

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, March 12, 2025
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason

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

Regrets: Kirsten Van't Schip

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Chairperson Miller.

PRESENTATIONS

Texada Elementary School Growth Plan – A. Bella

Principal A. Bella shared information on their school growth plan, focusing on two key goals: social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy.

The SEL goal centers on cultivating connection, empathy, and emotional intelligence. After a previous cohort of older students transitioned to Brooks Secondary, the school now works with a younger demographic and has shifted its focus accordingly. Strategies include the use of the Zones of Regulation, restorative justice practices, and creating a designated calm space for escalated students. Over time, the school has moved away from token-based reward systems and now emphasizes authentic celebration of kindness and positive behaviors. Staff have noted fewer outbursts, successful de-escalation, and increased self-advocacy among students. An SEL core competency survey conducted in both November and May will help measure growth, and school leaders are engaging in *Spirals of Inquiry* to deepen their understanding of student needs.

Teachers are focusing on core competencies such as self-advocacy, self-regulation, and personal well-being, using a mix of student-friendly tools—like thumbs-up/down for younger children—to gather data. Though positive feedback is high, the team acknowledges not all students consistently respond positively, indicating areas for continued attention. The next steps include integrating the CASEL Framework, utilizing “Everyday Speech” resources, expanding professional development, and sharing strategies with parents to foster consistent language and support between home and school. A. Bella emphasized the value of both qualitative and quantitative data, and trustees were invited to reach out for further engagement or information.

Edgehill Expansion Project Update – J. Formosa

J. Formosa provided the board with a quarterly update on the Edgehill Elementary School expansion project. The project remains in the pre-construction phase, with tendering planned soon—though potential adjustments may be needed due to tariff implications. The \$16.5 million expansion includes five new classrooms, a media/technology space, and revised plans that add additional storage for the school. An additional \$1.2 million in funding (pending approval) is allocated for HVAC and LED lighting upgrades to the existing building. Work is being done to repurpose relatively new boilers from the school (installed in 2017/18), with one intended for use at the bus garage and another potentially at Brooks, contributing to future energy efficiency upgrades.

Construction milestones remain on track, with a March 17 groundbreaking planned. Fencing is being delivered, and machinery is on-site, with the site office being established over spring break. Demolition work began with the removal of the existing covered porch area. Wherever possible, local contractors are being used to keep investment within the community. A temporary classroom layout has been designed to ensure minimal disruption to learning, and seismic upgrades are included in the renovation. The construction area will be safely separated with floor-to-ceiling hoarding to ensure student safety.

While the existing library space will be converted into a classroom, a new library will be part of the renovated building. Intermediate students will be moved into the current library space to reduce disruption from construction noise. The school has taken steps to limit the impact on student transportation and nearby residents, including sending letters to neighbours with timelines and contact details. Communication with the PAC is ongoing, and further engagement is planned for the fall. Although some growing pains are expected, the school community has been well-informed, and overall support for the project remains positive. The project is scheduled for completion by September 2026.

QUESTION PERIOD

Aileen asked about staff awareness with respect to what's taking place at EH. JF met with Jamie, have held 1 staff meeting, 2 staff updates. Optional attendance but 8 people attended. Plan to do another one at the end of the year. Work with Darlene for custodial over the summer.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

"Good afternoon and welcome. Here we are convening with only 2 more days left of school until our students and staff start spring break. This time of year always seems to sneak up on us but also feels like the perfect time to step away, rest, reflect and reset before we begin the year end home stretch.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the BC Trustees Association's Board Chair's meeting and the Partner Liaison meeting with the Ministry. We engaged in meaningful discussions with other districts, understanding their challenges and successes and sharing our own. A key topic was a discussion around the Ministry's mandate letter priorities, specifically: increasing Indigenous graduation rates; expanding access to affordable childcare; strengthening before- and after-school care programs; ensuring strong early interventions in numeracy and literacy; and continuing our commitment to inclusive education. It was an invaluable opportunity to exchange ideas and

reaffirm that our existing programs are well-positioned to support these provincial objectives as well as inform ways to continuously enhance.

