



MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC

MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

Board:

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

Student Trustees:

K. Keyes, MSSS

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
T. Malloff, District Principal – Innovative Learning (*via video conference*)
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Nil

Vice-Chair Bremner was designated to chair the meeting.

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:**

25/26-009

THAT the Agenda for this October 14, 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

Superintendent Smillie answered questions from the public related to the planned highway bypass affecting the KRSS property as well as questions related to requirements for enrolling a student to a school within the district.

8. Adoption of Minutes

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

25/26-010

THAT the minutes from the September 9, 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. Literacy Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and District Principal Malloff presented the 2025-2026 Literacy Continuous Learning Report, outlining a three-year plan (2024-2027) to improve K-12 literacy proficiency by 15% by 2028. The plan emphasizes equity, culturally responsive and evidence-based instruction, early intervention, and collaboration through school learning plans and partnerships supporting priority learners. Ten strategic actions guide implementation, including strengthening early literacy, transitions, instructional leadership, and system-wide coherence.

B. Inclusive Education Supports

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the Inclusive Education process, outlining how SD8 supports all students through equitable access, individualized programming, and data-informed collaboration aligned with Ministry policy and the School Act. Supports include classroom adaptations, assistive technology, and Inclusion Support staff to help students meet IEP goals and graduate with dignity and purpose.

C. Remembrance Day Ceremonies 2025

Superintendent Smillie presented the schedule for the Remembrance Day Ceremonies 2025 as provided in the agenda package and encouraged Trustees to attend at schools in their area.

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

A. Final Enrolment and Budget Implications

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the SD8 Final Enrolment and Budget Report which is slightly above projections but down 1.1% from the previous year, with growth in online learning offset by declines in standard school enrolments. Unique student enrolments - including Indigenous learners and those with diverse needs - decreased overall, particularly among Indigenous students. Despite minor funding increases in several categories, adjustments to enrolment and funding protection measures result in no net change to the district's overall operating grant for 2025-2026 compared to the original budget but a decline over the prior year.

In response to Trustees' questions, Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur provided an explanation of the funding protection mechanism.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Indigenous Education Council Representative (Chair)

Chair Lang expressed appreciation to the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) for inviting a Trustee representative to join their committee. She thanked all Trustees who expressed interest in the role and appointed Vice-Chair Bremner as the Board's representative, noting that her background and experience will bring valuable insight to the Council.

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

25/26-011

THAT item "KBB Member at Large" be added to the agenda of this meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. KBB Member at Large

Vice-Chair Bremner announced that Trustee Blackmore had been elected as the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB) Member at Large, ensuring that the voice of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) is represented at both the KBB Executive and the provincial level.

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

- MSSS (Student Trustee Keyes)

Student Trustee Keyes introduced himself and reported a strong start to the year at Mount Sentinel and Sequoia, with 295 students actively engaged in academics, athletics, and school culture. Student Council hosted a pancake breakfast and spirit events, while clubs and teams are thriving. Grade 12 students are focused on post-secondary planning, scholarships, and campus and trades opportunities.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Blackmore participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Walk with Lower Kootenay and attended the KLTF barbecue, taking time to listen to Elders' reflections.
- Trustee Shunter reported on the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB) meeting held in Invermere, noting it was informative and valuable.
- Trustee Trenaman attended the Truth and Reconciliation Assembly at Redfish Elementary and the JSAC meeting.
- Vice-Chair Bremner highlighted Truth and Reconciliation activities across the district, attended the Intercultural Kootenays Advisory Committee meeting on anti-racism, and noted the upcoming DPAC AGM. She also announced that Chair Lang will not seek re-election and expressed the Board's gratitude for her leadership and service.

C. Chair

Chair Lang expressed that it has been a pleasure and an honour to serve the Board as Chair over the past two years. She reported attending the Policy Review Committee meeting, the Student Trustee Orientation, the Board Chairs' meeting, and several BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) meetings.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Chew reminded everyone of the upcoming BCSTA Academy and highlighted the agenda of the Pre-Conference.

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

Chair Lang reported attending several BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) meetings. She reminded Trustees that they are welcome to join sector calls virtually and highlighted the "BCPSEA and Me" webinar as a valuable resource for Trustees.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Vice-Chair Bremner informed the Board of the upcoming District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Annual General Meeting.

G. Other – Nil

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

Superintendent Smillie responded to further questions and comments from the public regarding the proposed highway bypass in Creston and the enrollment process for a Canadian student whose legal guardians reside outside the country.

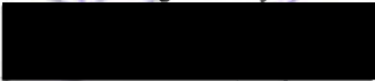
16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for November 4, 2025.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.


Board Chair


Secretary-Treasurer