



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM (PT)

TRUSTEES: A. Murphy, C. Dixon, D. Simon, S. Gascon, R. Farrell

STAFF: P. Dubinsky, M. McLellan, A. Davidson

GUESTS: K. Greenhalf (ALTA)

VIRTUAL GUESTS: Valley Voice

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Item 6A - Elder-in-Residence Program deleted.

Item 8 - Financial Report moved to Item 10C.

Item 9A – Capital Bylaw deleted.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.02.20-1

THAT the Board of Education **ADOPT** the agenda for this February 20, 2024 meeting, as amended.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.02.20-2

THAT the Board of Education **ADOPT** the minutes from the meeting open to the public on January 16, 2024, as circulated.

5. Presentations

A. Good News Report

Vice-Chair Dixon presented the Good News Report

6. Superintendent's Report

A. Elder-in-Residence Program – *item deleted*

B. District Shared Professional Development Day

Superintendent Dubinsky reported a shared professional day held in January between ALTA, ALELA, and the District. Dubinsky introduced Keith Greenhalf, ALTA President, to share some highlights.

Mr. Greenhalf shared that the theme was to create a collaborative space where local leadership was highlighted. He noted the importance of using the capacity of the district's staff to share their knowledge with their colleagues. He reported receiving positive feedback from teachers; he believes the joint Pro D day created unity and has heard from teachers who would like to present next year.

Superintendent Dubinsky shared that three Secondary School students provided keynote speeches at the Pro D day. While each speech differed in the message, the students shared their gratitude, what they saw in the future, and what they felt the District should pay attention to. In the afternoon, local healthcare providers presented. He noted that all sessions aligned with the District's Strategic Plan's physical and mental health objectives. There were discreet sessions, including one on trauma, which over 30 people attended. The desire is that staff will be able to share the wealth of knowledge from these sessions with the students.

7. Trustee, Committee and Organization Reports

Reports are posted on the District website.

8. Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

9. Unfinished Business

A. Item Deleted

10. New Business

A. Provincial Council Motions

Board Chair Gascon reported that Trustee Murphy would attend the provincial council this weekend. He communicated that one item on the agenda is the BCSTA per diem. A discussion ensued.

Trustee Murphy stated that she will attend as a representative for the District and vote on behalf of the Board per its direction and otherwise as best to represent the district as possible. A discussion ensued regarding billing BCSTA directly to recoup some costs incurred supporting BCSTA business.

B. Cell Phone Policy

Superintendent Dubinsky shared the memorandum regarding the recently announced requirement for a cell phone restriction policy. Points were made:

- A goal is uninterrupted instructional time with students not accessing their phones.
- There will be exceptions, such as if students need their phones for learning needs.

- The ministry wants the policy to be effective by the end of August so it is ready to roll out by September next year.
- Tighter limitations for k-7 than high school are expected.
- A recommendation is to include the policy in schools' codes of conduct.
- Online training will be available to support parents during the transition.

The recommendation is that the board begin developing policy in this regard. It was agreed to include this on the agenda of March's policy committee meeting.

A Trustee asked if the Ministry would provide a template or if the Board would create it from scratch. This information is not known. For now, the Board can review other districts' policies to provide some insight to get started.

C. 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan referenced the memorandum. He noted that it is an updated version of the memoranda shared earlier in February with the Partner Group Advisory, and the financial picture is similar.

He presented the amended budget in detail. Items noted and discussed:

- There are minor differences between this budget and the original annual budget adopted last May.
- Childcare revenues are in line with the original budget.
- Approximately \$50,000 of feeding futures funding will contribute to food infrastructure projects, including upgrading appliances and food preparation areas.
- This is the final year for the affordability fund using the remaining funds carried forward from last year.
- The District will be allowed to use outstanding seamless day funding to support the NELCC as it moves towards operating at breakeven.
- The board's \$90,000 surplus, appropriate to contribute to the construction of charging stations, was discussed. McLellan notified the Board that third-party funding is likely still available.
- Nakusp Elementary School's new playground is primarily built, with additional items expected this spring.
- The District is still waiting to deliver another new van and another used van, and NSS was satisfied with the first van purchased this year. Upon questions asked by Trustees, he noted that the District purchased the van, and the school will reimburse the District over several years. The school will use funds it would have otherwise used to pay for transportation expenses from its trust fund, transportation budget savings, and student trip fees.

- A description was given of the \$150,000 in tech upgrades throughout the District paid for from surplus.
- Regarding the Classroom Improvement Fund, a Trustee asked if there had been any submissions. Superintendent Dubinsky said he will meet with schools in March to review their submissions.
- An overview of the District’s surplus allocations was provided. McLellan noted that the total budget bylaw amount is 14.1 million, and the District is expected to end the year with roughly a \$3 million surplus.

A Trustee asked if using the new electric buses would result in cost savings, to which McLellan answered yes. A discussion ensued. The District will provide a detailed report on this subject to the Board in March.

Proposed Resolutions

Board Chair Gascon read the amended annual budget bylaw.

WHEREAS a Board of Education must approve an Amended Annual Budget Bylaw each year pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412, as amended from time to time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Board of Education for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw, having read the bylaw a first time;

THAT the Board of Education for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw, having read the bylaw a second time;

THAT the 2022-2023 Annual Budget Bylaw go forth to a third reading;

AND THAT the Board of Education **APPROVE, PASS, and ADOPT** the 2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw, having read the bylaw a third time.

11. Questions from the Public

Nil

12. Next Meeting Dates

- A. Meeting of the Board in Public: March 12, 2024
- B. Meeting of the Board in Public: April 16, 2024

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44

S. Gascon
Chairperson

M. McLellan
Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT