

SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 (FORT NELSON)  
FORT NELSON SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Open Meeting  
6:00 pm

Tuesday  
January 17, 2023

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair  
B. Dolan, Vice Chair  
F. Peach, Trustee  
K. Dickie, Trustee  
Y. Taylor, Trustee  
M. Theobald, Superintendent  
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer  
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary  
G. Gough, FNDTA President  
K. Trainor, FNDTA Liaison

Absent: M. Power, Secretary-Treasurer

Call to Order

Chair Dolen called the Open Meeting to order at 6:00

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions to the agenda, as none were noted Chair Dolen accepted the agenda as presented.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of November 22. As none were noted, Chair Dolen accepted the minutes as presented.

Report on Closed

- Policy 1140 – Trustee Compensation and Inservice
- Proposed Increase to Fuel/Travel Allowance
- Appointment of New Signing Officers

R23-001      Policy 5330 – School Graduation Policy – Stakeholder Feedback

F. Peach/B. Dolan

That the Board of Education recirculate Policy 5330 – School Graduation Policy until February 2 to meet the 30 day circulation period.

CARRIED

Superintendent Theobald stated the process for circulating the policy. Administrative Assistant Anderson sends the policy to all staff, then school secretaries send to all parents. However, when this policy was circulated previously, it was not sent to high school

parents. We are currently looking at this process to amend where needed. Chair Dolen stated that It is the intention of the Board to have the graduation at the high school.

R23-002      Approval of FNSS Principal Contract      K. Dickie/F. Peach

That the Board of Education approve the contract for FNSS Principal Mark Lucas from January 30, 2023 – June 30, 2026  
CARRIED

R23-003      Approval of the Secretary-Treasurer Contract      F. Peach/B. Dolan

That the Board of Education approved the contract for Secretary-Treasurer for Mike Power from January 9, 2023 – January 8, 2026  
CARRIED

R23-004      Principal Reports      F. Peach/K. Dickie

That the Board of Education file the Principal Reports as received.  
CARRIED

Vice Chair Dolan would like to pass on to administrators that he appreciates the work they are doing in reporting back to the Board and parents. Great job!!

#### Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

Superintendent Theobald reminded the Board of the retirement tea for our Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer is taking place at the Rec Centre on Saturday from 1pm – 4pm. We are hoping that people will come out and join the celebrations. Chair Dolen mentioned that both ladies have been with the District for 40 years. They have held several roles throughout the years. Our results, under their leadership, have been great. It would be nice to see everyone there.

- Chair Dolen had planned on attending the NIB conference, but since the date conflicts with the retirement tea, she felt it was more important to be present at the retirement event. She is hoping to attend via Zoom and will forward motions the trustees. She will attend the BCPSEA AGM from January 25-30 and then the PLM from February 8-13. She also attended a Board Chairs' call; the Minister has been busy getting around to Boards and is looking forward to meeting everyone.
- Vice Chair Dolan will attend the FNSS PAC meeting on January 24. He will also be attending the Provincial Council meeting in February.  
He inquired about the reading program at GW Carlson and JS Clark and is wondering how staff are coping with this new

program. Superintendent Theobald stated that this discussion is on the agenda for the next Principals' meeting. He will get information and report back.

Superintendent/Mentor Samchuck commented that it is much better to focus on early intervention. Once affordable daycare is available it will make a considerable difference in the success of students.

- Trustee Taylor attended the Pro-D meeting on January 9. Pro-D dates are scheduled for February 16 and 17. Most participants will attend via Zoom as flights to and from Fort Nelson are not great. She also attended the JS Clark Christmas concert and turkey lunch.
- Trustee Dickie attended the RL Angus PAC meeting. They do not do a Christmas concert but will do winter fest again this year. She attended the JS Clark Christmas concert and was blown away. It was very well done, kudos to the teachers and students!!
- Trustee Peach attended the GW Carlson PAC meeting. He attended their Christmas concert. Both concerts were full, and it has been viewed over 500 times on YouTube. The 50/50 went unclaimed, so they have to hold over these funds for one year. They are planning another family dance on February 10. Bob the flying scientist came to the schools, it went over very well, students were excited and are still talking about it! They are hoping to get him back again with the hope he will stay longer next time. Principal Kenney gave an update on the grading system. Funding is on track for a good surplus next year. The Tournament of Books started this week. The school is hoping to get 132 Bluetooth headsets. Kindergarten registration opened on Monday. \$6000 is needed for school supplies, parents are wondering if the affordability fund will be available next year to cover these costs? They are in the process of planning the school spring concert with a tentative date of April 27. The pancake breakfast was well received and they are planning to do another one soon.
- Superintendent Theobald attended the IEC meetings on November 28 and January 9. Diane Bigfoot was nominated as Chair. IEC is an opportunity for First Nation partners to bring forward concerns, ask questions and consult. The feedback received on this was very positive. The next meeting will be held at Prophet River on February 6. The next Equity Scan meeting is scheduled for February 9 at noon. This will be the first meeting where we start the equity process. This is an opportunity to look at where inequities exist for our indigenous students and to get an

action plan in place to begin to address these inequities. We have a new grade reporting order that came out in January, this has been in the works for a few years now and it is a fairly substantial change. Letter grades will still be in effect for grades 10 – 12.

The new Secretary-Treasurer has been hired and started on January 9.

The new Principal for FNSS will begin on January 30.

January 30 will be a District Inservice day, the planned speaker was unable to attend, so they shifted gears and gave the opportunity to staff to learn some things about local languages from locals. Hoping to schedule a tour at FNFN for the afternoon.

Northern Superintendents have been in communication on staffing shortages, not all inequities are equal, when you consider staffing shortages in the north we have far more teachers working on letters of permission. Someone has been appointed to work with Superintendents and funds have been allocated for this practice. The hope is that this will be expanded to all northern districts next year. Trustee Dickie asked if the staffing issue has gotten worse.

Superintendent Theobald feels that it has not, however, we do have more teachers working on letters of permission.

- Superintendent/Mentor Samchuck said that it has been a quiet month for her. Superintendent Theobald is taking on more and doing a great job. This is a difficult transition for her in some ways, but not so much in other ways.
- Secretary-Treasurer Hall said that with the change in the title of the Ministry of Education inclusive of Child Care now, we have entered discussions with Family Development about early learning in daycares. Since these discussions one local daycare has closed and another one is pending. We knew there was funding available for renos and new construction. We have invited the architect and spoke with the principal and staff at JS Clark about the potential of using some of the school for daycare. There used to be seven active classrooms, we are now down to four which is unfortunate. We have always had a passion for that school, she feels that it is a community school and it needs to remain active. We have been looking at a variety of options. We have meetings tomorrow with the people from Capital Management Branch. We are looking to work with the school and the architect to come up with a design. If we had a daycare there we can create an early learning environment where the children are given opportunities.
- FNDDA Liaison K. Trainer had nothing to report.

- FNDDTA President G. Gough appreciates the willingness to get onboard with this reporting order and working collaboratively with the district as a whole. We are starting to look at indigenous welcomes as opposed to acknowledgements to meetings, conferences etc. and inviting indigenous persons to give a welcome. He encourages the Board to consider doing this. Chair Dolen asked Trustee Dickie what this looks like. She replied by saying that we are Fort Nelson Territory but it is also Treat 8 Territory so there is a way to do this. Chair Dolen asked if it would be reasonable to write a letter, to which Trustee Dickie said yes, it would be respectful to do this.

#### Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the Open Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

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Linda Dolen  
Chair

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Mike Power  
Secretary-Treasurer