

**POLICY, OPERATIONS & FINANCE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026**

<u>Board:</u>	K. Etheridge, Committee Chair <i>(via video conference)</i> S. Chew <i>(via video conference)</i> J. Bremner, Vice Chair <i>(via video conference)</i> M. J. Blackmore <i>(via video conference)</i> D. Lang <i>(via video conference)</i> L. Trenaman <i>(via video conference)</i>
<u>Partners</u>	K. Centrone, CUPE <i>(via video conference)</i> D. Kunzelman, KLTF <i>(via video conference)</i> C. Martin, CUPE <i>(via video conference)</i> L. O'Connor, DPAC <i>(via video conference)</i> C. Wilson, KLTF
<u>District Staff:</u>	T. Smillie, Superintendent C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent C. Kerr, Director of Operations C. Singh, Director of Human Resources S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant
<u>Guests:</u>	Nil
<u>Regrets:</u>	J. Francis, KLPVPA A. Gribbin S. Nazaroff M. Shunter

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

The meeting started with a short round of introductions.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Receiving Presentations/Delegations - Nil

4. New or Ongoing Business

A. 2026-2027 Preliminary Draft Budget Discussion

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur presented the draft annual budget for the 2026-2027 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 considering the expected enrolment changes in order to maintain a balanced budget.

Superintendent Smillie and Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur addressed questions from partners and Trustees:

Enrolment Trends and Projections

- The decline in enrolment was anticipated and aligns with broader provincial trends, with district projections remaining largely accurate. Enrolment in the online learning program has increased notably.
- Independent schools continue to offer alternative options within the public system, while homeschooling has gradually declined.

Staffing Levels and Ratios

- Staffing ratios per student across employee groups remain comparable to similar districts, with the district maintaining an advantageous teacher-to-student ratio.

Support Staff Adjustments

- A reduction in support staff hours has been implemented following a review of school administrative positions to better align staffing levels with current school populations.

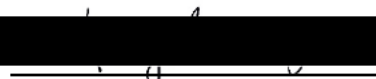
5. Comments or Questions from the Public Regarding Items on this Agenda

6. Meeting Schedule & Reminders

The next meetings of the Committee are scheduled for May 12, 2026.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 PM.



Committee Chair



Secretary-Treasurer