpine safety, first aid, and snow science from the staff.

- **MSSS (Student Trustees Gretchen and Metcalf)**

The Mount Sentinel Student Trustee Report for 2024-2025 highlighted several key educational and extracurricular activities within the Kootenay Lake School District. Notably, the report discussed the continuation of the school's Pride club which plays a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and educating about gender identity and sexual orientation. Additionally, the report covers the school's achievements at the Skills Canada Regional Competition, where Mount Sentinel students secured 14 medals, and the participation of students in the Good Will Shakespeare Festival, which included performances and intensive workshops fostering theatrical skills and creativity.

**B. Trustees**

- Trustee Trenaman attended the Crawford Bay PAC as well as the DPAC meeting.
- Trustee Etheridge gave a shoutout to the "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performance she attended at KRSS
- Trustee Shunter attended Lucas Myers "Randy" in Creston and gave a shoutout to all the theatre and performing arts productions throughout the district.

**C. Chair**

Chair Lang attended Principal and Vice-Principal (PVP) pool interviews with Trustee Nazaroff, the Policy Review Committee meeting, as well as the Partner Liaison Meeting in Vancouver.

**D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)**

Trustee Chew reported on the virtual provincial council. She encouraged Trustees to familiarize themselves with the package coming from the bylaw review committee.

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

Chair Lang reported that Trustees will continue to receive materials the Chair receives.

**F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)**

Vice Chair Bremner was not able to attend the last DPAC meeting.

**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 April 8, 2025.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer