



BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

Excellence | Innovation | Community

MISSION:

Achieving Educational Excellence through engaging and personalized learning

VISION:

Competent and confident learners making positive contributions in an evolving global environment

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024
REGULAR BOARD MEETING - AGENDA

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER - SECRETARY-TREASURER D. TURNER

2. RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations represented by the Dakelh, Nedut'en, and Wet'suwet'en Peoples; and, we are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious Acts of Reconciliation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Recommended to approve the Consent Agenda, including the following items:

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- The Agenda for the Regular Meeting dated November 18, 2024.
- The Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated October 21, 2024.
- The Record of the In-Camera Meeting dated October 21, 2024.
- The Record of the Special In-Camera Meeting dated October 30, 2024.
- The Record of the Special In-Camera Meeting dated November 5, 2024.
- The Record of the Special In-Camera Meeting dated November 13, 2024.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Monday, November 18, 2024, be approved as presented.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

As per SD91 Policy 202.1, Secretary-Treasurer D. Turner will call for nominations for Chairperson.

Voting by private ballot, if required.

Chairperson declared

5. CHAIRPERSON ASSUMES THE CHAIR

6. MOTION TO DESTROY THE BALLOTS

7. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

As per SD91 Policy 202.1, the Chairperson will call for nominations for Vice-

Chairperson.
Voting by private ballot, if required.
Vice-Chairperson declared.

8. MOTION TO DESTROY THE BALLOTS

9. BOARD COMMITTEE SELECTION

BCPSEA Bargaining - 1 Rep and Alternate
BCSTA Provincial Council - 1 Rep and Alternate
BCSTA Northern Interior Branch (NIB) - 1 Rep
SD91 Indigenous Education Council (IEC) - 1-2 Reps and Alternate
District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) - 1 Rep
Budget and Finance Committee

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BCSTA Indigenous Education Council - Trustee D. Christie
Provincial Council Update - Trustee N. Hazelton

11. EDUCATION UPDATE

Superintendent's Report to the Board

12 - 17

12. POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RE-ORGANIZATION PROJECT

Summary of project to date - Trustee R. Pooley

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT a visual summary of the Policies and Regulations Re-Organization Project be posted to the SD91 website, with clear communication that there are no proposed amendments to any words/language in any existing policies at this time, and to allow for collection of public feedback until January 9, 2025 with respect to the re-numbering of existing Policies and Regulations only.

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

****The Board will receive questions from the public at this time. Questions must pertain to the items listed on this agenda. A response will be provided in follow up to the meeting. Those posing questions must ensure that the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent has a current email address to ensure a response.*

****Total Time Limit: 30 minutes for this item*

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Meeting of Monday, November 18, 2024, adjourn at _____ p.m.



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Regular Board Meeting		MINUTES	October 21, 2024 6:00 PM
Present:	D. Christie N. Hazelton D. Albertson S. Davis R. Gratz R. Pooley C. Walker M. Skinner D. Turner K. Black M. Gauthier H. Silver	Chairperson Vice Chair Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Trustee Interim Superintendent Secretary-Treasurer Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Director of Instruction Recording Secretary	
Absent:	C. McKay	Director of Instruction	
In-House			
Guests:	C. Houghton C. Martin K. Lessard B. Pacheco 4 Members of the Public	FSJSS Principal FSJSS Teacher FSJSS Student Voice Representative FSJSS Student Voice Representative	
Present			
Online:	5 Members of the Public		
1.	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson D. Christie at 6:00 p.m.		
2.	<u>RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY</u> Chairperson D. Christie acknowledged that we are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations represented by the Dakelh, Nedut'en, and Wet'suwet'en Peoples; and, we are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious Acts of Reconciliation. Specifically for tonight's meeting, we are honoured to gather in Nak'azdli Whut'en territory.		
3.	<u>INTRODUCTIONS</u> The following guests were introduced: C. Houghton - FSJSS Principal C. Martin - FSJSS Indigenous Language & Culture Teacher - Kirby & Braelyn - FSJSS Student Voice Representatives		
4.	<u>APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA</u> The Consent Agenda, including the following items, was approved: - The Agenda for the Regular Meeting dated October 21, 2024. - The Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated September 16, 2024. - The Record of the In-Camera Meeting dated September 16, 2024.		
24-69 <i>MOVED and SECONDED</i> <i>THAT the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Monday, October 21, 2024, be approved as presented.</i>			
<i>Carried</i>			

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

FSJSS Principal C. Houghton and FSJSS Indigenous Language & Culture Teacher C. Martin shared a celebratory presentation about Cultural Week and Truth & Reconciliation activities that were hosted by FSJSS during the final week of September 2024. Interim Superintendent M. Skinner thanked the duo for their ongoing work with students and staff and for bringing the community together to share in the relationship-building activities. Chairperson D. Christie requested and was granted permission to share the PowerPoint presentation with the BCSTA Indigenous Education Council and Ministry personnel in Vancouver.

** FSJSS Principal C. Houghton and FSJSS Teacher C. Martin departed the meeting at 6:16 p.m.*

6. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee R. Pooley shared an update about the current work of the Board's Policy Committee. While there are no policies being reviewed for edits at this time, the committee has begun a project of re-organizing and re-numbering all existing policies in their current state. Committee members will continue to review and discuss this project with the intent of gathering public feedback as the work proceeds over the next few months.

Chairperson D. Christie provided an update about the recent Northern Interior Branch (NIB) gathering in Prince George. The NIB meets twice a year for professional development opportunities and to conduct branch business such as topic suggestions for the BCSTA to address with the Ministry. This past meeting involved discussions about the Framework for Continuous Improvement, northern district vs. provincial student data, children and youth in care matters, and eco-cycle planning within the NIB. The next NIB meeting is scheduled to take place as part of BCSTA Academy in November 2024.

7. **STUDENT VOICE**

FSJSS Student Voice Representatives Kirby and Braelyn presented about a wide range of student-led activities that have happened or will be happening at SD91 schools in recent times.

*** FSJSS Student Voice Representatives Kirby and Braelyn departed the meeting at 6:36 p.m.*

8. **EDUCATION DIVISION**

8.1 **EDUCATION UPDATE**

Interim Superintendent M. Skinner summarized his monthly report to the Board, highlighting the following stories:

- Truth and Reconciliation Week learning and activities at many SD91 schools
- Enrollment update, the Ministry's 1701 funding calculations, and budget impacts
- SD91's 6th Annual Indigenous Education Conference for all staff
- October 28 online meeting for caregivers and families to learn about the annual Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) report and ask questions about the key data points within the FESL report
- FSJSS's learning outside the classroom opportunity that was recently featured on CKPG news
- KOH Learning wrap-up event on October 4

Interim Superintendent M. Skinner shared an update from Director of Instruction C. McKay regarding Inclusive Curriculum & School Environment. Improving outcomes for children and youth in care is a high priority for the Inclusive Education department this year, and staff are developing a survey to gather information to guide our work as we focus more deeply on this priority.

Director of Instruction M. Gauthier highlighted plans about three projects to support the District's strategic plan goal regarding Strengthening Partnerships:

- Visual arts themed partnership with Simon Fraser Institute that includes SFU instructors visiting our schools, an opportunity for students to visit SFU and learn about its arts program offerings, and a November 18 session for students to work with a visiting graphic artist and learn about creating graphic novels.

- Continued work with SD28, SD57, CNC and UNBC to expand dual credit opportunities available to secondary school students including offerings related to some of the most-needed careers in our local region.
- CNC has also reached out to SD91 for further engagement to plan more course offerings for all members in our SD91 communities.

8.2 OUT-OF-COUNTRY FIELD/SPORTS TRIP REQUEST

A. FINAL APPROVAL REQUEST

There was discussion about the approval request for FLESS Travel Group students to travel to Japan from March 24 to April 1, 2025.

24-70 *MOVED and SECONDED
 THAT final approval be given to selected FLESS students to travel to Japan
 from March 24 to April 1, 2025.*

Carried

9. OPERATIONS DIVISION

9.1 FINANCE

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer K. Black presented the First Quarter Financial Update. Discussion followed.

9.2 2023-2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Secretary-Treasurer D. Turner reported that the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements as well as a one-page informational document are now available for public viewing on the SD91 website.

9.3 2024-2025 AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET

Secretary-Treasurer D. Turner advised that there will be a November 4 meeting for the Budget and Finance Committee to review and discuss the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget.

9.4 CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE - BUSES

Secretary-Treasurer D. Turner reported that the Ministry discovered an error in their Capital Plan request system and had recently announced that SD91 could increase our request for additional school buses.

9.5 SITES

A. GRASSY PLAINS DAYCARE

Interim Superintendent M. Skinner thanked the SD91 Facilities Department for sharing the October 11, 2024, update from PRD Construction Ltd. regarding the Grassy Plains Daycare construction project. The construction work began in September 2024.

B. FSJSS SPORTS FIELD

Interim Superintendent M. Skinner reported that the FSJSS sports field is not up to standard for use by students and may be de-activated until sufficient repair work can be done. This project will be placed with high priority on the District's Annual Facilities Grant list.

9.6 SUPERINTENDENT HIRING PROCESS

Chairperson D. Christie provided an update about the Superintendent hiring process, including:

- There were many good candidates in the applicant pool. The Board worked with consultant Anne Cooper to shortlist the candidates who will move to the interview stage.
- Interviews are scheduled for October 29 and 30, 2024, and the Board expects to make a hiring decision shortly thereafter.

10. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

24-71 *MOVED and SECONDED*
THAT the Meeting of Monday, October 21, 2024, adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Carried

Darlene Turner, Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Christie, Chairperson

DRAFT



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)
FORT ST. JAMES, BC**

RECORD OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING

1. The personnel report was accepted.
 - Information was received on six non-teaching new casuals
 - Information was received on forty-three non-teaching new appointments
 - Information was received on fifteen non-teaching increases in hours
 - Information was received on five non-teaching leaves of absence
2. There was an update given on staffing.
3. There was an update given on grievances.
4. There was an update given on investigations.
5. There were discussions on six topics related to Board business.
6. There were three emergent issues added to the Agenda and discussed.

DRAFT



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)
VANDERHOOF, BC**

RECORD OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING

1. There was a discussion about one topic related to Board business.

DRAFT



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)
VANDERHOOF, BC**

RECORD OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING

1. There was a discussion about one topic related to Board business.

DRAFT



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)
VANDERHOOF, BC**

RECORD OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING

1. There was a discussion about one topic related to Board business.

DRAFT

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. We are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious acts of Reconciliation.

Hadih/Hadi/Hadeeh

It was another busy month in the district with many learning and extracurricular activities in full swing.

Hundreds of students participated in athletics over the past few months, in volleyball, football, rugby, soccer, and cross country running. Several teams won regional tournaments and zones to qualify for provincials. The dedication of the players and coaches is evident given the extensive travel and time required to play sports in rural BC. In addition, school clubs are active in most schools in a variety of activities for students from all backgrounds.

Staff, students, and communities recently reflected and honoured the veterans with Remembrance Day ceremonies at schools and in all communities.

November 8th was a special day for Indigenous veterans, is often overshadowed, but there is a proud tradition of Indigenous contributions from members of the local First Nations.

[Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Celebrates Indigenous Veterans Day – November 8 and Remembrance Day](#)

Remembrance Day is growing ever more important to remember the past to help with our future. The world is rapidly changing, and Remembrance Day stands as a poignant reminder that we all play a role in remembering the past to help our future.



As we look forward to having some snow on the ground for snowshoeing and skiing, it is always a good time to get outside and enjoy the pristine beauty and fresh air our region offers.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Skinner
Interim Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity



StrongStart BC Pilot in SD91

Child Health BC selected 23 school districts to participate in a new StrongStart BC Pilot Project. SD91 was one of the chosen school districts and we are pleased to share that Brandi Rivard, David Hoy StrongStart facilitator, will be the StrongStart facilitator engaged in this pilot. The Early Development Index (EDI) data was used in helping select districts for this pilot that makes support accessible for all community members in a safe and respectful centre.

This school year, Brandi will use the two key resources: [Appetite to Play](#) and [Feelings First](#) in her StrongStart program. These resources focus on enhancing healthy eating, physical activity, and social emotional development. As part of the pilot project, she will complete some training sessions to implement activities and recipes with parents and caregivers in the community of Fort St James.

This pilot is being led by Child Health BC and supported by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as well as the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. A note of gratitude to Suzanne and Brandi for their support of this project!



Inclusive Education Department

[Inclusive Education](#) means that all students attend and are welcomed at their school in age-appropriate, regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute, and participate in all aspects of the life of the school.

Inclusive education is about how we develop and design our schools, classrooms, programs, and activities so that all students learn and participate together.

Schools are the heart of our communities, and Inclusion BC believes they are essential for a quality inclusive education system. Therefore, we believe it is important to support a public education system in BC.



Benefits of Inclusive Education

All children benefit from inclusive education. It allows them to:

- Develop individual strengths and gifts, with high and appropriate expectations for each child.
- Work on individual goals while participating in the life of the classroom with other students their own age.
- Involve their parents in their education and in the activities of their local schools.

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- Foster a school culture of respect and belonging. Inclusive education provides opportunities to learn about and accept individual differences, lessening the impact of harassment and bullying.
- Develop friendships with a wide variety of other children, each with their own individual needs and abilities.
- Positively affect both their school and community to appreciate diversity and inclusion on a broader level.

It is important because we value our diverse communities. Our communities start at school, where all students learn to live alongside peers. They learn together; they play together; they grow and are nurtured together.

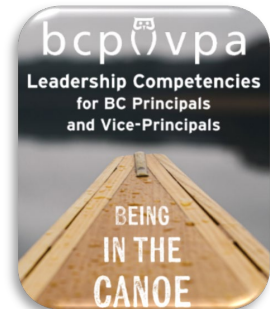
Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



BCPVPA Update Leadership

In 2020, the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA) began the process of revising our foundational documents through the lens of equity. The revision team that was formed recognized that they did not represent those with the lived experience to critically revise the documents, so they committed to Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training. They provided guidance to form a process for gathering diverse voices in the BCPVPA membership that could help guide the work.

Throughout the 2023-2024 year, the BCPVPA's draft Leadership Competencies were field-tested, and various groups provided analysis and feedback. The BCPVPA Professional Learning and Development Advisors and Representatives participated in a design thinking session to operationalize the Professional Growth Plan resources.



New Teachers and LOPs

In September and October, District VP Deb Koehn has actively supported new teachers and Letter of Permission (LOP) teachers. She regularly visits classrooms to connect with teachers hired within the past year and those new to the district. Together, they review the BC curriculum and discuss strategies for creating lesson plans, unit plans, and year-long overviews that align with educational standards.

Deb emphasizes the importance of clear assessment practices by working closely with new teachers on using proficiency scales and establishing transparent learning intentions and criteria. This helps students understand their goals and assessment expectations. She also engages teachers and students in co-designing rubrics to create a collaborative approach to learning and evaluation.



Recognizing the need for mentorship, Deb facilitates time for new teachers to receive guidance from experienced educators and to develop enriching learning opportunities. She assists them in navigating district requirements, connecting with parents, and addressing typical first-year challenges.

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Additionally, Deb prioritizes the emotional well-being of these educators by fostering a supportive environment and ensuring principals and vice-principals are aware of new teachers' needs.

Deb's work has provided significant time and resources over the past few years to support the new staff. We will continue to invest in recruitment and retention strategies.

Building Thinking Classrooms

Dr. Judy Larsen from the Building Thinking Classroom Team spent two days at WKE and LDSS in Burns Lake on Oct 21st and 22nd. The workshop included co-planning as well as co-teaching with the involved teachers as well a reflection period each day.

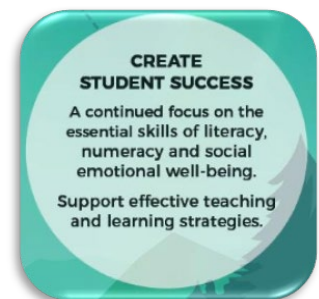
Based on the work of Dr. Peter Liljedahl, the elementary learners engaged in using vertical spaces to develop conceptual understanding around double digit multiplication and visual representations, while the secondary learners (Grade 9) connected proportions and fractions in a local place setting. There will be a virtual follow-up session with teachers on November 27th to reflect on how the implementation of the Building Thinking classroom practices continues to provide a framework for both teacher and learners to build conceptual understanding of curricular concepts



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Student Attendance Focus and Support

School administration and district staff have, as part of the Strategic workplan, been focusing on tracking student attendance and digging deeper into why students are not attending and then providing more support and options to improve school participation. Research and experience tell us that regular school attendance leads to greater success in all aspects of learning. We have many students who have struggles getting to school and the reasons vary, from family commitments, mental health concerns, family stability, peer issues to name a few. The goal in SD 91 is to support each student based on their individual circumstances to find the pathway to better attendance and success.



The Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education (NOIE)



SD91 remains committed to our partnership with NOIE and recognizes the significant impact of our collaborative efforts. We are currently engaged in four key initiatives: the Literacy and Numeracy Indigenous network, the Social Emotional Learning network, and the newly launched Indigenous Education Impact Initiative inquiry, as well as the regular inquiry studies any school can embark on. We are excited to anticipate the participation of 10-12 school teams this year, reflecting our dedication to fostering positive change in education.

Nechako Lakes has been recognized by NOIE as a leader in Inquiry initiatives and this is due to the dedication of the Curriculum Services team and the many staff from all the communities who have embarked on this important work. Our district NOIE team has met and identified two excellent schools looking to examine new ways to improve Indigenous student outcomes.

Jesse Kennedy, principal of BESS, collaborated with Michelle and Roberta last year in the Indigenous Literacy and Numeracy Network and we feel his school's current initiatives better align with the NOIE Indigenous Impact objectives. LDSS in Burns Lake is new to this work, and the new Principal, Cheryl Peterson, is particularly enthusiastic about joining the learning initiative.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections



"Talk About Learning Time"

All schools across the district hosted time in their buildings in late October to meet parents, guardians, and caregivers to discuss learning, resources, and progress reports. This time occurs twice a year and is a great opportunity to meet staff, build relationships and learning more about their child's progress. Schools have reported that the turnout was quite strong, and staff appreciated the time to meet many new families.

University of Victoria/Ministry Bursary Pilot

A recent collaboration between SD91, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the University of Victoria through a Northern Pilot Bursary program. Simon came to NVSS in Vanderhoof in mid-September to complete his final practicum for teaching. Under the bursary program, Simon received \$8,000 to support his travel and living costs.

Simon enjoyed his time at NVSS and commented that the support for staff and the district was exceptional and this practicum was a great experience.

SD91 will continue to participate in this pilot program next school year in the hope of attracting and retaining new certified teachers.



The Foundry Building Progress in Burns Lake

Hosted by the Carrier Sekani Family Services agency, Foundry Burns Lake unites multiple partner organizations, including SD91, that will address the health, and wellness needs of young people aged 12 to 24 and their families who live in the Burns Lake area.

The input of youth, caregivers, service providers and the community is needed for the success of Burns Lake Foundry.

Director of Instruction for Inclusive Education, Claire McKay, has been on the Foundry planning team for the past several years and is excited to see the additional service coming to the Burns Lake area in 2025.



Employee Recognition

This month I want to recognize the many staff volunteers that go above and beyond each week to work with children and youth outside of regular work hours. District staff have high rates of volunteerism in all our communities and this in turn helps support the development and growth of youth in a different context for the regular school day.

Sports, clubs and other youth service organizations benefit from the thousands of hours of time each year. Thanks to all the volunteers!



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