



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM (PT)**

Attendees:

Trustees: Stephen Gascon (Chair), Danyea Simon (Vice-Chair), Amanda Murphy, Rhonda Farrell.

Staff: Superintendent Peter Dubinsky, Secretary-Treasurer Michael McLellan, Teacher Ben Gehrels, Teacher Ethan McKlusky

Other: Students from the NSS Writers' Club, ALTA President Keith Greenhalf, Valley Voice.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Gascon.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

THAT the Board of Education hereby **ADOPTS** the agenda for January 20, 2026, as circulated.

4. Adoption of Minutes

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

THAT the Board of Education hereby **ADOPTS** the minutes from the Regular Meeting held in public on December 2, 2025, as circulated.

5. Presentations

A. Good News Report

The Superintendent presented the good news report.

6. Superintendent's Report

A. NSS Writer's Club

Students from Nakusp Secondary School presented on their participation in the Writer's Club, Creative Writing class, and Writers' Fest. Each of the four students presented on different aspects of the trip and shared their own experiences. They felt they gained from each activity and expressed their appreciation for attending. Students reflected on their growth and confidence as writers. Teacher Ben Gehrels explained some of the group's growth and achievements.

B. ALDL and REACH

Ethan McKlusky provided an overview of activities within the REACH program and described the progress made with students.

7. Trustee, Committee and Organization Reports

- A. Policy Committee Minutes & Annual Plan

8. Financial Report

- A. 2025-2026 Budget Update

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the monthly financial report. He noted that the District is operating within a tight budget due to \$319,000 less in operating revenue resulting from lower-than-forecast unique needs enrolment. He noted that various strategies are being pursued to reduce the deficit, including limiting operating fund expenditures on services and supplies, using in-house staff for minor capital projects, and deferring discretionary expenses to 2026-2027. He also reviewed year-to-date spending on capital expenses, including those funded as minor capital projects or by surplus appropriation.

9. Unfinished Business - Nil

10. New Business

- A. Notice of Motions Regarding Policies

Notice of Motions were given for the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting:

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 301 – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 320 – Participation in Graduation Ceremonies.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 330 – Child & Youth Protection.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 332 – Physical Restraint & Seclusion in Schools.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 510 – Recruitment & Selection of Exempt Staff.

It was noted that the policies would be made available online and circulated following the Policy Committee meeting scheduled for February 12, 2026.

Notice of Motions were given for the April 7, 2026, Regular Meeting:

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 530 – Safe and Caring Schools.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 623 – Procurement.

THAT the Board of Education hereby **AMENDS** Policy 641 – Disposal of Land or Improvements.

11. Questions from the Public

12. Next Meeting Dates

- A. Partner Group Advisory Meeting: February 9, 2026
- B. Policy Committee Meeting: February 12, 2026
- C. Board Meeting Open to the Public: February 24, 2026
- D. 2025-2026 Board Meetings are posted on the [Board Meetings Information Page](#).

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.