

# Minutes



## PUBLIC MEETING

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

**Date:** January 21, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Abbotsford School District Administration Office

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Nosek, Superintendent  
Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer  
Nathan Ngieng, Deputy Superintendent  
Bruce Cunnings, Assistant Superintendent  
Jay Pankratz, Assistant Superintendent  
Kristi Ferguson, Senior Manager, Communications and Community Relations  
Beth Penney, Executive Assistant  
Corissa St. George, Executive Assistant

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#### 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 White and SECONDED by Trustee Neufeld

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Agenda as Presented.

**CARRIED**

Minutes: Public Meeting  
Date: January 21, 2025

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**5.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held December 10, 2024

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held December 10, 2024.

**CARRIED**

**6.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

6.1 Approval of Consent Items

It was MOVED by Trustee Neufeld and SECONDED by Trustee Rauch

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

**CARRIED**

**A) Information**

There were no items for information presented at this meeting.

**B) For Approval**

6.2 Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held November 26, 2024

6.3 General Record of the Closed Board Meeting held December 10, 2024

**7.0 DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

7.1 School Presentations: Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary and Yale Secondary

Principal Shannon Kenney and students shared how intergenerational interactions help students learn and grow by connecting students with older and younger generations, like grandparents and babies, which leads to positive results. Principal Kenney and students presented how programs such as Chess Club, Cuddle Up and Read, and Roots of Empathy build strong relationships that improve social-emotional skills and self-regulation.

Principal Stan Wiebe and students shared their thoughts and experiences with the school's Student Leadership program. The students reflected on how the program has contributed to their personal development and future aspirations. Their stories demonstrated the meaningful ways student leadership empowers individuals and strengthens the school community.

**8.0 REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENT/RESULTS**

8.1 Elementary Schools: Strategic Plan Progress Report

Bruce Cummings, Assistant Superintendent presented an overview of key literacy and numeracy initiatives and an overview of the district's Early Development Instrument results to provide context on who our learners are coming into our schools.

8.2 Middle Schools: Strategic Plan Progress Report

Nathan Ngieng, Deputy Superintendent provided an update on progress made in areas of the District's Strategic Plan related to strategic goals for 'Student Success,' with a focus on middle schools. Key achievements and projects that support the middle level's strategies were also presented.

Minutes: Public Meeting  
Date: January 21, 2025

---

8.3 The BCSTA Calls for Action on Climate Change in Schools - January 15, 2025

This item was moved from Consent Items. Some trustees commented on the correspondence from the BCSTA - *New Report on Achieving CleanBC Emissions Targets*.

8.4 Office of the Premier to Minister of Education and Childcare - January 16, 2025

This item was moved from Consent Items. Some trustees commented on the mandate letter sent to Minister Beare from Premier Eby.

8.5 Second Quarter Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk provided a comparison of the current revenues and expenditures to the current year's budget and last year's second quarter revenue and expenditures compared to the actual 23-24 financial results. It was noted that substitute employee costs are significantly higher than the previous year. The secretary-treasurer noted that the amended budget will come to the February 2025 board meeting for approval.

8.6 Revised Board Policies

Secretary-Treasurer Velestuk presented a summary of the review of Policy 12: Delegation of Authority, Policy 19: School Closure, and Policy 21: Naming of School District Facilities/Property. Based on the review, it is recommended that no changes be made to Policies 12, 19 or 21. The policies are clear, necessary, and effective in promoting sound governance practices.

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**

There was no new business to report at this meeting.

12.0 **TRUSTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

12.1 Trustee Meetings & Events: December 2024 & January 2025

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

13.0 **QUESTION PERIOD**

A question about recruitment and retention of teachers was asked and responded to.

14.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Certified Correct, Secretary-Treasurer