

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

Open Meeting of the Board of Education

April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present:	S. Hall	Chair
	R. Zitko	Vice Chair
	B. Bird	Trustee
	J. Massey	Trustee
	L. Van Marck	Trustee
	K. Jepsen	Trustee
	M. Danyluk	Trustee
	A. Lautard	Superintendent
	I. Zare	Secretary-Treasurer
	D. Reid	Guest

Absent:

Acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples and ancestors.

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED/SECONDED

Motion: "That the Agenda for April 21, 2026, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED/SECONDED

Motion: "That the February 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes be adopted as circulated."

Motion: "That the March 17, 2026, Special 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 the data from EDI. Fraser presented the importance of early intervention. Key findings are that early years intervention help with brain development. Starting early helps with development overall in later years. Positive outcomes lead to long term effects. WBES has new program to support early development to help transition into the regular school setting. Barriers to families getting the support needed for early intervention and needing help to get the tools for these families to overcome

challenges.

Strategic Plan Update

- Presented by Nick Bond - students presented about school photograph and the school has two camera's that get shared, breakfast program for all students, lunch helpers from grade 7 to help with for younger kids, Clip board to keep track of ball sign out and started because balls were being destroyed from being left out overnight. Jobs created to fill all the roles. Need resume to get a job. If you receive three strikes, then you can get fired. Tickets are paid for these jobs. It cost tickets to get things like a desk, locker, movie choice, chair. If you do not get a job then students would have to stay extra to get tickets to pay rent. These activities help show how to make money, how to save money, how to get jobs, give responsibility, shows pride. School garden – all organic, use the produce in the school and taken care of by students. Different tasks include: Ipad Supervisor, Bake Sale, Haunted house, Snack shack, Candy grams, Breakfast room and Hot lunch helpers. From fundraisers or Legacy Fund the school uses these to buy equipment for everyone to use like balls, bats and gloves
- Superintendent Lautard discussed strategic Priorities 2025/26 – Priority One: Students have strong foundational skills and competencies, Priority two: Students have developed as sense of identity, resilience, belonging, wellness and are centered in their learning, Priority Three: Systemic transformation to eliminate barriers to equity.

Business Items

1. Committee Reports

EDUCATION

- Student Trustees – Emma from GFSS – Global Citizen club doing a clothing swap, student council hide rubber ducks for candy, Waterloo Math just happened, Drama club practicing Adam's family. Elizabeth from BCSS – Students participated in musical festival. Ukulele and archery club just started. Golf team starting – focused on developing skills and have had a few new students join. Girls Soccer has started and have a new coach. Grease is drama production students are working on. Grad planning coming together with Hoodies just came in and grads are very happy with them. There is a new French emersion student and thanks to teachers that go above and beyond to help students, and he was able to graduate early due to extra help from teachers.

FINANCE

- Secretary Treasurer Zare presented the Expenditure Report to March 31, 2026. Zare discussed that the balance was tracking well with the amended budget. The balance sheet shows that Total expense is at 67%. Teachers' salaries for March have been processed in accordance with the new collective agreement. Retroactive adjustments for the period from July 2025 to February 2026 are expected to be processed by the end of May. Separate labour settlement funding from the Ministry is anticipated to offset these additional costs. The retrospective payments for other staff members will be processed once the collective agreements are finalized and the relevant Ministry announcements are received. Overall, expenditure is in line with the budget, with a slight overall decrease primarily due to lower substitute costs.
- 2026/2027 Preliminary Operating Grant (Attachment)
Secretary Treasure Zare discussed that the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced the preliminary operation grant allocation for school districts for 2026/2027

fiscal year. This allocation is based on district enrollment projections submitted in February 2026. The provincial operating grant block is projected to decrease across most districts. This decrease represents a decrease of about 1% compared to September 2025. The Ministry's recent funding announcement results in a net negative impact of approximately \$388K to the Districts funding compared to the 2025/2026 Amended Budget. The District anticipates receiving additional funding from the Ministry to offset labour settlement costs for wage increases once the collective agreement negotiations are finalized.

OPERATIONS

- Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CP51-01 (Attachment) . Secretary Treasure Zare discussed how the board prepares and submits an Annual Five-Year Capital Plan to the Ministry of Infrastructure. This plan includes requests for funding for minor capital projects and where applicable major capital projects. The Ministry issues Capital Plan Response letters to school districts in March or April, identifying which project requests have been approved. Then, Boards of Education are required to adopt Capital Bylaw reflecting the approved capital plan and an annual funding agreement. The Minor Capital projects that have been approved for funding and are ready to proceed to procurement are: Grand Forks Secondary has some roofing and plumbing upgrades and Boundary Central Secondary & West Boundary Elementary are having HVAC upgrades.

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That the Board of Education of School District No. 51 (Boundary) approve having all three readings of the Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CP51- 01 in this one meeting."

MOTION: "That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CP51- 01 be given first reading."

MOTION: "That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CP51- 01 be given second reading."

MOTION: "That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Capital Plan Bylaw No. 2026/27-CP51- 01, be given third reading, reconsidered, and finally passed and adopted on this 21st day of April 2026."

CARRIED

POLICY

- Election Bylaw No. 2026 (Attachment). Secretary Treasure Zare discussed general school elections to elect trustees for all boards of education in the province that are held every four years on the third Saturday of October, with the next election scheduled for Saturday October 17, 2026.

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: “That the Board of Education of School District No. 51 (Boundary) approve having all three readings of the Election Bylaw No. 2026 in this one meeting.”

MOTION: “That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Election Bylaw No. 2026 be given first reading.”

MOTION: “That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Election Bylaw No. 2026 be given second reading.”

MOTION: “That School District No. 51 (Boundary) Election Bylaw No. 2026 be given third reading, reconsidered, and finally passed and adopted on this 21st day of April 2026.”

CARRIED

2. Board Chair Report

- Board Chair Hall provided a verbal update with respect to the board receiving correspondence from two parents with concerns. The first resulted in a meeting which took place at GFSS with Superintendent Lautard, Vice Chair Zitko & Board Chair Hall on Tuesday April 21, 2026. Items discussed: Trustee Elections and local representation, website and communication, accessibility and inequity in school sports and lack of budgets and accountability. Superintendent Lautard will investigate the concerns and will provide a response directly to the parent. The 2nd correspondence was received regarding the athletic program and a reply was sent.

3. Senior Management Reports

- Superintendent Lautard presented her report and provided further comments on:
 - The Ministry of Education & Child Care (MECC) secured funding to support continuation of Early Learning Child Care Leads (ELCCL) for two school years (26/27 & 27/28). No funding for these programs through normal funds in operating grant. This funding helped districts hire staff to support childcare programs, including Seamless Day and Just B4 programs, on school grounds.
 - This new agreement is aligned with the ministry’s mandate commitment to expand school age care on school grounds. The agreement includes greater emphasis on sustaining existing childcare programs, while continuing to support the overall objectives of the former ELCC project and preparing for expansion of School Age Child Care.
 - The Child Care Pilot Project focuses on continuing to operate childcare spaces initiated through the pilot programs, identify opportunities for improved operational efficiency and work towards implementation, determine when and how to change to parent fee structures can be implemented to reduce impact on families, while supporting cost-recovery efforts.
 - District has had a Seamless Day program operating at Perley Elementary since June 2023 that provides Qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) provide before – and after-school care for school aged children and are in a Kindergarten classroom

- providing support during class time.
- The funding provided by the Ministry has supported this program financially. The parent fees do not cover the wages for the 2 ECEs. Part of the 2026/27 school year will be implementing a cost-recovery program where all costs are covered, and parents' fees are still reasonable.
- District found an Early Childcare Educator to run a Just B4 preschool at West Boundary Elementary. Kirsten Rezansoff, District Vice Principal, completed the licensing process almost 2 years ago; however, District was unable to hire a qualified ECE until March 2026. District has enough funds to sustain the program until June 2027. The focus for next year, however, will be to ensure sustainability/cost recovery.
- Secretary Treasurer (ST) Zare presented his report on:
 - Banking – currently the Beem Credit Union cannot accommodate our policy that requires two signatures over \$30,000. Beem Credit Union cannot distinguish between amounts on Cheques so now requires two signatures on every approval which is adding delays. ST Zare is waiting for the bank to come up with solution but looking for guidance from the Board on what next steps could look like to expedite the banking procedures.
 - Update: Money for Just B4, room for improvement in reports for tracking costs. Utilize the system to determine where funds are being used.

4. Trustee Reports

- BCSTA Provincial Council – Trustee Massey reported out
- Recreation Commission – Trustee Bird reported out and highlights were that there is a need for new Zamboni, atv club presented at meeting, special event at aquatic center that targeted special needs use for sensory focus.
- Boundary Integrated Services Model – Trustee Van Marck reported out on recent meeting where a motion to approve money that is sitting there for family counseling and how families are referred to this program. 8 sessions for 8 families. Waitlist for early childcare is 2 years.
- BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch – Trustee Massey reported out. Sessions included: Language for learning, Media training, cyber security, and elections information for each branch.
- BCSTA AGM Reports - Trustee Zitko and Danyluk reported out.
- BCPSEA – Trustee Jepsen reported out. CUPE Agreements have been reached. Money allocations have been sent out. Support Staff – 2026 and 2027 will get funding of \$30,000. Can ask for more funds for reconciliation.
- Okanagan Labour Relations Council – Nothing to report
- Rural and Remote – Trustee Jepsen reported out
- PAC Highlights
 - Trustee Jepsen, and Van Marck provided written reports

5. Around the Boundary

Trustee Activities and Upcoming Events

- BCSS Grad – June 13, 2026 at 11 am
- GFSS Grad – June 13, 2026 at 3 pm
- WDC Grad – June 18, 2026 at 5 pm

Future Agenda Items

Next Board Meeting: May 26, 2026
6:00 p.m.

School Board Office, Grand Forks, B.C

Question Period

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

Chairperson

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

Secretary-Treasurer