On a related note, throughout the year, you may have noticed our Principals have been sharing updates on their school growth plans to the Board, providing valuable insights into how they are progressing toward key educational goals. These updates showcase the thoughtful planning and ongoing efforts by school teams to enhance student learning outcomes. We appreciate the dedication of our educators in continuously refining their strategies to support student success.

This month the district held its second Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee meeting of the year. The committee plays a crucial role in supporting policy and procedure reviews, recommending educational programming, and developing proactive strategies to address human rights and discrimination concerns. This work is ongoing with built-in accountability measures, to ensure that our schools remain inclusive, welcoming spaces for all.

Last week several schools in the district participated in a province-wide initiative titled “The Great Big Crunch” - a fun annual event that encourages healthy eating and food literacy. Many students and staff contributed their “crunches” to apples, carrots, celery – even pickles! A special thank you to the Powell River Firefighters for their continued support of our school food programs and for joining the event. All year, with support from the province’s Feeding Futures funding and other community partners, food access is provided at 9 school sites through 11 programs.

A reminder that our by-election is fast approaching. Two candidates have stepped forward. General voting day is scheduled for April 12, with advance voting available on April 2 and April 9. We encourage all eligible voters to participate in this important process.

Upon our return from spring break, we will be hosting our long service recognition event – a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the dedication of our staff, whose commitment to education makes a lasting impact on our students and community.

Our first week back will also see our district recognizing Tla’amin Day on April 5th – a day that marks the signing of the Tla’amin Nation treaty in 2016, which provided the Tla’amin Nation with rights and benefits regarding land and resources, and self-government over its lands, resources, and its members.

And with that...as we head into the break, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all staff for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment to student success and well-being is recognized and valued. I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break.”

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of March 12, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of February 19, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

- 3.a) February 19, 2025 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include legal and personnel.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.a) James Thomson PAC to K. Van't Schip - Request for Proper Reporting Policies

Secretary-Treasurer S. Hopkins reported that staff are in the process of drafting a response on behalf of the board. The issue raised by the James Thomson PAC relates to a parent concern about a bus stop, and broader concerns that existing administrative procedures (APs) do not clearly outline how to express concerns. It appears the PAC may be unaware of the existing *AP 152 – Complaints*, which outlines the proper process for addressing concerns, including working with those directly involved and escalating as needed. The response will highlight this AP as well as relevant board policies related to appeals.

- 4.b) PRISMA to qSD – 2025 Partnership

A request was received from PRISMA for funding and in-kind support for the 2025 season, consistent with previous annual requests since the program's inception. The funding supports the PRISMA for Kids initiative, which provides direct services to qSD students. It was clarified that this is not corporate sponsorship but a purchase of services. The current contribution amount, which was increased to \$5,000 two to three years ago, remains unchanged.

The board expressed support for continuing the partnership. It was noted that the district office facilitates the connection between PRISMA and schools, typically beginning with meetings with principals to coordinate scheduling of spring visits. There was interest in ensuring that school outreach continues to be thoughtful and collaborative. Staff will follow up with PRISMA to confirm and clarify the services being provided in 2025. A letter of support will be issued accordingly.

- 4.c) MOECC to Board Chairs – Funding for Child Care Pilot Programs on School Grounds

Superintendent Kintzinger reported that the Ministry of Education and Child Care's communication does not announce new funding, but rather a continuation of

existing support for Seamless Day child care programs. The district is grateful for the ongoing funding, which allows for continued on-site early learning opportunities.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the correspondence in items 4.a) to 4.c) be received.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) N/A

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 School Calendar Amendments

V. Kintzinger reported that discussions have taken place regarding a proposed amendment to move the June professional development day to the Friday before the May long weekend. The district has consulted with both the qTA and CUPE, and agreement has been reached to proceed with the change.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the amended 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 School Calendars be approved.

STATUS: CARRIED

6.b) 2027/2028 School Calendar Submission

The proposed 2027/2028 school calendar is being submitted as part of the district's regular three-year planning cycle and will be shared with the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The calendar is consistent with the structure and scheduling of the previous two years.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the 2027/2028 School Calendar be approved.

