



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

**September 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Cranbrook Board Office**

Present: Chairperson Doug McPhee
Trustee Bev Bellina (remotely)
Trustee Irene Bischler
Trustee Alysha Clarke (remotely)
Trustee Nicole Heckendorf
Trustee Chris Johns
Trustee Sarah Madsen (remotely in at 3:10 p.m.)

Regrets: Trustee Trina Ayling
Trustee Wendy Turner

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

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson McPhee called the September 8, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:05 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 extended condolences to the families of Michael Wheaton and Donna LeGrandeur. He also congratulated Director Jason Tichauer on his new role as Assistant Superintendent with Kootenay Lake School District.

Chairperson McPhee also recognized staff and students at the beginning of the school year. He provided brief operational updates regarding child care at Amy Woodland Elementary School, Fernie Elementary School and Child Care, and the roof at Gordon Terrace Elementary School.

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-26-119

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

THAT the agenda for the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of September 8, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1.6 Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the Public meeting of the Board of Education of June 9, 2026

MOTION R-26-120

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the minutes of the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of June 9, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1.7 Receipt of Records of Closed Meetings

MOTION R-26-121

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the Board accept the closed records of the in-camera meetings of June 9 and August 31, 2026.

CARRIED

1.8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

1.8.1 Amy Woodland Elementary School Update

Secretary Treasurer Taylor advised that there are no updates from the Treasury Board at this time.

2. RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS/TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

3.1 All Committees Public Meeting

Chairperson McPhee reviewed the All Committees minutes of August 31, 2026.

MOTION R-26-122

Moved/Seconded by McPhee/Heckendorf:

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

CARRIED

3.2 BCSTA / Provincial Council

MOTION R-26-123

Moved/Seconded by Bellina/Bischler:

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

CARRIED

3.3 Communications Media Committee

MOTION R-26-124

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Bischler:

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

CARRIED

3.4 Mount Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee

Trustee Johns reported on the Select Standing Committee presentation.

MOTION R-26-125

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Heckendorf:

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

CARRIED

3.5 Key City Theatre

MOTION R-26-126

Moved/Seconded by Johns/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-26-127

Moved/Seconded by Johns/Heckendorf:

THAT the Board accept the Legacy of Learning report.

CARRIED

3.7 French Immersion Update

Trustee Heckendorf reported that the committee will meet in October. The final date is to be determined.

MOTION R-26-128

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Madsen:

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

CARRIED

3.8 Traffic Safety Committee

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update from the Traffic Safety Committee. He reported that the RCMP will have an increased presence in school zones. RCMP Liaison Munro is meeting with the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) regarding grants and funding opportunities for traffic safety initiatives.

Secretary Treasurer Taylor also responded to questions from the Cranbrook and Fernie Teachers' Association (CFTA) regarding e-bikes and e-scooters in school zones.

MOTION R-26-129

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

The building permit remains outstanding from the City of Fernie. No timeline has been provided.

4.1.2 Mountain View Facility

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on the licensing of areas within the Mountain View facility. The Operations Department has completed restoration work in the gymnasium. The gymnasium is currently functional but is not available for organized sports.

4.1.3 Summer Facilities Projects

Director Tank reviewed the facilities report included in the agenda package.

Director Tank provided an update regarding the roof failure at Gordon Terrace Elementary School. He reported that the District is awaiting approval from WorkSafeBC to access the affected area and assess the damage and required repairs.

Superintendent Johnson recognized the immediate response of maintenance and operations staff at Gordon Terrace Elementary School. She also acknowledged the strong working relationship between the unions and District management.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Audited Financial Statements

MOTION R-26-130

Moved/Seconded by Clarke/Bischler:

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve the Audited Financial Statements for the period ended June 30, 2026, and authorize Secretary Treasurer Taylor to submit to the Ministry as required.

CARRIED

MOTION R-26-131

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Heckendorf:

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 discussed the submission of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Interim Progress Report. This report is a condensed version of the District's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report and was approved at the September 8, 2026, in-camera meeting of the Board of Education.

The approved Interim Progress Report will be submitted to the Ministry and posted on the District website.

5.2 Updates

5.2.1 Child Care

District Principal Phillips provided an update on Treehouse Daycare at the Mountain View facility and the child care licensing process at TM Roberts Elementary School.

District Principal Phillips also reported on sound baffling installed at Steeples Elementary School and advised that an open house will be held for the Métis Nation BC Child Care facility on the Amy Woodland Elementary School site later in September.

5.2.2 Indigenous Education Council

Superintendent Johnson provided an update on the Indigenous Professional Development Day on September 18, 2026.

5.2.3 Learning Services Update

Director Wasylowich provided a brief update on Learning Services allocations and staffing across the District.

5.3 Recommendations

MOTION R-26-132

Moved/Seconded by Heckendorf/Johns:

THAT the Superintendent's Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

6.1 Updates

6.1.1 Board Self-Evaluation

Chairperson McPhee reported on the Board Self-Evaluation and discussed the onboarding of new trustees to support their understanding of the role of a trustee.

Chairperson McPhee also reminded the public of the "So You Want to Be a Trustee" information session on September 8, 2026.

6.2 Recommendations

MOTION R-26-133

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Johns:

THAT the Chairperson's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

Nil

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Foods Innovation Grant

Secretary Treasurer Taylor provided an update on the \$100,000 Foods Innovation Grant that was received at the end of June.

8.2 September 8 Trustee Information Night - So You Want to Be a Trustee

8.3 September 18 Indigenous Professional Development Day

8.4 September 28 Committee Meetings

Chairperson McPhee reminded trustees to communicate with Parent Advisory Committees to determine community locations for future Board meetings.

8.5 September 29 1701 Data Collection Due

Superintendent Johnson provided a brief update on 1701 Data Collection timelines.

8.6 September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

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-26-134

Moved/Seconded by Bischler/Johns:

THAT the September 8, 2026, regular public meeting of the Board of Education adjourn at 3:52 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