



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, November 27, 2024
School Board Office

MINUTES

Present: Jaclyn Miller, Rob Hill, Dale Lawson

Also in attendance: Vianne Kintzinger (Interim Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

Regrets: Kirsten Van't Schip, Maureen Mason

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Secretary-Treasurer S. Hopkins.

S. Hopkins informed the board that Trustee Mason had provided her consent to any nomination by email

ELECTIONS:

Chairperson: J. Miller accepted a nomination by D. Lawson. Seeing no further nominations, J. Miller was acclaimed to the role of Chairperson.

Chairperson Miller assumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Vice Chairperson: M. Mason was nominated by R. Hill. S. Hopkins confirmed that M. Mason would accept the nomination. Seeing no further nominations, M. Mason was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson.

BCSTA Provincial Council Representative: J. Miller accepted a nomination by R.Hill. Seeing no further nominations, J. Miller was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Council Representative.

BCPSEA Representative: D. Lawson was nominated by J. Miller. Seeing no further nominations, D. Lawson was acclaimed as BCPSEA Representative.

PRESENTATIONS:

School District Logo Release Summary – K. Payne

Director of Communications K. Payne provided a summary of the school district's logo revamp, which was unveiled to staff, students, and the public on November 26, 2024. She expressed gratitude to the board for their support and showcased a short video detailing the story behind the new logo. The communications team is currently developing resources to assist staff with the implementation of the logo change.

Edgehill Elementary School Growth Plans – J. Burt

Principal J. Burt provided an update on Edgehill Elementary's growth plans, focusing on the implementation of a social-emotional learning (SEL) goal to support self-regulation among students. The school adopted the *Heart-Mind Well-Being Framework*, incorporating SEL goals into its school plan.

Staff participated in a full-day session at the OLC, led by facilitator Gillian Lewis, to align on strategies. The focus for the previous year, "secure and calm," showed positive outcomes, as evidenced by surveys conducted in May 2024, which highlighted strong support from students, staff, and parents.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the focus expanded to include self-regulation and problem-solving skills. Challenges were identified early, with surveys in October revealing a need for ongoing targeted SEL interventions in classrooms. Staff and the PAC co-presidents collaborated to create a sensory room, contributing to positive outcomes.

Efforts included using common language school-wide, sharing strategies for regulation, and conducting regular surveys to monitor progress. Data-driven approaches and strong staff engagement have been key, with 85% of staff responding to surveys on self-care and recognition. The WITTS program was introduced to support problem-solving among students and parents.

Trustees commended the school's efforts, highlighting the value of collective input, data-driven approaches, and strong administrative support. They noted the emphasis on an ethic of care and appreciated the positive impact of these practices on student well-being and school success. Trustees also recognized the strong connections between staff and students and the commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

"Hello and welcome everyone. Here we are with four weeks left before the holiday break and all the lead-up holiday celebrations!

It's an exciting time for our district, as last week we officially announced the hiring of Paul McKenzie as our new Superintendent of Schools. Paul will be joining us from Saanich School District and bringing with him many years of experience in leadership roles within our sector in both Ontario and BC. We are eager for him to join us this spring, and in the meantime, we remain grateful for the steady leadership of Interim Superintendent Vianne Kintzinger. Thank you, again, to all who were a part of the process.

Early last week, Brooks Secondary hosted its first Career Fair for Indigenous Students. This event, titled Strengthening Connections, was an inspiring demonstration of our district's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous students. Representatives from post-secondary institutions like UBC, Simon Fraser University, and Island Health connected directly with students, helping them envision a

bright future. It's initiatives like these that bring our mission to life, and we extend our gratitude to everyone who made it possible.

Our commitment to supporting educators remains a cornerstone of our work which is being brought to life through the New Teacher/TTOC Learning Series initiated by the leadership team at the district and offered in partnership with the qathet Teachers Association. The goal is to ensure that new teachers and TTOCs feel both supported and connected. These sessions provide tools and resources to address challenges and establish a strong foundation for ongoing professional growth and I hear that there was plenty of interest from our staff which is fantastic.

Further on the topic of staff development, the district is proud to share the launch of our Leadership Academy. This program will nurture leadership talent among our teachers and new administrators as a way to build capacity within our district to ensure we are equipped to meet the evolving and future needs in our schools. This opportunity for leadership development has been well received and the first sessions kick-off in a couple weeks. Thank you to our interim superintendent and the district team for making this happen; future workforce planning is critical to student success and we are grateful to have a program in place.

Last week, our Board, along with senior staff, participated in the BCSTA Trustees Academy. The sessions emphasized equity in education, Indigenous student success, and innovative governance practices. Hearing from thought leaders challenged us to think deeply about the opportunities and responsibilities we have as Trustees. The insights we gained will undoubtedly inform our efforts to make meaningful and impactful decisions for our district.

On Monday, I was able to speak with the new Minister of Education and Child Care, Lisa Beare. I conveyed our appreciation that the Feeding Futures funding has been committed to base funding moving forward, how much we agree with the priorities she outlined to all trustees at the BCSTA Academy including refocusing on literacy and numeracy, the safety of our students, and recruitment and retention of staff. I also shared our struggles with recruitment and the possibilities that more robust partnerships with post-secondary could assist in producing increased numbers of high-quality teachers for our students; clearer communication guidelines between MCFD and education so we can ensure our focus and support for children and youth in care can be as effective as possible; and that with increased requests on our system need to come with funding as well.

