



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

**May 12, 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
Trustee Nicole Heckendorf
Trustee Chris Johns
Trustee Wendy Turner (remotely)

Regrets: Trustee Sarah Madsen

Staff Present: Superintendent Viveka Johnson
Secretary Treasurer Nick Taylor
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)
Manager of Board Office & Executive Services (recorder) Jane Nixon

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson McPhee called the May 12, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:08 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 recognized the important events that have happened across the District including, Project Heavy Duty, the Grand Opening of Jaffray Child Care, the East Kootenay Science Fair, and the Heritage Fair.

Chairperson McPhee also extended condolences to the families of Margaret McKee and Mike Patterson.

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-26-076

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the agenda for the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of May 12, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1.6 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION R-26-077

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Ayling:

THAT the minutes of the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of April 14, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1.7 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings

MOTION R-26-078

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the Board accept the closed records of the in-camera meetings of the Board of Education of April 14 and April 28, 2026.

CARRIED

1.8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

1.8.1 Amy Woodland Elementary Update

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on the energy modelling required for the Amy Woodland Elementary business case submission. He advised that the additional information requested by the Ministry has been incorporated into the Project Definition Report/business case and that the submission for Treasury Board approval is expected to proceed shortly.

Transportation arrangements for Amy Woodland Elementary School students will remain in place for the upcoming 2026/27 school year.

Director Tichauer advised that he recently participated in an interview with Rogers TV regarding the future of Amy Woodland Elementary.

2. RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

3.1 All Committees Public Meeting

MOTION R-26-079

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Turner:

THAT a letter of support be written to Prince Rupert School District 52 in response to their letter regarding Aligning BC's Education and Child Care Funding Model to Expand Affordable, School-Based Child Care.

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-080

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Clarke:

THAT the spring of 2026 Sparwood 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-26-081

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Turner:

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

CARRIED

3.2 BCSTA /Provincial Council

MOTION R-26-082

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Heckendorf:

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

CARRIED

3.3 Communications Media Committee

No report at this time.

MOTION R-26-083

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Heckendorf:

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

CARRIED

3.4 Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee

Trustee Johns provided an update on the Select Standing Committee presentation.

MOTION R-26-084

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Turner:

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

CARRIED

3.5 Key City Theatre

No report at this time.

MOTION R-26-085

Moved/Seconded by Ayling/Bellina:

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-26-086

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Bellina:

THAT the Board accept the Legacy of Learning report.

CARRIED

3.7 French Immersion Update

Trustee Heckendorf reviewed the minutes included in the agenda package.

MOTION R-26-087

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Turner:

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

CARRIED

3.8 Traffic Safety Committee

No report at this time.

MOTION R-26-088

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Bischler:

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 reported that the Request to Proceed to Tender for the Fernie Elementary School Project is in the process of being submitted to the Ministry.

4.1.2 Mountain View Facility

Secretary Treasurer Taylor reported that Elk Valley Resources officially returned the Mountain View building to the District on April 30, 2026.

The District continues to explore opportunities to secure additional lessees for the building and to expand before and after school care services within the facility. Tradespeople will continue work in the gymnasium to restore the space for future community use.

4.2 Recommendations

MOTION R-26-089

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.

5.1 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

Superintendent Johnson reported that the Student Learning Surveys have been extended to mid-May. She also provided updates regarding attendance tracking data provided to schools by Director Kelly and discussed how principals and vice principals will continue to address attendance concerns, with particular attention to Fridays, sporting events, and the impact on student learning.

Director Kelly reported on the Numeracy Workshop held at the Board Office on May 11, 2026. He also advised that the District received a 2026 grant in the amount of \$909.09 from the Community Foundation of Kootenay Rockies Cranbrook Past & Present Teachers' Legacy Fund. This grant is designated for the District Resource Centre to purchase picture books to support literacy development, as recommended by Adrienne Gear.

5.2 Updates

5.2.1 Child Care

District Principal Phillips continues to work with community and regional partners, including the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), regarding child care planning at the Amy Woodland Elementary School site. Ongoing discussions and engagement with ʔaąam continue, and the planned open house and news release have been deferred until the fall.

District Principal Phillips also reported that engagement with local child care providers continues to support before and after school care opportunities across the District. PlayB4K events, Ready Set Learn, and kindergarten orientation activities are underway in support of students and families transitioning to school.

5.2.2 Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

Superintendent Johnson reported that the Indigenous Professional Development Day has been scheduled for September 18, 2026.

She also advised that a proposed 'meet and greet' between the Indigenous Education Council and the Board of Education will be scheduled in the near future.

5.3 Recommendations

MOTION R-26-090

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the Superintendent's Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

6.1 Updates

Chairperson McPhee provided updates on upcoming events and activities across the District, including Indigenous Graduation, community consultations, graduation ceremonies, scholarship presentations, and the Ktunaxa flag raising ceremony.

Chairperson McPhee also provided updates regarding ongoing policy work and an upcoming information session for individuals interested in serving as trustees.

6.2 Recommendations

MOTION R-26-091

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Clarke:

THAT the Chairperson's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Annual Budget Bylaw

MOTION R-26-092

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the Bylaw of the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (called the "Board") to adopt the annual budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/27 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

Read for a first time the 12 day of May, 2026.

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-093

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Turner:

THAT the Bylaw of the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (called the "Board") to adopt the annual budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2026/27 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

Read for a second time the 12 day of May, 2026.

CARRIED

7.2 Acquisition of Real Property Bylaw

MOTION R-26-094

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Bellina:

THAT permission be granted for all three readings of the Acquisition of Real Property Bylaw FE2026 to be passed at the May 12, 2026, public meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay).

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-095

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Bischler:

THAT the Board hereby authorizes the exercise of the Option with respect to the Land and the acquisition of Land;

THAT the Board authorizes one or more of the Chair, Superintendent of Schools, or Secretary-Treasurer to the execute and deliver and register, as applicable, all documents necessary or desirable to exercise the Option and complete the transfer of title to the Land, including but not limited to:

- Form A Freehold Transfer
- Property Transfer Tax Return(s)
- Any regulatory or Land Title Office filings;

THAT the Board authorizes the engagement of legal counsel to exercise the Option, to complete the conveyance of the Land and to all matters incidental thereto;

Read a first time the 12 day of May 2026

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-096

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Ayling:

THAT the Board hereby authorizes the exercise of the Option with respect to the Land and the acquisition of Land;

THAT the Board authorizes one or more of the Chair, Superintendent of Schools, or Secretary-Treasurer to the execute and deliver and register, as applicable, all documents necessary or desirable to exercise the Option and complete the transfer of title to the Land, including but not limited to:

- Form A Freehold Transfer
- Property Transfer Tax Return(s)
- Any regulatory or Land Title Office filings;

THAT the Board authorizes the engagement of legal counsel to exercise the Option, to complete the conveyance of the Land and to all matters incidental thereto;

Read a second time the 12 day of May 2026

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-097

Moved/Seconded by Turner/Bellina:

THAT the Board hereby authorizes the exercise of the Option with respect to the Land and the acquisition of Land;

THAT the Board authorizes one or more of the Chair, Superintendent of Schools, or Secretary-Treasurer to the execute and deliver and register, as applicable, all documents necessary or desirable to exercise the Option and complete the transfer of title to the Land, including but not limited to:

- Form A Freehold Transfer
- Property Transfer Tax Return(s)
- Any regulatory or Land Title Office filings;

THAT the Board authorizes the engagement of legal counsel to exercise the Option, to complete the conveyance of the Land and to all matters incidental thereto;

Read a third time, passed, and adopted the 12 day of May 2026.

CARRIED

7.3 Election Bylaw 2026

MOTION R-26-098

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Ayling:

THAT permission be granted for all three readings of the Trustee Election Bylaw No. 2026 to be passed at the May 12, 2026, public meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay).

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-099

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Johns:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) adopt the Trustee Election Bylaw No. 2026.

Read a first time the 12 day of May, 2026

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-100

Moved/Seconded by Turner/Bellina:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) adopt the Trustee Election Bylaw No. 2026.

Read a second time the 12 day of May, 2026

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-101

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Clarke:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) adopt the Trustee Election Bylaw No. 2026.

Read a third time, passed, and adopted, the 12 day of May, 2026.

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 May & June Calendars Attached

8.2 May 25 Committee Meetings

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-26-102

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

THAT the May 12, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 4:11 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?

Doug McPhee, Chairperson

Nick Taylor, Secretary Treasurer