



**The Board of Education of  
School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
MINUTES - REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

**March 10, 2026, 3:00 p.m.  
Kootenay Learning Campus - Fernie**

Present: Chairperson Doug McPhee  
Trustee Trina Ayling  
Trustee Bev Bellina (remotely)  
Trustee Irene Bischler  
Trustee Alysha Clarke (remotely)  
Trustee Nicole Heckendorf  
Trustee Chris Johns  
Trustee Sarah Madsen (remotely)

Regrets: Trustee Wendy Turner

Staff Present: Superintendent Viveka Johnson  
Secretary Treasurer Nick Taylor  
Director of Instruction Human Resources Brent Reimer  
Director of Instruction Systems Leadership and Safe Schools Jason Tichauer  
Director of Instruction Curriculum and Assessment Michael Kelly  
Director of Operations Joe Tank  
District Principal Early Learning and Child Care Laura-Lee Phillips  
District Principal of Learning Services Kaley Wasylowich (remotely)  
District Vice Principal Human Resources and Health & Safety Erin Boehm (remotely)  
Manager of Board Office & Executive Services (recorder) Jane Nixon

**1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chairperson McPhee called the March 10, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:07 p.m.

**1.2 Greeting**

Chairperson McPhee acknowledged that we have gathered here in the Homelands of the Ktunaxa People.

**1.3 Chairperson's Opening Remarks and Recognitions**

Chairperson McPhee acknowledged the retirement of the vice principal of Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary School and congratulated athletes from Fernie on their recent Nordic competition achievements. Chairperson McPhee also recognized elementary school students who performed Métis jigging at the recent Métis Kitchen Party. Chairperson McPhee also extended condolences to the families of Gordon Walmsley, Seth Stevens, and John Legge.

**1.4 Opening Round**

Members of the Board, District Management, District Staff and local Union Presidents shared a reflection of gratitude.

**1.5 Consideration and Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION R-26-039**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Ayling:

THAT the agenda for the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of March 10, 2026, be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**1.6 Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of the Public meeting of the Board of Education of February 10, 2026

**MOTION R-26-040**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the minutes of the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of February 10, 2026, be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**1.7 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings**

**MOTION R-26-041**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Madsen:

THAT the Board accept the closed records of the in-camera meetings of the Board of Education of February 10, 2026, and February 23, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**1.8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

**1.8.1 Amy Woodland Elementary Update**

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on the development of the draft of the business case/Project Definition Report (PDR) and advised that the goal is to submit the business case to Treasury Board as soon as possible.

**2. RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 2026/27 Budget Presentation CFTA**

Adrienne Demers and Jennifer Johns presented the CFTA requests for the 2026/27 budget.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**3.1 All Committees Public Meeting**

Co-Chair Trustee Bischler reviewed the All Committees minutes of February 23, 2026.

**MOTION R-26-042**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Clarke:

THAT the Transportation Accountability Report be approved and posted on the District website.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R-26-043**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

THAT the spring of 2026 Fernie Secondary rafting trip be approved with the understanding that the river will be run two days prior to the students taking the trip. Furthermore, this trip is only approved if there is guaranteed and adequate, emergency services available and the most experienced river rafting guides are used.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION R-26-044**

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

THAT the report of the All Committees be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 BCSTA /Provincial Council**

**MOTION R-26-045**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Clarke:

THAT the report of the BCSTA Provincial Council be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.3 Communications Media Committee**

**MOTION R-26-046**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Clarke:

THAT the report of the Communications Media Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.4 Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee**

There was no report provided from the Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee.

**MOTION R-26-047**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Clarke:

THAT the report of the Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.5 Key City Theatre**

**MOTION R-26-048**

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Bischler:

THAT the report of the Key City Theatre Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.6 Legacy of Learning**

Trustee Johns reviewed the report included in the agenda package.

**MOTION R-26-049**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Madsen:

THAT the Board accept the Legacy of Learning report.

**CARRIED**

**3.7 French Immersion Update**

No report at this time.

**MOTION R-26-050**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bellina:

THAT the report of the French Immersion Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.8 Traffic Safety Committee**

Trustee Johns provided an update from the Vision Zero grant application process indicating that the District was unsuccessful in its application.

**MOTION R-26-051**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Heckendorf:

THAT the report of the Traffic Safety Committee be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.9 Trustee Reports**

Trustees reported on their activities for the month.

**4. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

**4.1 Updates**

**4.1.1 Fernie Elementary School and Child Care**

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on Fernie Elementary School. The environmental work has been completed, and a stakeholder design meeting was held prior to the Regular Board meeting on March 10. Groundbreaking is anticipated in July.

**4.1.2 Mountain View Facility**

Secretary Treasurer Taylor and Director Tank are working to ensure that the building is returned to its original condition while exploring opportunities to expand daycare services and seek potential tenants for the Mountain View facility.

**4.2 Recommendations**

**MOTION R-26-052**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bellina:

THAT the Secretary Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report can be found on the School District's website at [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca).

**5.1 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

Superintendent Johnson provided an update on the feedback received from the Ministry regarding the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. The District is participating in a community of practice with the Ministry to support this work. Directors Reimer and Kelly attended a session on March 10, and additional sessions are planned.

Superintendent Johnson noted that the District is reviewing overall alignment of its initiatives with a focus on supporting vulnerable students. She also emphasized the need for Learning Services to be more explicit in identifying supports and recognizing the importance of early intervention.

Director Kelly clarified that the Ministry is seeking school level data. He noted that growth plans and recommendations will be reviewed mid year to address current realities and ensure the plan remains a living document.

**5.2 Updates**

**5.2.1 Child Care**

District Principal Phillips provided an update on funding received by Treehouse Daycare to upgrade its space within the Mountain View facility and to expand before and after school care services. She also reviewed an Early Learning document that was distributed by email during the meeting.

**5.2.2 Indigenous Education Council (IEC)**

The next meeting of the IEC is on May 1, 2026.

**5.3 Recommendations**

**MOTION R-26-053**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bellina:

THAT the Superintendent's Report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**6.1 Updates**

Chairperson McPhee discussed the collective review of Board policy taking place across the province. A review of specific Board governance documents will occur prior to October 2026.

Chairperson McPhee also advised that a meeting with the City of Cranbrook will take place on March 31 in Council Chambers. Agenda items are currently being collected.

In addition, Chairperson McPhee noted that long service awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Vancouver.

Chairperson McPhee further advised that the Heritage Fair is still looking for judges.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

### **MOTION R-26-054**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the Chairperson's report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 School Calendar for 2026/27**

#### **MOTION R-26-055**

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Clarke:

THAT the revised 2026/27 Annual School Calendar be approved and submitted to the Ministry for review.

**CARRIED**

### **7.2 2026/27 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

#### **MOTION R-26-056**

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Madsen:

THAT the 2026/27 Regular Public, Regular In-Camera and All Committees Meetings schedule be accepted, with the understanding that the schedule and locations may be reviewed as required.

**CARRIED**

## **8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

Nil

**10. CLOSING ROUND**

Trustees, District Management, and local Union Presidents were offered an opportunity to share a final comment on the meeting.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION R-26-057**

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the March 10, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

*What have we done at this meeting to help our students become more interested in school and to support them in their personal learning journey?*

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Doug McPhee, Chairperson

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Nick Taylor, Secretary Treasurer