



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
4:00 pm, Wednesday, October 25, 2023
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Dale Lawson, Rob Hill, Maureen Mason, Jaclyn Miller, Kirsten Van't Schip

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lawson at 4:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Compassionate Systems Leadership (CSL) - K. Brach and A. Burt

K. Brach and A. Burt presented an overview of Compassionate Systems Leadership, an approach endorsed by the ministry that centers on leadership and education. This initiative involves sharing tools and areas of interest, establishing a unified framework with consistent language and tools utilized across various systems and districts. CSL encompasses leadership and teaching in three key domains: self, interpersonal relationships, and systems. It places a strong emphasis on ongoing self-reflection practices like mindfulness and emotional agility, encouraging individuals to acknowledge and address their emotions with curiosity and reflection.

Over the past three years, the school district has been directly engaged with leaders through the ministry, employing a top-down approach. The district has been sharing strategies and learning opportunities with administrative officers, with the intention of extending these opportunities to teachers in due course. The primary aim is to generate momentum and anticipate the adoption of the framework by teachers, with the goal of full integration within the next 3-4 years. It was noted that Administrative Officers are becoming increasingly comfortable with CSL strategies and are supportive of the initiative.

QUESTION PERIOD

No questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

D. Lawson shared the following:

"Today is the last meeting of the qathet School District that I will attend as chairperson. I've learned many things over the course of the last 3 board compositions and I feel a great sense of gratitude for my experiences and how they will continue to shape my contributions to serving this district as we move forward.

Thank you all for your role in helping to shape who I am today. I'm looking forward to board elections next month where it will be my pleasure to support the current Vice Chair to take the reins at that time."

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: J. Miller

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of October 25, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: J. Miller

SECONDED: R. Hill

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED.

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) September 20, 2023 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items concerning personnel, legal and property.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) PRDTA to SD47 - District Name

4.b) BCSTA to all boards – Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Report

4.c) FNEsc to BCTF – Foundation Skills Assessment

4.d) BCSTA to Premier Ebby - Urgent Meeting Request Regarding Recent Protests in School Districts

4.e) Ministry of Education and Child Care to BCSTA – Funding for Technology

4.f) Ministry of Education and Child Care to BCSTA – Public Transit for Youth

4.g) SD5 to Ministry of Education and Child Care – Educational Resources

4.h) SD5 to Ministry of Education and Child Care – Invitation to Visit

4.i) SD5 to Ministry of Post-Secondary Education – Neurodiversity Training Response

In relation to item 4.b. (BCSTA to all boards – Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Report), J. Yule commented that the district's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee is in its early stages of development. Directors are gathering terms of reference from other districts for consideration. Next steps include formalizing terms of reference and appointing to the committee.

R. Hill asked for clarification on the distribution of letters to parents/guardians regarding Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing. J. Yule responded that the BCTF is authorized to distribute a letter to families and noted that the district also sends a letter. He further commented on district procedures as they relate to student attendance for FSA testing.

MOVED: R. Hill

SECONDED: J. Miller

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

STATUS: CARRIED.

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) SD47 to PRDTA - District Name Change

5.b) SD47 to Minister of Education and Child Care – District Name Change

- 5.c) SD47 to all Parents/Families - Support for 2SLGBTQIA+ Students, Staff, and Families and SOGI-inclusive Education

Outgoing correspondence was provided for information.

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) Enrollment

6.b) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 6, 2022, to September 30, 2023

6.c) Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development – Email

J. Yule presented items in his report and addressed questions from trustees. Trustees expressed their endorsement for the district's letter to families, which advocates for diversity and inclusion in schools, particularly as it relates to SOGI. A brief discussion also occurred regarding supports for children in care.

MOVED: M. Mason

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

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

STATUS: CARRIED.

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) Month End Financial Report as at September 30, 2023

S. Hopkins mentioned that the financial report covers the first quarter of the fiscal year and is in line with the same period in previous years.

MOVED: K. Van't Schip

SECONDED: J. Miller

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

STATUS: CARRIED.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for October 11, 2023

Additional Reference Documents:

8.a.i) Policy 1 – Foundational Statements

8.a.ii) Operational Plan – Learning & Student Support Services

Trustees discussed their impressions of the operational plan. They expressed excitement about seeing the strategic plan being put into action. They also noted the improvements in assessments for evaluating plan implementation and shared enthusiasm for the implementation plans focused on enhancing student engagement and promoting student voice in elementary schools.

MOVED: R. Hill

SECONDED: J. Miller

THAT Policy 1 – Foundational Statements be amended to reflect the recent decision to change the organizations name to qathet School District, and further to remove the previous Motto until such time as a new Motto, more reflective of the new Strategic Plan, has been selected.

STATUS: CARRIED.

MOVED: K. Van't Schipp

SECONDED: R. Hill

THAT the Learning and Student Support Services Operational Plan be received as was presented.

STATUS: CARRIED.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) Advocacy Day & Meeting of Board Chairs – J. Miller (oral)

J. Miller discussed her participation at BCSTA Advocacy Day and shared insights gathered from ministry officials and staff. This included:

- Addressing concerns related to opposition to SOGI.
- Promoting the creation of safe zones around schools for SOGI.
- Collaborating with local private sector organizations, like chambers of commerce, to explore local opportunities (e.g., apprenticeships).
- Encouraging school districts to engage with local government.

9.b) Provincial Council – D. Lawson (oral)

D. Lawson provided an update on the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting, highlighting the following points:

- Discussion of three late motions, with further details to be shared through the BCSTA Synopsis.
- Participation in an issues forum following the debate, encouraging districts to review the Delta school district's resource on data-informed decision-making.
- Noted the upcoming Canadian School Board Conference scheduled for July 2026 in Whistler.

QUESTION PERIOD

PRDTA president, I. Loveluck, shared information about the BCTF's agreement to distribute materials related to FSA testing. Loveluck also conveyed concerns from the BCTF about the testing process and the non-conforming use of test results.

PRDTA president I. Loveluck, inquired about the absence of stakeholder consultation in relation to the administrative procedures discussed at the Committee of the Whole. J. Yule stated that feedback on all administrative procedures can be submitted to the district at any time.

A member of the audience requested a copy of outgoing correspondence to families concerning Support for 2SLGBTQIA+ Students, Staff, and Families, and SOGI-inclusive Education. Chair Lawson indicated that the letter was included in the agenda package and is available online.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

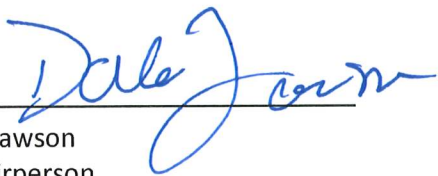
The media asked for an update on the district's name change, Chair Lawson responded that the district is pursuing legislative requirements to formalize the change. Next steps are as yet to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

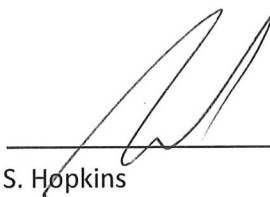
MOVED: J. Miller

THAT the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

STATUS: CARRIED.



D. Lawson
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/er