

MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

- Board:** S. Chew, Chair (*via video conference*)  
J. Bremner, Vice Chair  
M. J. Blackmore  
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)  
A. Gribbin  
S. Nazaroff  
M. Shunter  
L. Trenaman
- Student Trustees:** L. Catherall, MSSS  
K. Fitz-Earle, LVR  
I. Hamilton, CBESS  
L. Kinnear, JVH  
G. Klassen, KRSS
- District Staff:** T. Smillie, Superintendent  
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer  
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (*joined at 5:58 pm; via video conference*)  
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
C. Kerr, Director of Operations  
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources (*joined 5:26 pm*)  
K. Wiens, District Principal  
J. Yasinchuk, District Teacher Coordinator  
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant
- Regrets:** D. Lang  
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent

**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**

Item 12C: *Letter from Minister Beare to Chair Chew re: Inclusive Education Funding Model* was added to the agenda.

Item 12D: *Letter from SD5 Chair McPhee to Board of Education re: Support for Request to Review Inclusive Education Funding Model* was added to the agenda as items 12 C and 12 D.

**4. Consent Package Questions – Nil**

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-018

**THAT** the Agenda for this January 13, 2026 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:** 25/26-019

**THAT** the minutes from the December 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. Online Learning Continuous Learning Report

Superintendent Smillie welcomed District Principal Wiens, who presented the Online Learning Continuous Learning Report to the Board. He reviewed the structure and history of the Elev8 DESK and Elev8 Homelinks programs and explained how they support flexible, interest-based, and blended learning models. He reported on enrolment trends, course offerings, student engagement, and supports for Indigenous learners and students with diverse needs.

District Principal Wiens and District Teacher Coordinator Yasinchuk responded to Trustees' questions.

B. Kindergarten Registration 2026-2027

Superintendent Smillie presented the Kindergarten Registration 2026–2027 report to the Board. She reviewed the registration timeline, eligibility requirements, and the role of catchment schools in the process. She explained how the district promoted registration through schools, community partners, and media, and described the “Welcome to Kindergarten” events and transition supports provided to families.

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

A. Budget Development Process and Schedule

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the 2026-2027 Budget Development Process to the Board. She outlined the public consultation timeline and the key meetings leading to the adoption of the budget by June 30, 2026.

**12. Governance and Policy**

A. Policy Approval for Field Testing

- Policy 490: School Closure

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy was revised to provide greater clarity.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-020

**THAT** policy 490 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy 610: Fiscal Management

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy was revised, including a change of title to Financial Planning and Reporting.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-021

**THAT** policy 610 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy 611: Capital Planning

Superintendent Smillie explained that this new policy was created in alignment with practices in other districts and provincial requirements.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-022

**THAT** policy 611 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy 430: Fees, Deposits and Financial Hardship

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy will be renumbered to become policy 612.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-023

**THAT** policy 430 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy 650: Disposal of Real Property and Improvements

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy was revised to provide greater clarity.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-024

**THAT** policy 650 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Policy Approval

- Policy 112: Governing Principles

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy was revised to provide greater clarity on the duties of the Vice-Chair.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-025

**THAT** policy 112 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy 121: Committees of the Board of Education

Superintendent Smillie explained that, as part of the regular policy review process, the policy was revised to clarify which Trustee Representatives are elected vs. appointed.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-026

**THAT** policy 121 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Letter from Minister Beare to Chair Chew re: Inclusive Education Funding Model

A Trustee drew the Board's attention to the letter received from Minister Beare. As the response did not resolve the concerns raised, she expressed her hope that the Board would provide a reply. While the Board's original letter was clear and detailed, she felt the Minister's response lacked the same level of clarity. Staff will prepare a draft response for the Board's review.

D. Letter from SD5 Chair McPhee to Board of Education re: Support for Request to Review Inclusive Education Funding Model

A Trustee noted that SD5 had written the letter in support of SD8's request to the Ministry to review the Inclusive Education Funding Model. He also pointed out that SD5 had sent numerous letters to the Ministry over the years, with no changes to funding to date. The Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) has taken a strong position on this issue and will pursue further action through the Kootenay Boundary Branch and at the provincial level.

**13. Human Resources – Nil**

**14. Trustee Verbal Reports**

A. Student Trustees

• **LVR (Student Trustee Fitz-Earle)**

Student Trustee Fitz-Earle reported that LVR art students prepared to display their work at the Nelson Public Library, and the school held a pep rally supporting the Senior Boys' Basketball team, who went on to win the Kootenay Classic tournament. The school also prepared for grade-wide assemblies on grad planning,

course selection, and mental health, and announced the launch of “Foundry Fridays” to promote student wellness in partnership with The Foundry.

- **KRSS (Student Trustee Chatherall)**

Student Trustee Chatherall reported that KRSS held a successful winter assembly with student-teacher competitions and a winter wonderland dance attended by about half the school, both organized by student council. Student leadership also supported the community through a giving tree, planned a bake sale, ran student-led announcements, and continued clubs and programs such as art club, drama club, and the student-run food program.

- **JVH (Student Trustee Kinnear)**

Student Trustee Kinnear reported that the school held a weekly TAG meeting where students were informed about upcoming ski days, missing work expectations, and were given a work block to catch up on assignments. Student parliament also organized a stress-free activity day before the break with volleyball, a Christmas movie, cookie baking, and a candy gram station where students sent kind messages to friends.

- **CBESS (Student Trustee Hamilton)**

Student Trustee Hamilton reported that the school held a Christmas Concert featuring four original student plays, including one written by a Grade 6 student, and the music class led joyful performances that focused on sharing and positive messages. The school also celebrated achieving a 50% garbage reduction goal, and students continued to work on reducing their ecological footprint while preparing for new activities in January, including the annual big play.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Gribbin thanked Student Trustees Fitz-Earle and Klassen for their thoughtful and insightful questions about the online learning program.
- Trustee Trenaman attended the Joint Safety Advisory Council meeting.
- Trustee Shunter echoed Trustee Gribbin’s comments. He also attended the second part of the JSAC meeting, where the Terms of Reference were updated and the Trustee role shifted from participating to observing.
- Vice Chair Bremner thanked the Student Trustees for their reports and noted her attendance at IEC meetings, with minutes linked in the agenda package.
- Trustee Nazaroff thanked school staff and communities for inviting the broader school community to winter celebrations.
- Trustee Blackmore reiterated thanks to the Student Trustees for their reports and their engagement during the meeting.

C. Chair

Chair Chew reported that she participated in multiple calls and attended school performances. She also noted that a group of students went caroling prior to the holidays.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Shunter reported to the Board that BCSTA Provincial Council is coming up. He will provide a report at the next meeting.

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

Trustee Gribbin will attend a virtual BCPSEA meeting on Thursday to review proposed budget information and the AGM process. The AGM will be held virtually on Thursday, January 29. Information from BCPSEA was circulated to Trustees by email.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Vice Chair Bremner informed the Board that the next DPAC meeting was scheduled for January 15 at 6:00 PM.

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 10, 2026.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer