

Minutes



PUBLIC MEETING

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

Date: April 16, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Abbotsford School District Administration Office

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Wilson, Chair
Preet Rai, Vice Chair
Korky Neufeld
Stan Petersen
Jared White

TRUSTEE REGRETS: Rupi Kanda-Rajwan
Mike Rauch

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Nosek, Superintendent
Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer
Nathan Ngieng, Deputy Superintendent
Jay Pankratz, Assistant Superintendent
Pat Taylor, Manager, IT Infrastructure
Tracy Orobko, Executive Assistant
Corissa St.George, Executive Assistant

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

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

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee White

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Agenda as Presented.

CARRIED

5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held March 12, 2024

It was MOVED by Trustee Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Neufeld

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held March 12, 2024.

CARRIED

6.0 CONSENT ITEMS

6.1 Approval of Consent Items

It was MOVED by Trustee White and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

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

CARRIED

A) Information

There were no items presented for information at this meeting.

B) For Approval

6.2 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held January 16, 2024

6.3 Minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting held January 16, 2024

6.4 General Record of the Closed Board Meeting held March 12, 2024

6.5 General Record of the Special Extraordinary Closed Board Meeting held April 2, 2024

7.0 DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Observances & Holidays Acknowledgement

Chair Wilson acknowledged Autism Acceptance Month, Sikh Heritage Month, Easter Monday, World Autism Awareness Day, Passover, World Health Day, Eid al-Fitr, Vaisakhi, Earth Day, Administrative Assistant's Day, and National Day of Mourning. In addition, Education Month was acknowledged, and trustees expressed appreciation for all educators.

7.2 School Presentations – Bradner Elementary and Abbotsford Senior Secondary

Bradner students, Principal Kam Sidhu and Abbotsford Senior students, Principal Carla Campbell, teacher Malcolm Campbell attended and shared innovative work and events happening in their schools. Bradner students shared how they have been delving into various initiatives and programs in place to foster a strong sense of community and inclusion through their student belonging program. Staff and students from Abbotsford Senior Secondary shared information about the Integrated Studies Program (ISP) and the support the program gives students who may feel disconnected from school.

7.3 2024 BCSS Boys & Girls Wrestling Provincial Champions - W.J. Mouat Secondary School

Principal Linda Pollastretti, Coach Jim Mitchell and students from the W.J. Mouat Wrestling Team shared highlights from their exciting season after winning two BCSS Provincial Wrestling championship banners – the BCSS Wrestling Boys Championship and the BCSS Aggregate Championship.

7.4 Youth Champion of Diversity Award Recipient - Ishi Sharma

Principal Rob Sloboda introduced Ishi Sharma, a grade 12 student at Yale Secondary School who recently received the Youth Champion of Diversity Award. Ishi shared her passion for her initiative *EDI for Youth* and why she continues to work at creating and building an inclusive community for all young people.

8.0 REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENT/RESULTS

8.1 Strategic Plan Consultation & Preliminary Budget for 2024-2025

Superintendent Nosek and Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk provided an update on the results gathered from the recently closed strategic plan consultation engagement portal, internal and external environmental assessments, and the district's core competencies. Preliminary budget estimates, including Q3 financial information, were also presented. Trustees were encouraged to review the attachments prior to the May 3, 2024 Board Planning Session.

8.2 School Fees and Deposits for 2024-2025

Superintendent Nosek presented the School Fees and Deposits for 2024-2025. The fees remained the same, excluding the IB Programme Exam Fees, which will be assessed to IB students beginning in the 2024-2025 school year since the exam fees tend to exceed district allocated funds for the programme.

It was MOVED by Trustee White and SECONDED by Trustee Neufeld

THAT the Board of Education approve the following school fees and deposits for the 2024-25 school year:

- Student Activity Fees for middle and secondary schools of up to \$30 per student. The student activity fee covers costs such as student agendas, guest speakers, student identity cards, school events, student recognition, student leadership, locks and locker rentals. Schools shall not charge for a student agenda if it is to be used as a learning resource or for assessment purposes;
- Parking permits of up to \$16 for the right to park as well as for administrative expenses at secondary schools where required;
- Graduation Fee of up to \$60 per student, the basic amount for the cost of the convocation ceremony (e.g. gown and stole rental, keeper cap and tassel, folder, diploma, and tickets to convocation/venue, tea/reception);
- Personal supplies in accordance with the supply list approved by the district;
- Bakerview Centre for Learning non-fundable registration fee of \$25 for continuing education courses
- Course Fee: \$550 for graduated adults taking non-funded courses;
- Refunds for graduated adults paying \$550 course tuition will be processed as follows:
 - Bakerview Centre for Learning: Continuing Education, refunds for fee paying graduated adults will be granted up to 4 days of attendance after registration. There will be a 10% per day holdback to a maximum of 40%. Withdrawal after four days will result in no refund. Individuals wishing a refund due to hardship after registration will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Abbotsford Virtual School, upon placement into a distributed learning course: refunds may be granted: 100% within two days, 75% within a week, and 50% within 30 days. Refunds will not be considered after 30 days.
- International Baccalaureate Programme Exam Fee as follows:
 - \$150 for a student registered for one IB class in their Grade 11 year
 - \$300 for a student registered for two IB classes in their grade 11 year

