

# Minutes



## PUBLIC MEETING

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

**Date:** April 15, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Abbotsford School District Administration Office

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

TRUSTEE REGRETS: Korky Neufeld

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Nosek, Superintendent  
Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer  
Nathan Ngieng, Deputy Superintendent  
Bruce Cunnings, Assistant Superintendent  
Beth Penney, Executive Assistant  
Corissa St. George, Executive Assistant  
Mike Sillery, Tech Support, IT

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### 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Rauch

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 11, 2025**

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held March 11, 2025.

**CARRIED**

**6.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

**6.1 Approval of Consent Items**

It was MOVED by Trustee Petersen and SECONDED by Trustee Rai

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

**CARRIED** (*Opposed: Trustees Rauch, White*)

**A) Information**

There were no items for information presented at this meeting.

**B) For Approval**

6.2 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held January 28, 2025

6.3 General Record of the Special Extraordinary Closed Board Meeting held March 8, 2025

6.4 General Record of the Closed Board Meeting held March 11, 2025

**7.0 DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Prior to the scheduled presentations, the Board of Education, along with special guests Ryan Colbert, Doug Smuland, and Shannon Rose, acknowledged and thanked Secretary-Treasurer Ray Velestuk for his 15 years of service with the Abbotsford School District. A special presentation and gift of a Spindle Whorl carved by Ray Silver was presented by Allison Gardner.

**7.1 School Presentations: Godson Elementary and Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts (ASIA) Sumas Mountain**

Principal Tyler Baruta, Vice-Principal Joe Frew, LSS teacher Brett Taylor, and two students from Godson Elementary provided a presentation about X-Block—a weekly 30-minute program where the entire school participates in a variety of activities. X-Block promotes a strong sense of community and belonging while supporting the school's SEL goal by fostering connection and fun.

Principal Karen Bennett, Vice-Principal Julie Wilms, Learning Commons Teacher & Project Coordinator Heather Beckett, Social Studies Teacher Ana Horner, and grade 10 students from ASIA Sumas Mountain presented the ongoing school project featuring a collaborative 8x8-foot map of North America, with students from various grades contributing their learning about Indigenous topics such as animals, languages, residential schools, and territorial boundaries.

**8.0 REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENT/RESULTS**

**8.1 School Fees and Deposits for 2025-2026**

Superintendent Nosek presented the School Fees and Deposits for 2025-2026. The fees will remain the same as the previous school year.

It was MOVED by Trustee Rai and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve the following school fees and deposits for the 2025-2026 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
  - \$450 for a student registered for three or more IB classes in their grade 11 year

**CARRIED**

8.2 Academy Fees for 2025-2026

Superintendent Nosek presented the Academy Fees for 2025-2026, noting that the fees for ERMS Soccer Academy have increased slightly.

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the following academy fees for the 2025-26 school year:

- Abbotsford Middle School Soccer Academy - \$500
- Abbotsford Senior Secondary Soccer Academy - \$900
- Eugene Reimer Middle School Soccer Academy - \$450
- Robert Bateman Secondary Golf Academy - \$2,800
- Yale Softball Academy - \$2,750
- Yale Baseball Skills Academy - \$3,000

**CARRIED**

8.3 2024-25 District Planning Team Update

Superintendent Nosek presented summaries and insights from the three meetings held with trustees, district staff, principals and vice-principals, parents, teachers and secondary students. Topics included Education in the Age of AI, Provincial K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan Framework and Career Education.

8.4 Third Quarter Financial Update

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the Third Quarter Financial Update for information.

8.5 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the most recent preliminary budget estimates for the 2025-2026 budget year, noting that there are some budget drivers around specific budget adjustments and considerations still under review before the final budget is presented at the June 17, 2025 public meeting. The board may have to start making harder decisions around reducing spending in the future if the accumulated surplus is used and continues to decline. It was also noted that there will be a public budget information meeting on May 8, 2025.

8.6 Student Transportation Fees

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented the fees for 2025-2026, noting that there is no increase from the previous year. Now that a new Transportation Manager is in place, a Transportation Review should be considered for the fall.

8.7 Abbotsford Arts Centre – Rental Fees

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented a recommendation for an increase in rental fees of roughly 4% effective July 1, 2025.

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

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

**CARRIED**

**8.8 Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01**

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk provided a list of major capital projects that were approved for funding and proceeding to procurement

It was MOVED by Trustee Rai and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT the Board of Education approve having all three readings of the Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 in this one meeting.

**CARRIED**

**8.9 Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 (First Reading)**

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

THAT School District No. 34 (Abbotsford) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 be given first reading.

**CARRIED**

**8.10 Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 (Second Reading)**

It was MOVED by Trustee White and SECONDED by Trustee Petersen

THAT School District No. 34 (Abbotsford) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 be given second reading.

**CARRIED**

**8.11 Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01 (Third Reading)**

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

THAT School District No. 34 (Abbotsford) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD34-01, be given third reading, reconsidered, and finally passed and adopted on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

**CARRIED**

**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 of external organizations at this meeting.

**11.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**11.1 Motion to Amend Policy 6 - Trustee Code of Ethics, Appendix 1**

It was MOVED by Trustee Rauch and SECONDED by Trustee White

THAT the Board of Education approve the amendment of Policy 6 – Trustee Code of Ethics, Appendix 1 be amended to include the following provisions:

- The respondent trustee shall have the option to waive confidentiality and request that their Code of Ethics hearing be conducted in a public forum. This request must be made in writing and will be granted unless legal or privacy considerations prevent public disclosure. In cases where full public disclosure is not possible, the Board shall provide a summary of the findings while protecting sensitive information as required by law.

- Following the conclusion of a Code of Ethics hearing, the respondent trustee shall have the right to publicly disclose details of the proceedings, including their own defense and any Board rulings, unless such disclosure would contravene the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other applicable laws.

**MOTION FAILED** (*Opposed:* Trustees Kanda-Rajwan, Petersen, Rai, Wilson)

**11.2 Abbotsford Agrifair Sponsorship Request**

Trustees discussed the sponsorship request and questioned what kind of in-kind contributions could be considered by Agrifair organizers, along with finding out approximately how many of our students attend the fair. A request was also made to provide a list of all sponsorships that are presented to the board to be brought forward.

**12.0 TRUSTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12.1 Trustee Meetings & Events: March & April 2025**

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

**13.0 QUESTION PERIOD**

A question about the possibility of a reduction in teaching staff in the 2025-26 preliminary budget update was asked and responded to.

**14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Certified Correct, Secretary-Treasurer