

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, June 24, 2026
School Board Office

MINUTES

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 4:04 pm by Chairperson J. Miller

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRESENTATIONS

Kindergarten Transition – M. Kubota

Ms. Kubota shared her family's positive experience with her child's transition to kindergarten at James Thomson Elementary, expressing sincere gratitude to the staff who supported her child throughout the year. She described the significant challenges her child initially experienced and the thoughtful, collaborative approach taken by the principal, counsellor, teachers, and support staff to help build confidence, a sense of belonging, and a love of school. Ms. Kubota emphasized the importance of positive early school experiences and recognized the dedication, compassion, and teamwork of frontline staff, noting that the success of her child's transition was a direct result of their care and commitment. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the outstanding work of district staff.

Grade 7 Camps at Outdoor Learning Centre – H. Pritchard

Mr. Pritchard and staff from Terra Centric presented an overview of the Grade 7 Camp program at the Outdoor Learning Centre, highlighting its role in supporting students' transition from elementary to secondary school. Now in its 21st year, the program focuses on teamwork, communication, problem-solving, leadership, and belonging through outdoor education, arts, and experiential learning. Presenters shared positive feedback from teachers and students, noting improvements in student confidence, connection, and collaboration, as well as increased attendance over the previous year. They emphasized the value of providing students with opportunities to disconnect from technology, build relationships across schools prior to transitioning to Brooks Secondary, and experience success in a supportive, inclusive environment. Former participants who now serve as camp leaders reflected on the lasting impact the program had on their personal growth and career paths. In response to a trustee question,

presenters indicated there is potential to expand the program in the future, including exploring additional experiences for Grade 8 students or extending the Grade 7 camp model.

Capital Project Quarterly Update Edgehill Elementary School – J. Formosa

Mr. Formosa provided a final construction update on the Edgehill Elementary School addition project in advance of its opening. He shared progress photos and reported that exterior envelope work and concrete finishing are nearing completion, while interior millwork, LED lighting, classroom furnishings, and teacher workstations have been installed. He also highlighted several summer projects, including the completion of the new spindle, and the installation of a 35 kWh solar array that will complement the school's heat pump system, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. In response to a trustee question regarding construction waste, Mr. Formosa outlined efforts to retain and repurpose existing furnishings where feasible, noting that the portable classrooms will be demolished as relocation costs outweigh the benefits. Trustees expressed their appreciation to Edgehill staff and students for their patience throughout construction, and thanked Mr. Formosa and Unitech for their work on the project.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

"As this is our final Board meeting of the 2025–2026 school year, I've been reflecting on a moment from earlier this month at the Brooks Secondary graduation ceremony.

Watching graduates cross the stage is always moving. It is a celebration of years of learning, growth, perseverance, and support from families, friends, teachers, and staff. But it is also a reminder that education is, at its heart, about helping young people prepare for what comes next.

June is a season of endings and beginnings. Students are wrapping up another school year, staff are preparing classrooms for summer, and families are marking important milestones. For our graduating Class of 2026, this moment represents the closing of one chapter and the start of another.

Our graduates leave our schools with knowledge and skills, but also with experiences that have shaped who they are. They have demonstrated resilience, determination, creativity, and kindness. Whether their next step is post-secondary education, trades training, employment, travel, or service to their communities, we are confident they will continue to make meaningful contributions wherever life takes them.

On behalf of the Board of Education, congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026. We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished and excited for all that lies ahead.

June is also a time of important recognition. This month we celebrate Pride Month and reaffirm our commitment to creating schools where everyone feels welcome, valued, and respected. We also recognize National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, an opportunity to celebrate the cultures, histories, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples while continuing our shared journey of learning and reconciliation. Last week, grade 6 and 7 students from across the district gathered in tīšosēm to celebrate the occasion with prairie teachings, Inuit games, a choir performance and more.

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to extend sincere thanks to all staff across the qathet School District. To our teachers, support staff, administrators, custodians, maintenance and operations teams, bus drivers, office staff, and district staff: thank you. Your care, professionalism, and commitment make a difference in the lives of students every day.

Finally, I would like to note that this fall will bring another important milestone for public education in our community: the School Trustee Election. On October 17, residents will elect five Trustees to serve our district for the next four years. Serving as a Trustee is a meaningful way to contribute to the future of public education, and we encourage anyone interested to learn more about the role. Information about an upcoming candidate information session will be shared in the coming months.

