



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, February 26, 2025
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason, Kirsten Van't Schip

Also in attendance: Vianne Kintzinger (Interim Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Miller.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRESENTATION: Westview Elementary School Growth Plan – J. Kennedy

J. Kennedy and M. Shipley presented the mid-year review of Westview Elementary School's growth plan, focusing on foundational learning and creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. The discussion emphasized the diverse needs of the school community, which includes Indigenous students and families new to Canada. Recognizing that safety is experienced differently by individuals, the school has worked to define safety broadly, incorporating physical, cultural, and academic aspects. Strategies include using an eco-cycle framework to assess initiatives, refining approaches when needed, and ensuring clear communication about school efforts.

Efforts to foster inclusivity extend to families, with intentional outreach to make them feel welcomed and engaged. With 42 families speaking languages other than English at home, school communications are easily translatable to minimize misunderstandings. Ayajuthem is spoken daily to reinforce Indigenous perspectives, and house teams are being rebranded to reflect Indigenous values. To support students with dysregulation, the school has adjusted intervention strategies, developed a sensory room, and collaborated with occupational therapists. These shifts have helped students and staff manage behavior more effectively, contributing to a more stable learning environment.

Regular surveys help track progress, with mid-year data showing that 80% of intermediate students can identify a safe adult at school. Screen use restrictions have been effective on school grounds but remain a challenge at home. Family survey responses indicate strong feelings of support from

the school, and monthly staff surveys show increasing positivity. The school is working on simplifying its goal language to "You Belong Here" to reinforce a sense of inclusion.

Looking ahead, priorities include addressing attendance concerns by strengthening connections with families, maintaining a focus on continuous improvement, and seeking feedback from staff and the Parent Advisory Council. The school continues to refine support for students with behavioral challenges, working closely with a behavior analyst to reintegrate students into classrooms successfully.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Today, we come together to recognize Pink Shirt Day, a powerful reminder of the importance of kindness, inclusion, and standing up against bullying in all its forms. As a district, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering safe, welcoming spaces where every student feels valued and supported. Let's continue to lead by example, promoting empathy and allyship every day—not just today.

This month, our schools are actively engaging in Black History Month, honoring the significant contributions and rich histories of Black Canadians. Through various educational activities and events, students are exploring the diverse cultural heritage and historical narratives that have shaped our nation.

We are approaching the 2025 School Trustee By-Election, a vital opportunity for community members to contribute to the governance of our educational system. The nomination package for one seat is now available for prospective candidates. The by-election will happen on April 12 and there will be advance voting opportunities as well as mail in ballots. We urge those passionate about education and community service to consider this impactful role.

Earlier this month, all staff – and Trustees --participated in a Professional Development Day. Our keynote speaker, Len Pierre, kicked off the day with a keynote about Indigenous Cultural Safety and several engaging sessions ranging from Technology in Math to Universal Design for Learning to Primary Years, were offered throughout the day. Students and staff from the Brooks culinary program prepared an amazing lunch for all staff. And I'm personally grateful to have a day surrounded by all our amazing staff who are committed to developing professionally.

Yesterday, the district hosted a Kindergarten Registration Fair, one of many efforts that we've set up to help families learn more about their child's upcoming year and to get support with the registration process. As a reminder, French Immersion registration closes at the end of this month and the English stream registration closes at the end of March. We can't wait to meet all our brand-new students next year. And while next year may still seem far away, the course catalogue at Brooks is now out and secondary students are in the process of making course selections for September.

Lastly, I will just share that I will be attending the BC Trustees Associations' Partner Liaison meeting next week with Vianne and Steve as well as other Board Chairs, Superintendent's and

Secretary-Treasurers from around the province. The objective of the meeting is to discuss relevant issues in education, so I look forward to reporting back on what we hear.

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular Meeting agenda of February 26, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

THAT the Regular Meeting minutes of January 22, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. **REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS**

3.a) January 22, 2025 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include personnel.

4. **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

4.a) Minister of Education and Childcare to Board Chairs - Establishment of the Ministry of Infrastructure

S. Hopkins and V. Kintzinger provided an update on the establishment of the Ministry of Infrastructure, noting that school capital funding has been transferred to this new ministry, which will also oversee health and post-secondary infrastructure.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

TO receive the correspondence.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

5.a) qSD to City of Powell River - Mid-Level Connector Letter of Support

5.b) qSD to S. Fletcher – Support for Mural Project

5.c) qSD to W. Dunlop, R. Cocksedge, and N. Voghell – Letter of Appreciation

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) Superintendent's Mid-year Achievement Report

The Superintendent's mid-year achievement report highlighted trends in graduation and student transitions, emphasizing the need for a deeper understanding of attendance challenges and student retention. While traditional in-person students continue to see strong completion rates, there are concerns about students who disengage before graduating, particularly in online learning environments. The district is using an inquiry-based approach to analyze where and why students are leaving. Efforts are focused on improving support systems to ensure students remain engaged and successfully complete their education.