Finally, I'm thrilled about the unveiling of the new qathet School District logo, a powerful symbol of connection and collaboration. This design, created with the artistic vision of Tla'amin artist Kobe Galligos, embodies the shared efforts of everyone in our district—from students and educators to families and the broader community. Please take a minute to watch the video and I hope you'll feel as inspired as we are by the significance of our new look and feel going forward.”

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: R. HILL

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of November 27, 2024, be adopted as amended.

STATUS: CARRIED

Trustee Lawson requested that a “Trustee Report” be added to the agenda as item 9.b.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of October 16, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) October 16, 2024 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include property and personnel.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) BCSTA to R. Singh – November 13, 2024

4.b) BCPSEA to BCSTA – November 13, 2024

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: R. HILL

THAT the correspondence in item 4.a) and 4.b) be received for information.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) Board to H. Pritchard and D. Harper – Letter of Appreciation

5.b) Board to A. Shostak – Letter of Appreciation

S. Hopkins reported that D. Harper had contacted the board to request permission to use the letter of appreciation to support grant applications. Trustees expressed their support for Ms. Harper's request.

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) 2024/2025 Department Operational Plans

V. Kintzinger provided an overview of the 2024/2025 operational plans, highlighting key actions aligned with the board's strategic goals:

- Cultivating an Ethic of Learning: Development of a K-7 numeracy framework.
- Cultivating Curiosity: School garden projects focused on climate action and food production, integrating land stewardship.

- Cultivating Self-Determination: Supporting the IEC's development and implementing a pilot language program at James Thomson Elementary.
- Cultivating Integrity and Responsibility: Upcoming mid-year superintendent achievement report in February.

S. Hopkins noted maintenance-related highlights, including mechanical upgrades and sustainability initiatives. He also mentioned human resources initiatives and plans to review administrative procedures in early 2025. Daycare openings were also emphasized.

Trustees asked for additional information on opportunities for increasing parent involvement in the learning process. A. Burt shared that recurring themes from discussions on school improvement included enhancing parent engagement. Efforts are underway to identify the best venues to make parents feel welcome in schools. At James Thomson Elementary, monthly PAC meetings are complemented by events designed to foster connections and explore educational topics. This remains an ongoing focus area.

6.b) Festival of the Performing Arts request for support

Trustees reaffirmed their support for the festival, emphasizing its value as an excellent opportunity for student participation and enrichment.

6.c) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 3, 2024, to October 31, 2024

V. Kintzinger commented that there were no district concerns regarding the number of suspensions recorded during this period.

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: R. HILL

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

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURERS' REPORT

7.a) qathet Regional District searching for new options to support regional Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Recycling – News Release

S. Hopkins shared a press release from the qathet Regional District (qRD) highlighting challenges in supporting rural industrial, commercial, and institutional recycling programs. The press release included an invitation for advocacy.

Trustees expressed support for engaging in advocacy efforts. Staff will prepare a draft letter for the board's consideration at the December meeting. R. Hill suggested initiating advocacy locally by reaching out to the region's MLA.

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Secretary-Treasurers' Report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for November 13, 2024

Recommended motions arising from the Committee of the Whole Meeting:

qSD to qRD – Emergency Preparedness

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the qathet School District provide the Regional District with an updated letter of commitment in support of its emergency planning.

STATUS: CARRIED

Program Review - Dual Credit Programs

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: R. HILL

THAT the Board of Education accept the Career Program-Dual Credit Review (Level 2), as attached and presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

Review of Indigenous Education Annual Report

MOVED: D. LAWSON

SECONDED: R. HILL

THAT the Board of Education accepts the report as presented and recommends submission to the Tla'amin Nation, as required in the Tla'amin Education Agreement.

STATUS: CARRIED

Consideration of Alternate Board Meeting Calendar

MOVED: R. HILL

SECONDED: D. LAWSON

THAT the Board of Education approves the implementation of a revised meeting calendar for the balance of the school year using the second and fourth Wednesdays as the regular meeting days.

STATUS: CARRIED

S. Hopkins noted that, as a result of this change, the December Committee of the Whole meeting will be canceled. The next Regular and Closed Meetings are scheduled for December 11, 2024.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) BCSTA Trustee Academy Report – J. Miller (oral)

J. Miller provided an overview of the BCSTA Trustee Academy, highlighting sessions on topics such as AI in education, equity and anti-racism through street data, student voice, Indigenous education, and early learning.

R. Hill expressed appreciation for the pre-conference session on AI in education. Key takeaways included the recommendation to develop guidelines rather than strict policies for AI use, focusing on where its usage is appropriate. The session emphasized equipping students with the skills to use AI confidently, work collaboratively with it, and ensure ethical practices.

9.b.) Trustee Report - D. Lawson (oral)

Trustee D. Lawson provided a summary of recent events attended on behalf of the board:

- Participated in DPAC meetings over the past five years, noting a positive trend in parent participation at PAC meetings. The recent meeting included representation from all schools.
- Attended a Halloween band performance hosted by S. Cramaro, which was a wonderful event with several trustees in attendance.
- Attended the Everyone Deserves a Smile (EDAS) launch at Max Cameron, featuring a presentation by K. Boyd. This collaborative community initiative aims to create 475 care bags.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

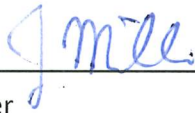
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. LAWSON

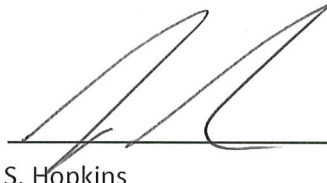
THAT the Regular meeting agenda of November 27, 2024, be adjourned.

STATUS: CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachments