



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 22, 2026
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Gretchen Conti, Dale Lawson

Also in attendance: Paul McKenzie (Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Regrets: Maureen Mason, Kirsten Van't Schip

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Chairperson J. Miller.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRESENTATIONS:

qathet Festival of the Performing Arts - J. Carlson

Joyce Carlson, past Chair of the qathet Festival of the Performing Arts, presented to the Board, accompanied by Lisa Gurney. On behalf of the festival, appreciation was expressed for the Board's attendance at the Grand Concert and for the district's longstanding support of the organization.

The delegation shared an overview of the festival's history and impact, noting that it has operated continuously since 1945, with the exception of a virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival supports amateur performers of all ages and includes adjudication across six performance areas, with participants regularly recommended to provincial festivals. The organization has also hosted two provincial festivals and remains an active member of Performing Arts BC.

For 2026, approximately 12,000 registrations were reported, with strong participation from school district students, including choral, vocal jazz, speech arts, and band. The delegation highlighted the significant volunteer effort required to support the two-week festival, with planning beginning each October and approximately 122 volunteers contributing annually. Appreciation was also expressed for the district's continued partnership and support in helping sustain arts opportunities for students and the broader community.

Kelly Creek Outdoor Adventure Program – A. Shostak

A. Shostak presented an overview of the Kelly Creek Outdoor Adventure Program, which has been offered at Kelly Creek Community School since 2011 for Grade 6 and 7 students. Originally developed to encourage students to explore outdoor opportunities available in the qathet region, the program has

evolved over time to build on students' existing outdoor experiences while encouraging new skills, confidence, and family engagement in outdoor recreation.

The program currently serves approximately 30 students and integrates outdoor learning across multiple areas of the curriculum. In addition to regular classroom integration, Thursdays are dedicated to small-group, skill-based outdoor experiences. Key areas of learning include teamwork, leadership, caring for others, first aid, AdventureSmart certification, outdoor cooking, and avalanche safety training, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and experiential learning.

Learning is being framed through a seasonal-round approach, with activities reflecting the local environment and opportunities throughout the year. Examples shared included kayaking, snorkeling, scuba instruction, humpback whale research and documentation, and student participation in the filming of a documentary project, Return of the Giants. Trustees were invited to view the documentary once completed. A short video showcasing student experiences throughout the school year was also shared.

Partners in Education School Presentation – S. Hall, A. Saugstad and I. Landy

S. Hall, A. Saugstad and I. Landy presented on Partners in Education's school growth plan, with a focus on student engagement as a key driver of learner success. The presentation outlined the school's inquiry question exploring how increased engagement may improve achievement in core and curricular competencies, alongside efforts to better understand and improve graduation outcomes for students who may be at risk of not completing the program.

Staff shared the development of a school-wide student engagement framework, including a rubric to assess levels of engagement and targeted intervention strategies for students identified as needing additional support. Teachers have each identified specific students to focus on, using tailored engagement and communication strategies to strengthen connection, participation, and progress. The presentation highlighted PIE's ongoing commitment to using data-informed approaches to support student success and continuous improvement.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Across our schools, this time of year brings a noticeable shift. Spring activities are well underway, and the final three months of the school year are full in all the best ways: cross country, theatre preparations, and a spike in outdoor excursions, to name a few. It is a busy and meaningful time for students, staff, and families.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to attend the Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. Trustees from across the province gathered to discuss the key issues shaping public education and to bring forward motions that will guide advocacy in the year ahead. There was a strong focus on student well-being, classroom complexity, and the importance of supporting both students and staff in a sustainable way. It was valuable to hear directly from other districts and to bring those perspectives back to our work here in qathet.

That connection between provincial conversations and local priorities is reflected in the work underway by the teams in our district and brought forward in today's agenda as we continue to focus on student learning, well-being, and system improvement.

One example of that work is the progress underway to refresh and strengthen our child care offerings across the district. There has been significant effort internally to better align our approach to the needs of families, and we are pleased to be moving forward with summer child care programming this July, along with extended before- and after-school care hours for the coming school year. These are important steps in supporting families and creating more accessible, responsive services within our school communities.

Today also marks Earth Day, which feels especially meaningful in our community. In qathet, we are reminded every day, simply by virtue of where we live, how connected we are to the natural environment. Across our schools, that connection shows up in outdoor learning, in a focus on sustainability, and in helping students develop a sense of responsibility and care for the world around them. This is not separate from our work in education, it is a part of how we support the whole student and prepare young people for the future.

As we move through the spring months, I want to thank our staff, students, families, and partners for the care, effort, and collaboration that continue to support student success across the district.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of April 22, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of March 11, 2026 and the Special Regular meeting minutes of March 31, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) March 11, 2026 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include property and personnel.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) BCSTA Board Policy Review

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the correspondence listed in item 4.a) be received.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) N/A

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 2, 2025, to March 31, 2026

Superintendent McKenzie provided a year-to-date update on student suspensions.

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

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

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) 2025/2026 Capital Plan Response Letter and Bylaw

S. Hopkins noted that the 2025/2026 Capital Plan and Response Letter had been reviewed at Committee of the Whole and were being brought forward for Board consideration

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT Capital Bylaw No. 2026/2027-CPSD47-01 be adopted in support of the projects as outlined.

STATUS: CARRIED

7.b) Quarterly Fiscal Accountability Report

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins presented the Quarterly Fiscal Accountability Report, noting that the district is in a stronger financial position compared to the same point in the previous year and remains on track to end the year in a positive financial position.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

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

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for April 8, 2026

Recommended motions arising from the Committee of the Whole Meeting:

8.a.i) Policy 4 – Appendix: Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Board approve the revisions to Policy 4 – Appendix: Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions.

STATUS: CARRIED

8.a.ii) Policy 14 – School Closures/Grade Reconfigurations

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the Board approve the revisions to Policy 14 – School Closures/Grade Reconfigurations.

STATUS: CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) BCSTA AGM Report Back (Oral)

Trustees shared reflections from their participation in the BCSTA AGM and associated learning sessions. Highlights included keynote remarks from Monique Gray Smith, sessions on ransomware preparedness, effective communications, governance, and creating expanded pathways and real-world learning opportunities for students.

Trustees also reflected on specific learning sessions attended, including school safety and emergency management, where ministry-led discussions focused on developing common language, emerging policy guidance, and communication practices during incidents. Trustees noted the importance of trusting senior staff to lead operational communications in emergency situations. Informal networking and learning opportunities, including sessions such as School Act 101, were also highlighted as valuable. Trustees also reflected on the experience of bringing forward a provincial motion, noting that while the motion was not successful, the process provided a valuable learning opportunity.

9.b) Policy 7 - Appendix - Trustee Election Bylaw

Staff reported that additional feedback and requested revisions had been received from the City's Chief Elections Officer. Trustees requested that the bylaw be reviewed further in light of recent ministry communications regarding election bylaws and brought back for consideration at the next meeting, with the requested revisions from the current discussion incorporated into the updated draft.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: G. CONTI

THAT the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2026 be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachment