

# Minutes



## PUBLIC MEETING

### The Board of Education of School District No. 34 (Abbotsford) 2790 Tims Street, Abbotsford, BC V2T 4M7

**Date:** December 5, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Abbotsford School District Administration Office

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Korky Neufeld, Chair  
Preet Rai, Vice Chair  
Rupi Kanda-Rajwan  
Stan Petersen  
Mike Rauch  
Jared White  
Shirley Wilson

REGRETS: Melanie Trudeau

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Nosek, Superintendent  
Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer  
Nathan Ngieng, Deputy Superintendent  
Bruce Cunnings, Assistant Superintendent  
Jay Pankratz, Assistant Superintendent  
Kayla Stuckart, Communications Manager  
Gurp Mahil  
Shannon Thiesen  
Tom van Hunenstijn  
Tracy Orobko, Executive Assistant (recorder)

---

### 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Neufeld called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Chair read a statement about issues affecting staff and addressed respect. Social media is not the correct platform rather it is through conversation with their child's classroom teacher or administrator. We want to remain civil and respectful and acknowledged the contribution and challenges of staff that does not go unnoticed by the Board.

### 2.0 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LOCAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY**

#### 2.1 Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

We acknowledge that the Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Semá:th First Nation and Mathxwí First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.

### 3.0 **SINGING OF 'O CANADA'**

The Board began the meeting with the singing of O Canada.

### 4.0 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

#### 4.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Minutes: Public Meeting  
Date: December 5, 2023

---

It was MOVED by Trustee Rai and SECONDED by Trustee Kanda-Rajwan

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Agenda as Presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5.1 Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting held November 7, 2023**

It was MOVED by Trustee Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Wilson

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Annual Organizational Board Meeting held November 7, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held November 7, 2023**

It was MOVED by Trustee Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Wilson

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held November 7, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**6.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

**6.1 Approval of Consent Items**

It was MOVED by Trustee Kanda-Rajwan and SECONDED by Trustee Rai

THAT the Board of Education receive and approve the Consent Items as presented.

**CARRIED**

**A) Information**

6.2 2024 Trustee School Liaison Program

**B) For Approval**

6.3 Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held April 18, 2023

6.4 Minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held June 6, 2023

6.5 General Record of the Closed Board Meeting held November 7, 2023

6.6 Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held November 14, 2023

6.7 2022-2023 Statement of Financial Information Report

**7.0 DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**7.1 Observances & Holidays Acknowledgement**

Chair Neufeld acknowledged International Day of Persons with Disabilities, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Hanukkah, Human Rights Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve.

**8.0 REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENT/RESULTS**

**8.1 2023 Summer Explorers and Secondary Summer School Program Reports**

Superintendent Nosek welcomed the 2023 Summer School Leadership team: Gurp Mahil, Shannon Thiesen, and Tom van Hunenstijn. The 2023 Leadership Team shared highlights,

Minutes: Public Meeting  
Date: December 5, 2023

---

successes, and future considerations as well as the big ideas and information about inquiry-based learning that had approximately 1,400 students engaged in July 2023.

8.2 Learning Support Services Department Strategic Plan Report for 2022-23

Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng provided an update to the Board on progress made in areas of the District's Strategic Plan related to strategic goals for 'Excellence in Teaching,'. Key achievements and projects from the 2022-23 school year that support the department's strategies were highlighted, as well as a look at the ongoing work in 2023-24.

8.3 Curriculum Department Strategic Plan Report for 2022-23

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cunnings updated the Board on progress in specific areas of the District's Strategic Plan. Key successes were highlighted, barriers that have challenged the departmental process were discussed, and a look ahead at the future plans was presented.

8.4 Indigenous Education: Bill 40 Update

Superintendent Nosek presented an update about new legislation requiring all BC school districts to have agreements in place around First Nations Schools of Choice (SoC) Policy, Model Local Education Agreement Policy, and Indigenous Education Council Policy. The district is proud of the relationship it has forged with both Mathxwí First Nation and Semá:th First Nation and is well-positioned to comply with the new regulations.

Nations with on reserve students will be able to determine through their own process will identify their own school.

8.5 2024-2028 Strategic Plan Engagement

Superintendent Nosek presented information about the Board's strategic plan engagement with students, staff, families and the broader community for the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan refresh.

8.6 Budget Guiding Principles

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the budget guiding principles used in previous years for review prior to beginning preparation of the 2024-25 Budget and Strategic Plan.

8.7 Change of Board Meeting Dates in 2024

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk proposed changes in meeting dates in 2024 due to conflicts with 2024 events.

It was MOVED by Trustee Wilson and SECONDED by Trustee Rai

THAT the Board of Education approve the change in meeting dates in 2024 as follows:

1. Public Budget Information Night: From March 7 to March 6
2. In-Camera and Regular Board Meetings: From May 28 to May 14

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Education's Budget Calendar be revised to reflect the above changes.

**CARRIED**

8.8 W.J. Mouat Secondary: 50th Anniversary

It was MOVED by Trustee Rauch and SECONDED by Trustee Wilson

THAT the Board of Education grant W.J. Mouat Secondary Staff approval to proceed with obtaining a liquor license and external insurance in order to serve alcohol at the May 25th

Minutes: Public Meeting  
Date: December 5, 2023

---

Anniversary Open House being held in the large gym at W.J. Mouat for an adult social celebrating its 50th anniversary and fundraiser for a legacy project and scholarship.

**CARRIED**

8.9 Boundary Review Update – Cooper Meadows and High Street

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk reported on the participation rate as the public feedback portion is complete and results will be brought to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Public Board meeting.

8.10 Board Policy 20: Disposal of Real Property

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the revised Board Policy 20 for approval. No changes or feedback were received.

It was MOVED by Trustee Wilson and SECONDED by Trustee Kanda-Rajwan

THAT the Board of Education approve revised Board Policy 20 - Disposal of Lands and Improvements, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

9.1 2023-2024 Trustee Representation on Committees

The Board reviewed the representation on committees list. Staff will provide notifications in due course.

**10.0 REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS**

There were no reports by representatives on external organizations at this meeting.

**11.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report at this meeting.

**12.0 TRUSTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustees reported on events, community activities, and meetings they had attended.

**13.0 QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions asked during the question period.

**14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

---

Board Chair

---

Certified Correct, Secretary-Treasurer