STATUS: CARRIED

6.c) Summer Learning Program Offerings (oral)

V. Kintzinger provided an update on the upcoming Summer Learning Program. For 2025, the program will shift its focus back to foundational literacy and numeracy skills, with a particular emphasis on students in K–3. Transportation will continue to be provided. Due to planned lighting upgrades at Westview, the elementary program will be held at Henderson Elementary, which received a significant HVAC upgrade last summer, while the secondary program will remain at Brooks. The secondary offerings will prioritize course completion and include both humanities and STEM options, with the goal of supporting student graduation. The program will also continue to be offered at Tla’amin Nation.

The LEAP program is currently being advertised, and enrollment numbers will be reviewed after course selections in May. While there has been external interest, the district will prioritize spaces for qathet students. Last year saw participation from several out-of-district students, but moving forward, the focus will be on serving local students first.

In response to questions about program changes and parent feedback, VK noted a shift in the original intent of summer learning. While the program had increasingly come to function as supplemental child care, the district is refocusing on academic goals—particularly in literacy and numeracy. The approach will remain play-based but capped at 100 students (down slightly from 108 last year) to ensure quality of instruction.

6.d) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 3, 2024, to February 28, 2025

A total of three suspensions were reported during this period. Staff are continuing to disaggregate the data to better understand trends and underlying factors.

An extension has been granted for the Office of the Ombudsperson's request for exclusion data, with the new deadline set for June 30.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

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

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) Election Update (oral)

S. Hopkins reported that three individuals initially expressed interest in the upcoming trustee election, with two officially submitting their names by the deadline. Barring any withdrawals by the end of the week, the district will proceed with a by-election. The first mail ballot application was received earlier today.

The qathet Teachers' Association (qTA) is exploring the possibility of hosting a community forum. They plan to coordinate with CUPE to prepare a list of questions.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

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

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report – No meeting in March

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) April Committee of the Whole (oral)

S. Hopkins noted that the Chief Election Officer overseeing the by-election process, has recommended cancelling the April Committee of the Whole meeting, as it falls in the middle of the campaign period. The swearing-in of the newly elected trustee will take place at the Regular Board Meeting later in April, following the conclusion of the election.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the April Committee of the Whole Meeting be cancelled.

STATUS: CARRIED

9.b) Review Board Work Plan

A quarterly review of the Board Work Plan was conducted, with the upcoming June review serving as the starting point for planning the year ahead.

S. Hopkins noted that a placeholder has been added in February for the annual school calendar review process. Additionally, two items have been added to the May agenda: the Board Development Plan for the following year and a Community Connections Report. The report will highlight strategic plan initiatives that

demonstrate engagement beyond social media, showcasing meaningful connections with the broader community. A full report will be presented to the Board to illustrate these efforts.

MOVED: M. MASON

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the 2024-2025 Board Work Plan be amended as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

9.c) Report back on Partner Liaison Meeting (J. Miller) (oral)

J. Miller provided an update on recent liaison meetings and events. At the BCSTA Board Chairs meeting, attendees participated in a conflict resolution session, followed by a discussion on the board's role in bargaining. The meeting concluded with a networking session connecting new board chairs with more experienced counterparts.

During the liaison meeting with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, several key topics were discussed, including school safety, cybersecurity, and recent childcare announcements—such as the extension of Seamless Day and Junior Kindergarten (JB4) funding. Updates were also provided on the federal school food program and a renewed provincial focus on literacy and numeracy. Additional items included the potential introduction of AED (automated external defibrillator) training in all schools and a discussion on graduation rates for Indigenous students. It was also noted that a new Ministry of Infrastructure has been established, with \$8 billion allocated to public schools across the province.

QUESTION PERIOD

CUPE President, A. O’Keefe, in response to the PAC letter, noted that bus drivers take great care in their work and regularly communicate concerns with administrative teams. She requested that this commitment and communication be acknowledged and reinforced in the letter being prepared.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

The media was not present at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2025 be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachments