

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4:00 pm, Wednesday, May 13, 2026
School Board Office

NOTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Gretchen Conti, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason
Also in attendance: Paul McKenzie (Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)
Regrets: Kirsten Van't Schip

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda of May 13, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. STANDING COMMITTEES

2.a) Finance and Facilities

2.a.i) 2026-2027 Annual Facility Grant

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins spoke to the presentation summary and highlighted proposed priorities for the 2026–2027 Annual Facility Grant (AFG). Planned investments include work at Edgehill Elementary to complement the current addition project, including millwork upgrades throughout much of the school, updates to existing washrooms to align with the standard of the new addition, and the inclusion of a gender-neutral washroom. The full list of priorities is included in the agenda package.

Discussion also included planned HVAC upgrades at Brooks Secondary, and ongoing regular arsenic testing, and mechanical control improvements that would support off-site monitoring and management of building systems at Kelly Creek. Staff noted that project timing has been planned strategically, with some work scheduled for completion over the

summer months and other projects extending into the school year to minimize operational disruption.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Education approve the proposed list of projects under the 2026/20267 Annual Facility Grant program.

2.a.ii) Budget Update (handout)

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins provided an overview of the 2026–2027 budget considerations, noting that projected ministry funding and overall revenues remain largely stable, with most funding continuing to be tied to student enrolment. Conservative enrolment estimates suggest a potential decline in elementary enrolment, which may result in fewer divisions in some schools.

Discussion focused on planned adjustments to service delivery within existing resources, including a restructured elementary literacy and learning support model intended to strengthen Tier 1 classroom supports through district-based instructional and intervention roles, rather than fractional school-based assignments. Trustees sought clarification on the shift, and staff noted the intent is to provide more flexible, needs-based support while maintaining overall staffing levels.

Additional changes discussed included staffing and operational adjustments at Brooks Secondary, revisions to some school board office staffing, updates to summer learning and childcare programming, and the anticipated expansion of the Feeding Futures meal program to local elementary schools. Staff also noted that spring staffing may be more complex this year due to enrolment pressures, tenure and transfer processes, and the final year of transition related to continuing-status conversion processes

2.a.iii) Staffing Update (oral)

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins provided a staffing update, noting that Mavi Magsaysay has been hired as the new Accounting Clerk at the School Board Office. An update was also shared on the Director of Operations recruitment, with a candidate secured and contract negotiations underway. The successful candidate is anticipated to begin in late summer or early fall. In the interim, Lisa McMurray will serve as Interim Transportation Manager.

2.b) Education and Strategic Planning

2.b.i) Summer Learning Program Update (oral)

Changes to summer learning were reported as part of the budget update.

2.b.ii) School Supplies (oral)

Superintendent McKenzie reported on a discussion at DPAC regarding school supplies, where concerns were raised about the current school supply list process. DPAC expressed interest in a model where schools would centrally procure supplies and families would contribute through a flat fee to help offset costs. The concept was subsequently shared with principals, who indicated support for exploring the approach.

Staff are working with school teams to develop a more consistent approach, with the goal of keeping costs reasonable, ensuring supplies are used effectively in classrooms, and

exploring procurement and payment structures that would avoid the model being perceived as a school fee.

Principals are also engaging with their PACs on the concept. Staff noted that participation would not be mandatory, that supports would remain available for families experiencing financial hardship, and that existing community supports, such as the Telus Backpack Program, would continue to help address identified needs. A preliminary estimated cost of approximately \$36–40 per student was referenced.

2.b.iii) 2028-2029 School Calendar

Staff provided an update on the draft 2028–2029 school calendar, noting that initial review with stakeholder groups has occurred and some early feedback has been received. qTA and CUPE have identified questions related to proposed changes to parent-teacher interview scheduling. The draft calendar will proceed to a broader public consultation period of at least 30 days, after which staff will return with a final version for Board consideration.

2.c) Audit

2.c.i) N/A

2.d) Policy Development

2.d.i) Trustee Remuneration

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins noted that, with sector compensation mandates now established, the Board may wish to consider an adjustment to trustee remuneration. A potential increase of 2.5% was suggested to align with compensation adjustments provided to other non-union staff. Trustees expressed support for the proposed increase.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT 2026 trustee remuneration be increased by 2.5%.

2.d.ii) Policy 7 - Appendix - Trustee Election Bylaw

Staff provided an update on the proposed revisions to the Trustee Election Bylaw, noting that feedback had been received from the City and the draft had also been reviewed against recent BCSTA guidance. No additional changes were recommended at this time.

2.d.iii) Board Development Plan (discussion)

Trustees discussed the Board Development Plan in the context of the upcoming election year. It was noted that the combination of trustee orientation for the incoming Board and progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee may be sufficient to meet board development expectations for the year.

2.d.iv) BCSTA Policy Review

Staff reported on a review of BCSTA best practice samples related to the Role of the Board, Delegation of Authority, and Role of the Superintendent. It was noted that the district's current policies align with the guidance provided, and no additional policy changes were recommended at this time.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.a) N/A

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.a) Upcoming Events

Trustees discussed availability and made tentative arrangements to attend upcoming events.

Event	Date	Time
qSD Retirement Dinner Location: Seaside Restaurant	Thursday, June 4	6:00 pm
Brooks Graduation Location: Hap Parker Arena	Saturday, June 6	Doors at 4:00 pm Ceremony at 6:00 pm
Long Service Recognition Location: Brooks Grand Foyer	Thursday, June 11	4:00 pm
PIE Graduation Location: Crown Isle Resort and Golf Course	Thursday, June 18	Doors at 4:00 pm Ceremony at 6:00 pm
qTA Retirement Celebration Location: Cranberry Seniors' Centre	Thursday, June 18	4:00 pm
Brooks Award Night Location: Max Cameron	Wednesday, June 24	Gr 8-10 at 6:00 pm Gr 11-12 at 7:15 pm

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 13, 2026, be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.