

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

**Board:**

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

**Student Trustees:**

M. Andersen, LVR  
L. Catherall, MSSS  
L. Chevalier, MSSS  
R. Cuff, JVH  
I. Hamilton, CBESS  
K. Keyes, MSSS  
G. Klassen, KRSS

**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  
K. Tamblyn, District Principal  
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:**

C. Kerr, Director of Operations  
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources

**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:**

25/26-027

**THAT** the Agenda for this February 10, 2026 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:** 25/26-028

**THAT** the minutes from the January 13, 2026 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. Connected Learners Continuous Learning Report 2025-2026

Director Eaton presented the Connected Learners Continuous Learning Report for 2025-2026, which outlined how School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) supports students in environmental and outdoor education, student voice, fine arts, and responsible digital engagement. The report aligned with provincial mandates and the district's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and included evidence from student learning data showing increased engagement and awareness, particularly in learning beyond the classroom and climate action.

One Trustee expressed hope that students feel empowered through climate action to overcome anxiety related to climate change. Trustees expressed their gratitude for hearing directly from student body.

B. International Education Annual Report 2025-2026

District Principal Tamblyn presented the International Education Annual Report 2025-2026. The report outlined current enrolment, program highlights, and the benefits of the International Program for students, schools, and the wider community, including cultural exchange and economic contributions. Trustees were informed of priorities moving forward, including recruitment, homestay capacity, and sustainable program growth.

District Principal Tamblyn answered Trustees' questions around enrollment of international students at different schools across the district, language requirements and supports, as well as the financial stability of the program.

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

A. 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget

In a presentation, Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur compared the 2025-2026 Annual Budget to the 2025-2026 Amended Budget. The 2025-2026 Annual Budget was developed and approved using the best information available in spring 2025, while the Amended Budget was based on the September 30, 2025 enrolment count and reflected updated provincial funding, international enrolment, and other financial adjustments that occurred during the school year. The presentation highlighted overall increases in revenues and expenditures across funds and confirmed that the amended budget remained aligned with Board policy and planning assumptions.

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur addressed Trustees' questions related to fuel costs and increases in insurance premiums. Trustees expressed their gratitude for the work of Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur and her team.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-029  
**THAT** the Board of Education proceed to conclude three readings in one evening for the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2025-2026.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-030

- i. **THAT** the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Annual Budget Bylaw 2025-2026 **BE APPROVED** as read a first time;
- ii. **THAT** the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Annual Budget Bylaw 2025-2026 **BE APPROVED** as read a second time;
- iii. **THAT** the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Annual Budget Bylaw 2025-2026 **BE ADOPTED** as read a third time.

The motion carried unanimously.

## 12. Governance and Policy

### A. Draft School Calendar 2028-2029 Approval for Field Testing

Superintendent Smillie presented the draft school calendars for the 2028-2029 school year.

**UPON** a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 25/26-031  
**THAT** the 2028-2029 school calendars **BE APPROVED** for posting on the website for field testing beginning on February 11, 2026.  
The motion carried unanimously.

## 13. Human Resources – Nil

## 14. Trustee Verbal Reports

### A. Student Trustees

- **MSSS (Student Trustee Keyes)**

Student Trustees Keyes reported on a range of student engagement and leadership initiatives at MSSS. Students participated in activities focused on kindness, collaboration, and school culture, with an emphasis on inclusive and positive involvement. Student leaders supported planning and organizing school events and fundraising activities, including efforts to support graduation and outdoor learning opportunities, as well as activities around Black History Month. Overall, students remained actively involved in strengthening school spirit and community connection.

- **LVR (Student Trustee Andersen)**

Student Trustee Andersen reported that students marked Black History Month by displaying informational posters highlighting African Canadian and African American figures, with plans to expand the initiative. Semester 1 report cards were released, and the Student Choice Art Show was successfully held, with selected artwork displayed throughout February. In athletics, the Junior Boys' Basketball team placed third at the Okanagan Sweet 16, and the Senior Boys' team held a coffee fundraiser to support their season. The Health Hub and Foundry Fridays continued to operate, and students began settling into new schedules with the start of Semester 2.

- **JVH (Student Trustee Cuff)**

Student Trustee Cuff reported that during the first three weeks of January, high school students had the opportunity to attend ski trips to Whittewater, while alternative activities were provided for those who did not attend. The Grade 12 Career Learning Connections (CLC) class hosted several career presentations from professionals in different fields, and the Grade 10 CLC class researched past JVH graduates and their careers to create a school career fair. Student parliament collaborated with intermediate students to plan a kindness month scavenger hunt and organized an upcoming spirit week to encourage student participation.

- **KRSS (Student Trustee Klassen)**

Student Trustee Klassen reported that January was a relatively low-key month as the term came to an end. Student council organized a spirit week, and a French class began fundraising through bake sales and raffles in preparation for a planned cultural trip to Quebec at the end of March. The drama club prepared for its annual talent-show production themed around the Muppets, involving both students and staff. Graduating students held a Valentine's Day raffle to fundraise for prom and continued graduation preparations. Basketball season neared its end, with senior, junior, and bantam teams participating in tournaments and some advancing toward zone play.

- **CBESS (Student Trustee Hamilton)**

Student Trustee Hamilton reported that the school returned from winter break and began several new initiatives. CBESS continued to offer a range of after-school

activities and Grade 7-12 electives, including art, drama, pottery, and shop. Graduating students began fundraising and organizing their graduation ceremony. The school also held a staff versus student dodgeball tournament, which students won, and the Green Team continued to build momentum around the school's recycling efforts and environmental commitment.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman attended the DPAC meeting and the Kootenay Boundary Branch (KBB) motion building session. She gave a shoutout to the parent body for their participation and advocacy through the DPAC.
- Vice-Chair Bremner attended the KBB motion building session and highlighted that great motions came forward from the Kootenay-Boundary region to be considered provincially at the BCSTA AGM as part of the advocacy of school boards for public education.
- Trustee Lang also attended the KBB motion building session, as well as a Policy Review Committee meeting, and sessions of the BC Public Schools Employers Association (BCPSEA) where she holds a role on their Board.
- Trustee Nazaroff attended the KBB motion building and highlighted the strong attendance of SD8 Trustees advocating for public education.

C. Chair

Chair Chew attended a training session with Parliamentarian Lisa Zwarn together with Vice-Chair Bremner, Superintendent Smillie and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur. She attended the KBB motion building as well as two BCSTA chair calls.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA)

Trustee Shunter will attend the virtual provincial council which is coming up later in the month.

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

Trustee Gribbin announced the tentative agreement between BCPSEA and BCTF which he hopes would be ratified shortly. He attended BCPSEA meeting where numerous motions were considered. The meeting was held virtually and the process went very smoothly.

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Vice Chair Bremner reported on the January DPAC meeting and gave a shoutout to parents attending. At the meeting, remaining positions such as treasurer position were filled. DPAC is still looking for a secretary. The next meeting will be held February 19 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 March 16, 2026.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

[Redacted Signature]

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer