



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
School Board Office

### MINUTES

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Present: Jaclyn Miller, Rob Hill, Dale Lawson

Also in attendance: Jay Yule (Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Regrets: Maureen Mason, Kirsten Van't Schip

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

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**PRESENTATION:** Mental Health Initiatives – District Staff

K. Brach provided an overview of the district-wide Level Up conference, designed to facilitate the transition from elementary to secondary school, for grade 7 students. She noted that the day began with a keynote presentation focusing on anxiety awareness and seeking help when needed. Following this, students engaged in six breakout sessions, covering a mindfulness walk, substance use awareness, community resources, sexual health and consent education, identity mapping, and a session tailored by Brooks students. Approximately 130 students participated in the event and expressed positive feedback, particularly highlighting the Brooks student session and the community resource walk.

K. Brach highlighted changes from previous years, such as the increased number of breakout sessions and enhanced opportunities for movement. The Community Resource walk featured various local resources, including Foundry, Youth and Family services, qathet Restorative Justice, Brooks Mental Health Advocacy, Integrated Child and Youth services (ICY), qathet safe, RCMP Victim Services, the Indigenous Education team, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Students were provided with a booklet containing additional information about these community resources.

A. Burt shared information about a digital mental health and wellness app developed in collaboration with the Tla'amin Nation and CheckingIn software. The application, titled ʔəms nəm (the way we are), is open to all users but specifically designed for members of the Tla'amin community. It features elder stories, cultural teachings, traditional songs, ʔayʔajuθəm language lessons, and wellness resources. Available on both Apple and Android platforms, the app aims to promote cultural identity and support mental well-being.

Additionally, A. Burt provided details on the “Younger Minds Project,” a study being conducted by the UBC Department of Psychiatry. This project focuses on secondary students and aims to offer mental health resources and support for their well-being and resilience. Students will be invited to participate in a province-wide trial of a purpose-built app intended to promote well-being, build resilience, and prevent disordered substance use and mental health problems. To participate, both students and parents must complete and return a consent form. Upon completion, students will have access to the Younger Minds app for a two-week period. Invitations to participate will be shared through physical education classes, where much of the mental health curriculum is covered. PIE students will be invited to participate through an online introduction event. While UBC researchers will share provincial data following the pilot, district-level data will not be provided.

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

J. Miller shared the following remarks:

“It was around this time last year that the Board completed its first draft of the 2023- 2028 strategic plan that now guides the direction of the district. We had set out to create something bold and inspiring that focused on centering our students’ needs and shining a light on our work to build a culture of belonging and understanding. After leveraging input from parents, staff, students, and community - and then testing the priorities with principals and their staff as part of their school growth plans - we landed on 6 core areas of focus cultivating: an ethic of learning; curiosity; connection; Truth and Reconciliation; integrity & responsibility; and supporting self-determination.

We are now almost one year into this new vision. With only 6 weeks left in session the teams will be convening soon to reflect on their accomplishments and learnings to forge a way forward for next year – leveraging the strategic priorities and then bringing them to life in a way that work for their school environment and students.

As a Trustee, I can say that this past year has been one that kept the momentum from previous good practices and saw us lean into what we said we were going to do.

From the formation of our justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) committee to our year-long inclusion SOGI bingo learning activities for both students and staff, to compassionate systems leadership learning sessions for our administrators, we have made great headway in cultivating an ethic of learning as well as connection.

We are coming off a successful Grade 7 Health and Wellness “Level Up” event, our second annual conference to prep students for the transition to high school. The team at Brooks has worked hard to strengthen partnerships with post-secondary institutions across the province and we are gearing up for our summer learning program, which will be for K to 5 with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

The teams continue to pull together learnings and insights from this year to inform the next with a lot to look forward to, including the exciting news about the Province’s commitment of \$16.5 million to expand capacity at Edgehill. As Board Chair, I am confident that we are well on our way to establishing the foundation for our 5 -year ambition of greater outcomes for all students in our district.”

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**SECONDED: R. HILL**

**THAT the Regular meeting agenda of May 15, 2024, be adopted as amended.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**

J. Yule requested the addition of "6.c. 2024-2025 School Calendar Amendment".

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**SECONDED: R. HILL**

**THAT the Regular meeting minutes of April 17, 2024, be adopted as circulated.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**

**3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS**

3.a) April 17, 2024 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include personnel and property.

**4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

4.a) BCSTA to VISTA re: Student Voice

4.b) Cowichan Valley School District to Ministers Singh and Conroy re: Funding

4.c) Fraser Cascade School District to Minister Singh re: Wage Settlement Funding

4.d) Multiple School Districts to Minister Singh re: Funding for Medium Sized School Districts

4.e) North Vancouver School District to Minister Singh re: Enrolment Funding Schedule

Trustees noted their appreciation for ongoing discussions and emphasis supporting student voices and students' valued perspectives.

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**SECONDED: R. HILL**

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

**STATUS: CARRIED**

**5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

5.a) Board to C. Gordon – Letter of Appreciation

5.b) Board to qathet Community Justice (qCJ) Youth Restorative Action Team – Letter of Appreciation

**6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT**

6.a) Administrative Procedure 363 – British Columbia Evergreen Certificate

J. Yule reported that changes discussed at the May Committee of the Whole were incorporated into the updated AP, which will be distributed to stakeholders following the board meeting.

6.b) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 5, 2022, to April 30, 2024

J. Yule reported an overall decline in suspensions as compared to the previous school year.

6.c) 2024-2025 School Calendar Amendments

J. Yule addressed recommended changes to the 2024-2025 School Calendar based on consultations with the qathet Teachers Association (qTA). The professional development day scheduled for June 6 will be moved to April 17. Strategic planning sessions typically held on the June professional day will occur on the first day of school, and an Indigenous-focused professional day will be held on September 20th. The proposed changes to the calendar will undergo a 30-day feedback period before being presented for approval at the June Regular Meeting.

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**SECONDED: R. HILL**

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

**STATUS: CARRIED**

**7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

7.a) 2024/2025 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plans

S. Hopkins presented the 2024/2025 AFG plan, highlighting the enhanced consultation process and the integration of staff recommendations into the annual plan. J. Formosa supplemented the presentation with additional details, indicating that mechanical upgrades at the School Board Office will precede a window and envelope upgrade. Additionally, specifics regarding HVAC upgrades and cleaning for Brooks Secondary were discussed. Of the \$120,000 allocation, around \$35,000 is allocated for complex duct cleaning, while the remaining funds are designated for various upgrades, including the addition of cooling capacity in specific areas.

7.b) Month End Financial Report as at April 30, 2024

S. Hopkins announced that the month-end financial report indicates a 2% underspend compared to the previous year. The district continues to be in a strong financial position.

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**SECONDED: R. HILL**

**THAT the recommended AFG projects be supported as presented.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**

**MOVED: R. HILL**

**SECONDED: D. LAWSON**

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

**STATUS: CARRIED**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for May 8, 2024

The notes were provided for information. Trustees deliberated on a potential recommendation to have staff collect data to inform a letter to the province requesting increased funding for reconciliation initiatives. The item will be included on the agenda for the June Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

9.a) N/A

**QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

**MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no media representatives present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED: D. LAWSON**

**THAT the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 4:50 p.m.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**



J. Miller  
Chairperson  
SH/er



S. Hopkins  
Secretary-Treasurer