The report also reviewed Adult Dogwood completions, which impact overall district results. While only 3% of Brooks students graduated with an Adult Dogwood, the rate is much higher at PIE (36%) and online (53% for designated students). Efforts have been made to develop clear criteria to identify students best suited for this pathway. Student learning survey results highlighted areas for improvement, such as social skills development, with Indigenous students reporting higher levels of engagement. Post-secondary transition rates dropped in 2020/21 but saw an increase in 2021/22. Dual credit program success rates were reviewed, with a notable increase in participation in academic programs like English 115, which has grown from 3 to 25 students this year.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Board of Education accept the Superintendent's Achievement report as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

6.b) Ombudsperson – Exclusion of Students from Schools

V. Kintzinger noted that districts have been asked to report on students excluded from school dating back to the 2021/22 school year. This request aligns with ongoing discussions about suspension data and raises important questions about definitions—specifically, whether a suspension qualifies as an exclusion. Clarifying these distinctions will be essential for accurate reporting and analysis.

6.c) School Calendar Information & Prospective Amendment (oral)

V. Kintzinger reported that staff had reviewed the three-year school calendar, noting that while a professional development (Pro-D) day was moved from June to April for the 2024-25 school year, the 2025-26 and 2026-27 calendars had not yet been adjusted. Following consultations with qTA and CUPE, it was determined that April is not a consistently suitable time for a professional development day due to Easter. As a result, the district has proposed moving the previously planned June professional development day to the Friday before the May long weekend. The board expressed support for this change, and the proposed calendars will be shared with the school community for comment before being brought back to the board for final approval in March.

6.d) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 3, 2024, to January 31, 2025

The report was provided for information.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

THAT the Superintendent of Schools' Report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) 2025/2026 Budget Process (oral)

S. Hopkins provided a brief overview of the 2025/26 budget process, including summer work planning. Ministry grants will be announced in March and shared with the board in April. Budget development will take place in May and June, with a preliminary budget presented at the May Committee of the Whole and the final budget brought to the June Regular meeting for adoption.

7.b) Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning - February 21st Earthquake (oral)

The recent earthquake provided the district with an unscripted live test of its earthquake response protocols. There were no injuries or damage to buildings, but areas for improvement were identified. Schools generally responded well, though the board office's response was less consistent. Feedback from the Health and Safety Manager indicated varied experiences, with some people outside not noticing the movement. To capitalize on this opportunity, the district is surveying building principals and managers to gather insights on what worked well and how communication was handled. The results will help refine emergency response practices, including improving reporting protocols to the board office and ensuring

more timely communication with families. Efforts will also include providing parents with information on how emergency responses are carried out.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

THAT the Secretary Treasurer's report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for February 12, 2025

Recommended motions arising from the Committee of the Whole Meeting:

2024/2025 Amended Budget

MOVED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the 2024/2025 Amended Budget be adopted as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

Student Suspensions – Discussion

MOVED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Superintendent conduct a review of student suspension details and report back to inform further discussion.

STATUS: CARRIED

Trustee By-Election

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

TO appoint Twyla Slonski as the Chief Election Officer and Steve Hopkins as the Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2025 Trustee By-Election.

STATUS: CARRIED

The trustee by-election is scheduled for April 12, with advanced voting on April 2 and 9. S. Hopkins recommended standing down the Committee of the Whole meeting

on April 9, as it falls within the campaign period and coincides with an advanced voting date. The board will consider this recommendation at the March Regular meeting.

June Committee of the Whole Meeting Date

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

TO move the June Committee of the Whole to June 18, 2025.

STATUS: CARRIED

South Coast Branch – Prospective Motion

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: K. VAN'T SCHIP

TO support the South Coast Branch's motion to request additional funding to enhance school district cybersecurity.

STATUS: CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) N/A

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

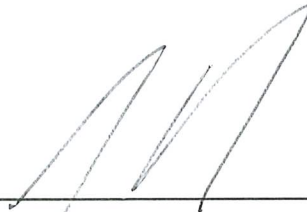
THAT the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2025, be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachments