

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

Open Meeting
6:00 pm

Wednesday
September 27, 2023

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair
B. Dolan, Vice Chair
F. Peach, Trustee
K. Dickie, Trustee
Y. Taylor, Trustee
M. Theobald, Superintendent
M. Power, Secretary-Treasurer
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Dolen called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the agenda, one addition to 9. (c)

- Finance Statement Discussion and Analysis

R23-039	That the Board of Education accept the Open Agenda as amended. CARRIED	K. Dickie/Y. Taylor
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Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of June 27. As none were noted, Chair Dolen accepted the Open Minutes of June 27 as presented.

Micaela Roque joined the Open Meeting Via Zoom at 6:05 pm to go through the Audit Statements and provide the independent Auditor's Report. Michaela exited the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Superintendent Theobald presented the Enhancing Student Learning Plan to the Board.

R23-040	Approval of the 2022-2023 SD #81 Enhancing Student Plan	B. Dolan/F. Peach
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That the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 SD #81 Enhancing Student Plan.
CARRIED

R23-041	Policy 1421 – Indigenous Education	Y. Taylor/F. Peach
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	<p>That the Board of Education approve the distribution of Policy 1421 – Indigenous Education for 30 days for stakeholder review and input. CARRIED</p>	
R23-042	<p>Policy 5470 – Behavioral & Digital Threat Assessment Management</p> <p>That the Board of Education approve the distribution of Policy 5470 – Behavioral & Digital Threat assessment Management for 30 days for stakeholder review and input. CARRIED</p> <p>Trustee Committee Assignments The Board decided on Trustee Assignments for the year.</p> <p>Letter from FNDTA</p> <p>G. Gough Spoke to the letter. The letter says it all, his concern was meeting overload. After writing the letter he learned that the board had considered all dates and all meetings that take place during the week, which is appreciated. Chair Dolen stated that we must also show some consideration to an Emergency Services Worker who is also a trustee. The meeting date will continue to be held on Wednesdays.</p>	K. Dickie/Y. Taylor
R23-043	<p>Approval of the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements</p> <p>That the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements. CARRIED</p>	F. Peach/K. Dickie
R23-044	<p>2024-2024 Minor Capital Plan Submission</p> <p>That the Board of Education approve the list of 2024-2025 capital projects as our minor capital submission. CARRIED</p>	Y. Taylor/F. Peach
R23-045	<p>Financial Statement and analysis Report</p> <p>That the Board of Education file the Financial Statement and Analysis Report. CARRIED</p> <p>Secretary-Treasurer Power stated that this is a requirement by the Ministry. The intention of this report is to provide another explanation of the financial documents.</p>	F. Peach/Y. Taylor
R23-046	<p>Education – Information Reports</p>	Y. Taylor/F. Peach

That the Board of Education file the Education – Information reports as received.

CARRIED

R23-047

Staff Amendments

Y. Taylor/B. Dolan

That the Board of Education file the Staff Amendment Report as received.

CARRIED

Facilities Update

Secretary -Treasurer Power gave an update on the projects that have been completed over the summer and those that are still ongoing. The cladding at the Maintenance shop has been completed, the bathrooms at GWC are nearing completion; still waiting on toilets, the lighting upgrade at GWC is also nearing completion. The FNSS office upgrade did not get started as we did not get it out in time to receive tenders for the work to be done this year. We will request that the funds be held over to be used for the project in the spring.

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Chair Dolen took part in the rural and remote committee meeting, they will meet again in October while attending the NIB meeting in Prince George. There needs to be an understanding of what things look like for people moving to a rural area and all of what makes living here possible. She also attended a Board Chair's Meeting.
- Trustee Taylor attended a JSC PAC meeting on September 19. They have two performers coming to their school. They are hosting their mug and muffin and assembly on Friday. They are looking to come up with some fundraising ideas. PAC meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month. She attended the district breakfast as well as the new staff orientation.
- Vice-Chair Dolen attended the district staff breakfast and felt the great vibe from staff. He enjoyed the Superintendent's speech on AI. FNSS had their AGM on September 12. He attended the new teacher orientation; they were well informed on how things work in the district. He will be away for the next meeting while attending the Provincial Council meeting in Vancouver.
- Trustee Peach attended the GWC PAC meeting where they talked about fundraising, starting with a Halloween family dance coming up in October. They are looking at getting volunteers a couple times each month to sort through Save-on-Foods receipts. Their accounts are doing well. They think this will be their last year receiving funds for school supplies so they are trying to figure out how much money they need to

fundraise to pay for this. The outgoing president gave an update on what happened with the court case which he will report on in closed.

- Trustee Dickie missed the district staff breakfast as she was not clear on the staff email as it was not shared on board business. She attended the RLA PAC meeting, they have selected a new executive. They have also begun receiving Save-on-More receipts. They are down to six classrooms from seven this year. There have been many questions about the assessment tool, it is important that this be explained, she will send the list of questions she's received to Superintendent for him to address.
- Superintendent Theobald stated that we were approved for two \$10,000 hiring incentive bonuses of \$10k, one moved from Ontario, the second was hired but failed to show up. But there is good news, he has been in contact with one teacher, and they may be moving to the community, just waiting for a response. It is very positive that northern districts are being highlighted and being offered hiring incentives. The next positive step is that the Ministry has approved \$400,000 in bursaries in remote districts so that we have a better chance of attracting student teachers.

Along the lines of staffing, significant changes are happening. We have increased needs in our schools. Both he and SJ Attrill will be hosting a "Would You Like to Work for SD 81" night to try and offer what it is like to work for the district.

There is an IEC meeting on October 3. They would like to recognize the work Diane Bigfoot did with IED. Her passing was a significant loss to the Prophet River community. They will be electing a new chair at the meeting.

We will have our first LEA meeting with FNFN coming up soon. In terms of supporting new staff, he is getting a good vibe. He wants to ensure that these new staff are supported. The Northern Chapter of Superintendents are hosting one session a month to help support community building. A small amount of funding is now available targeted towards new teachers in the north.

We received 350,000 for food services funding, we put the tender out and received only one bid, which came in significantly higher than that amount. We will put it out for tender again, the same individual expressed interest in tendering again.

R23-048 That the Board of Education approve an extension of the meeting past 8:00pm.
CARRIED

F. Peach/Y. Taylor

- Secretary-Treasurer Power has been busy with the audit and the financial reports. He commends D. Osmond for all her hard work on the audit and year end.
He has submitted many reports to the Ministry and is now working on finalizing the Capital Requests. Next week he has to report on joint verifications for First Nations. The GRE is coming up in October, which is the start of financial reporting for this school year.
- FNDTA President Gough has nothing to report but is pleased with the great start to the year!

Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Linda Dolen
Chair

Mike Power
Secretary-Treasurer