Minutes: Public Meeting

Date: April 16, 2024

- o \$450 for a student registered for three or more IB classes in their grade 11 year

CARRIED

8.3 Academy Fees for 2024-2025

Superintendent Nosek presented the Academy Fees for 2024-2025, noting that most fees for the academies remained the same except for ASSS Soccer Academy, YSS Softball Academy and YSS Baseball Academy. It was also noted that the district does not profit from academy fees.

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve the academy fees for the 2024-25 school year as presented below:

- Abbotsford Middle School Soccer Academy - \$500
- Abbotsford Senior Secondary Soccer Academy - \$900
- Abbotsford Traditional School Human Performance Academy - \$850
- Eugene Reimer Middle School Soccer Academy - \$399
- Robert Bateman Secondary Golf Academy - \$2,800
- Robert Bateman Secondary High-Performance Golf Academy - \$5,000
- Rick Hansen Secondary Human Performance Academy - \$850
- Yale Softball Academy - \$2,750
- Yale Baseball Skills Academy - \$3,000

CARRIED

8.4 Abbotsford School District Child Development Fair

Superintendent Nosek provided a report to the Board about the recent Abbotsford School District Child Development Fair, which took place on April 6, 2024. The Early Learning Team looks forward to hosting an event similar to this again in the future.

Question Period

Questions regarding the question period and how the minutes of meetings are recorded were asked and responded to.

8.5 Barrowtown and Semá:th Elementary Schools - Middle/Secondary Catchment Review

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the updated catchment areas and confirmed that all current students residing in the Barrowtown and Semá:th catchments will be given the choice to continue attending Abbotsford Middle or Secondary schools or attend W.A. Fraser Middle or Yale Secondary schools effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

It was MOVED by Trustee Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Neufeld

THAT the Board of Education realign the Barrowtown and Semá:th Elementary catchment areas to be part of the W. A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchments, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, and

FURTHER THAT all current students residing in the Barrowtown and Semá:th catchments be given choice to continue attending the Abbotsford Middle/Secondary catchment or attend in the W.A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchment.

CARRIED

8.6 Synthetic Field Operating Agreement and Licence

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the new agreement of both capital and operating investments between the City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School District for the synthetic fields located at multiple Abbotsford schools.

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve the Synthetic Field Operating Agreement and Licence as attached, effective the date of signing.

CARRIED

8.7 Long Range Facilities Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the draft Long Range Facilities Plan and advised that the plan will be posted on the engagement portal to seek public input and comments before being brought back to the Board at the June 18, 2024 Public Board Meeting for approval.

8.8 Third Quarter Financial Update

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the third quarter financial update for information.

8.9 Student Transportation Fees

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the proposed transportation fees for 2024-2025. The fees have increased by approximately 3% due to inflation.

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve the proposed school transportation fees as presented.

CARRIED (Opposed: Trustee White)

8.10 Abbotsford Arts Centre - Rental Fees

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the proposed fees, noting that schools do not pay for the use of the theatre and that Abbotsford Arts Centre continues to offer some of the lowest rental fees in the area.

It was MOVED by Trustee White and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve the proposed increase in rental fees for the Abbotsford Arts Centre as presented.

CARRIED

8.11 Board Policy 18 - School Catchment Areas

Superintendent Nosek presented the updated policy, which has been updated to align with the registration process in AP 336 – Student Registration and Catchment Areas.

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee White

THAT the Board of Education approve proposed revised Board Policy 18 - School Catchment Areas, as presented.

CARRIED

Minutes: Public Meeting

Date: April 16, 2024

9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

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

12.1 National School Boards Association

Chair Wilson summarized her time at the National School Boards Association 2024 in New Orleans, LA.

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

13.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions asked during the second question period.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Board Chair

Certified Correct, Secretary-Treasurer