

**POLICY, OPERATIONS & FINANCE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025**

<u>Board:</u>	S. Nazaroff, Committee Chair designate (<i>via video conference</i>) D. Lang, Chair (<i>via video conference</i>)
<u>Partners</u>	J. Francis, KLPVPA D. Kunzelman, KLTF C. Leushner, DPAC (<i>via video conference</i>) C. Martin, CUPE S. May, CUPE N. Nazaroff, CUPE (<i>via video conference</i>) C. Wilson, KLTF (<i>via video conference</i>)
<u>District Staff:</u>	T. Smillie, Superintendent C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (<i>via video conference</i>) B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent C. Kerr, Director of Operations S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant
<u>Guests:</u>	Nil
<u>Regrets:</u>	M. J. Blackmore J. Bremner, Vice Chair S. Chew K. Etheridge, Committee Chair A. Gribbin C. Singh, Director of Human Resources M. Shunter L. Trenaman

A quick round of introduction was held at the beginning.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Receiving Presentations/Delegations - Nil

4. New or Ongoing Business

A. 2025-2026 Preliminary Draft Budget Discussion

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the draft annual budget for the 2025-2026 school year for School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) while Superintendent Smillie outlined the alignment of the

draft budget to strategic priorities. The presentation outlined the process which is based on enrolment projections and the funding allocations from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, which form the basis of the district's operating funds. In alignment with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act and the School Act, the preliminary budget is focused on enhancing educational resources in alignment with strategic priorities, while taking into account the expected enrolment changes in order to maintain a balanced budget.

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur addressed questions from partners and Trustees:

- **Feeding Futures & Family Affordability Fund:** Carry-forwards will be permitted but are expected to be lower than last year. A forthcoming national school food program will complement existing funding.
- **Presentation:** The slide deck will be posted publicly.
- **Mental Health Spending:** Most mental health expenditures fall under teacher salaries and benefits, supported by special purpose grants. The district allocates staffing dollars for a coordinator and mental health counsellors and other staff as well as supplies and services. Oversight falls under Inclusive Education.
- **Operating Surplus:** A year-end surplus is not anticipated. Some capital purchases will be funded from Opening Accumulated Operating Surplus.
- **CUPE:** No questions were raised.
- **Budget Survey:** Concerns were raised about the survey's reliability due to low response. The Superintendent noted it was distributed to all staff, shared publicly and via DPAC, and that this meeting with partners ensures broader representation. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that feedback is also received leading up to the budget from Partner Advisory Meetings and other interactions with staff and students.
- **Facility Concerns:** In response to concerns raised about high indoor temperatures in May and June, Director Kerr reported ongoing evaluations of solutions such as window films and coverings through the Annual Facilities Grant. As for larger projects, such as wall insulation, it was confirmed that projects are addressed as prioritized with the funding available. The Committee Chair emphasized the need for increased advocacy for additional facility grants.


5. Comments or Questions from the Public Regarding Items in this Agenda – Nil


6. Meeting Schedule & Reminders

The next meetings of the Committee are scheduled for May 13, 2025.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.


Committee Chair


Secretary-Treasurer