As we conclude another successful school year, thank you to everyone who helps make our schools vibrant places of learning, belonging, and opportunity. I wish all students, staff, and families a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer.”

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of June 24, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) May 27, 2026 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include property and personnel.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) IEC Delegation to Board

4.b) Ombudsperson Quarterly Report

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

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

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) Board to Premier Eby - Permanent Standard Time and Student Safety (draft)

Trustees reviewed the draft advocacy letter to Premier Eby. With no further changes proposed, the Board approved the letter for sending.

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) Superintendent Year in Review (oral)

Superintendent McKenzie reflected on his first year in the district, sharing observations and lessons learned through time spent in schools, classrooms, and conversations with students, staff, and families. He emphasized the importance of listening to student voice, fostering belonging, and recognizing the impact that caring relationships have on student success. The presentation highlighted the district's commitment to supporting the whole child, strengthening connections with the Tla'amin Nation, and ensuring that learning is grounded in meaningful relationships and community. Superintendent McKenzie concluded by expressing appreciation for the collective efforts of staff, families, trustees, and community partners in creating the conditions that enable every student to thrive.

6.b) School Calendar & Feedback

Superintendent McKenzie summarized the feedback received during the public consultation on the draft school calendar, noting that only a small number of responses were received. Feedback included requests to separate Spring Break from the Easter long weekend and to align the calendar with neighbouring districts, while CUPE suggested including annual early dismissal and parent-teacher conference dates. Staff recommended retaining the proposed calendar structure, noting that it aligns with neighbouring districts and the District's longstanding practice of scheduling Spring Break during the last two weeks of March. Operational dates such as early dismissals and conference schedules will continue to be added to the annual school calendar once finalized.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the 2028-2029 School Calendar be approved.

STATUS: CARRIED

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

The report was provided for information.

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) Major Capital Projects

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins presented the proposed 2027/2028 Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The plan identifies seismic upgrade projects for Texada Elementary School and James Thomson School as the District's major capital priorities, while also outlining proposed minor capital projects for future submission, including mechanical and ventilation upgrades, carbon reduction initiatives, school bus replacement, solar infrastructure,

and playground renewal. Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins noted that the major capital submission is due June 30, with the remaining capital priorities to return to the Board for approval in September.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT The Board of Education approve the submission of the Major Capital Plan as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for June 10, 2026 - Recommended motions arising:

8.a.i) 2026-2027 Annual Budget

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: G. CONTI

THAT the 2026-2027 Annual Board Budget be adopted and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

STATUS: CARRIED

8.a.ii) 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: M. MASON

TO approve the 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar.

STATUS: CARRIED

8.a.iii) 2026-2027 Board Annual Work Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins reported on revisions made to the draft 2026-2027 Board Annual Work Plan since the Committee of the Whole meeting. Updates included moving several items from October, adding trustee orientation activities to November, and incorporating the annual meeting with the Indigenous Education Council into the annual schedule. Additional formatting and removal of duplicates will be completed before the work plan is posted.

MOVED: G. CONTI

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

TO approve the 2026-2027 Board Annual Work Plan.

STATUS: CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) Policy 16 – Indemnity By-law

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins advised that the draft Indemnity By-law had been updated to incorporate trustee feedback received at the previous meeting, along with minor revisions recommended by legal counsel. The revised by-law was presented for Board consideration.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Board approve the revisions to Policy 16 – Indemnity By-law.

STATUS: CARRIED

9.b) Superintendent Evaluation

Trustees reviewed the revised Superintendent Evaluation policy. The revisions included updates to Appendix A and the removal of Appendices B and C to streamline the evaluation process.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: M. MASON

THAT the Board approve the revised Policy 12 – Appendix A: Superintendent Evaluation, and rescind Policy 12 – Appendices B and C.

STATUS: CARRIED

9.c) Trustee Elections Bylaw

Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins advised that, following discussions with the City of Powell River, additional revisions to the Trustee Elections Bylaw are required to ensure the bylaw appropriately delegates election responsibilities for areas outside the City of Powell River to the qathet Regional District.

MOVED: GC

SECONDED: MM

THAT the Board approve the revisions to Policy 7 = Appendix A: Trustee Election Bylaw.

STATUS: CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

There was no media present.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2026 be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachment