

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

Open Meeting of the Board of Education
January 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present:	S. Hall	Chair
	B. Bird	Trustee
	J. Massey	Trustee
	L. Van Marck	Trustee
	K. Jepsen	Trustee
	M. Danyluk	Trustee
	A. Lautard	Superintendent
	M. Burdock	Secretary-Treasurer

Absent:	Rose Zitko	Vice Chair
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Acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples and ancestors.

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED/SECONDED

[“That the Agenda for January 27, 2026, be adopted as circulated.”](#)

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED/SECONDED

[“That the December 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.”](#)

CARRIED

Recognition, Presentations and Delegations

Nil

10-Minutes Comment Period for Rightsholders and Partners

BDTA President, Janine Fraser, commented on Teacher Counsellors.

Strategic Plan Update

- Jennifer Eaton, Teacher at Greenwood Elementary, presented with Heidi McIvor, EA at Greenwood Elementary, and seniors from Parkview Manor in Midway on the “Not Just Visitors Anymore: Growing Relationships Between Students and Seniors” program where students from Mrs. Eaton’s class regularly visit residents at Parkview Manor to learn, plan, create, and share together.
- Superintendent Lautard introduced GFSS and BCSS Student Trustees, who provided the following update:

- GFSS: Munch-a-Lunch program very popular with students; Grads have presented their Capstone projects; Basketball season is in full swing; Students hosted a gala that showcased multiple art projects and band students played at the gala; Drama production, Ride the Cyclone, was very popular; Exams for semester 1 are done and students are excited to start semester 2.
- BCSS: Students have been wrapping up final exams and are eager to start semester 2; The Grads hosted a Grad's vs Dad's hockey game; Valedictorians have been appointed; Senior French students hosted a school dance; Senior theatre class performed Mama Mia, which was a great success; Vending machines are up and running; Youth Advisory Council held a meeting with Ms. Lautard; Basketball is in full swing and teams are doing great.
- Superintendent Lautard shared details of counselling supports for students in SD 51.

Business Items

- **Committee Reports**

EDUCATION

Nil

FINANCE

- Secretary Treasurer Burdock presented the Expenditure Report to December 31, 2025
 - Represents 6 months of the fiscal year and 4 months of the school year and so expect 60% of annual costs to be unspent and 50% of school costs to be unspent.
- Secretary Treasurer Burdock presented the 2025/26 Recalculated Operating Grant
 - SD51's original grant of \$20,906,186 based on estimate of 1,245.25 FTE increased by \$371,374 to \$21,277,560 based on actual enrolment of 1,260.375 as verified through the September 1701/Student Data Collection.
- Secretary Treasurer Burdock presented the 2026/27 Budget Process/Timeline for a third time, confirming Partner Group Engagement moved to the end of April/early May to avoid conflict with BCSTA AGM.

OPERATIONS

- *Draft Long-Range Facilities Plan*
 - Secretary Treasurer Burdock presented the draft LRFP, confirming the report will be finalized under the leadership of the incoming Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer next year, in alignment with the strategic plan update that will occur at the same time.

POLICY

- Trustee Bird outlined the housekeeping changes made to Policy 120 and 121.

MOVED/SECONDED

[“That the housekeeping changes to policy 120, Board Role and Responsibilities and policy 121, Role of Trustees as recommended by the Policy Committee be adopted as presented.”](#)

CARRIED

- **Board Chair Report**

- Board Chair Hall provided a verbal update of her recent call with BCSTA, outlining:
 - The provincial work on reducing timelines for internationally trained teachers to become certified in BC;
 - The status of the Policy Review project, including templates and best practice guidelines that will soon be available; and
 - Information on the upcoming general local elections, including an election bylaw template and other guidelines that will be available to school districts to support trustee elections.

- **Senior Management Reports**

- Superintendent Lautard presented her report and provided further comments on:
 - The school calendar, which is to be submitted to Ministry by March 31st. Due to late start date, there are fewer available instructional days in 2026/27. The draft calendar will be shared with staff and families for comment/feedback before approval.
 - Accessibility in SD 51. Many projects have been completed, and all new capital projects are approached with an accessibility lens, considering both physical and mental accessibility.
- Secretary Treasurer Burdock presented her report, confirming much time in January was committed to recruitment, onboarding/training and budget prep.

- **Trustee Reports**

- BCSTA Provincial Council – Trustee Massey reported out
- Recreation Commission – Trustee Bird reported out
- Boundary Integrated Services Model – Trustee Van Marck reported out
- BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch – Trustee Massey reported out
- BCPSEA – Trustee Jepsen reported out
- Okanagan Labour Relations Council – Nothing to report
- Rural and Remote – Trustee Jepsen reported out
- PAC Highlights
 - Trustee Van Marck, Jepsen, and Danyluk provided written reports

Question Period

Questions from the audience included: clarification on school calendar, definition of teacher counsellor and availability of government grants to fund the “Not Just Visitors Anymore: Growing Relationships Between Students and Seniors” program.

Future Agenda Items

Nil

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

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Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer