

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

Open Meeting of the Board of Education

May 26, 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 May 26, 2026, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

MOVED/SECONDED

Motion: "That the April 21, 2026, 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

Strategic Plan Update

- Student Trustees reported for:
 - BCSS
- Superintendent Lautard discussed strategic Priorities 2025/26 – By the end of May the district will have 8 in person Provincial Outreach Program: Early Years sessions and 3 after school virtual sessions.

Update on the Well at Work Program with the first stage of assessing workplace wellness in SD51 was the guarding minds survey. The Second stage of assessing is to look more closely at experiences of employees through interviews which will be conducted by Charlie Naylor who has a PhD, MA, BA, taught in the UK and is a retired Senior Researcher of the BC Teachers Federation. All information gathered will remain confidential. A report is hoped to be presented before the June Regular Board Meeting.

Business Items

1. Committee Reports

EDUCATION

- Superintendent Lautard discussed a survey presented which showed experiences in the middle years, especially between the ages of 10 to 13, have critical and long-lasting effects. Powerful predictors of adolescent adjustment and future success. The overall health and well-being of children in their middle years affects their ability to concentrate and learn, develop and maintain friendships, and make thoughtful decisions. Important reminder: it is a time of risk, but also a time of opportunity. SD51 students report low well-being, meaning they score in the low range on at least 1 of the 5 measures of well-being (optimism, self-esteem, happiness, absences of sadness and general health). In terms of assets such as adult relationships, out of school activities, peer relationships, nutrition and sleep, we see the grade 4s have more positive experiences than grade 7s. Breakfast and sleep are still concerns for several students. From grade 4 to grade 7, we continue to see decline in optimism, self-esteem and happiness for students as well as increase in sadness and worry.
- Superintendent Lautard discussed graduation assessments requirements of three assessments are required to graduate which are Numeracy 10, Literacy 10 and Literacy 12. Students typically take assessments at the end of the semester. Indigenous students, students with designations, and children and youth in care continue to be under-represented in participation as first-time writers for all assessments. Circle of Courage and Talking circles is working to create listening experiences.

FINANCE

- Secretary Treasurer Zare presented the Expenditure Report to April 30, 2026. Zare discussed that Year-to-Date Cost are tracking within the budget and as of April 30, 2026 sitting at 79%.
- 2026/2027 Annual Budget – Draft 2 – Secretary Treasurer Zare presented that the first draft was presented to the Finance Committee on April 14, 2026 and this Second Draft provides further updates and additional information received and further analysis completed. This second draft forecasts a slightly improved position, reducing the projected deficit by approximately \$100K compared to the first draft. The improvement is primarily due to additional expected Ministry funding for projected increases in enrolment, including students with diverse abilities and disabilities. This is partially offset by additional salary and benefit costs, mainly for teachers and support staff. Ministry operating grant funding is expected to increase by approximately \$267K compared to first draft. Teachers' salaries are projected to increase by \$158K compared to first draft based on future analysis and review of prior year expenditures. The forecast for Education Assistants is lower than the first draft budget by approximately \$67K, mainly due to updated expectations regarding the number of EAs needed by each school. PVP, Support staff, EA salaries combined are projected to be

\$100K higher due to underestimation of cost in the amended budget. Benefits are expected to be \$40K higher mainly due to increase in overall salary cost. Services and supplies were reviewed and based on analysis, overall cost areas expected to be \$61K lower. Overall, total expenditure is expected to have an unfavorable variance of approximately \$113K compared to the first draft. A meeting was held with the Ministry to discuss the CEF allocation to SD51. Following the meeting, a letter was sent requesting an additional FTE allocation for geographically diverse school.

OPERATIONS

- Capital Projects Updates – Annual Facility Grant – Director of Operations Reid, discussed the projects that are currently being completed. The large projects are the GFSS irrigation project. BCSS outdoor court is getting resurfacing. The Net Capital \$705,398, Net Operating \$101,868, Total Annual Facilities Grant \$816,742.

POLICY

- N/A

2. Board Chair Report

- Board Chair Hall reported out on housekeeping reminder that anything that we are doing on phones or computers during a public meeting can be requested. The next item she touched on is trustee commitment as roles require every trustee's full engagement and participation throughout the term. Hall stated that she has been working remotely for the last 19 years in her work and the biggest takeaway for the experience has been to remain engaged and connected with emphasis on communication with the team. In September 2026, in advance of the upcoming election, there will be an opportunity to revisit the Trustee Code of Conduct, specifically expectations surrounding Trustee engagement. This includes reaffirming expectations around respectful, collaborative communication; maintaining professionalism in both in-person and online meetings as well as informal interactions; and ensuring that all engagement reflects the values and responsibilities of the Board. As trustees, our roles require us to model integrity, transparency, and accountability in our interactions with one another, with staff, and with the broader community. Reviewing these guidelines will help ensure a shared understanding of appropriate conduct, strengthen our governance practices, and support a positive and productive working environment throughout the election period and beyond. Lastly Hall commented on serving on the panel for the Grand Forks Secondary School District Scholarship panel and she felt the presentations were inspiring and many thanks to all the educators that have supported these students.

3. Senior Management Reports

- Superintendent Lautard presented her report and provided further comments on:
 - Safe Schools BC: The *erase* Strategy: Expect Respect and a Safe Education is the provincial strategy focusing on mental health, substance use, anti-racism, and preventing gang involvement. Anonymous Reporting for students, parents and educators. Threat assessment with training to educators and law enforcement to prevent violence and support at risk youth.
 - At school sites, the principal is responsible for the operation and management of the school, including knowing what to do in an emergency to protect students and staff.
 - Principals are responsible for conducting drills on an annual basis and these can be done with local First Responders.
 - Violent Threat Risk Assessment – the district has a protocol for responding to student

threats/high risk behaviours. There is a process of determining if an individual poses a risk to a known or unknown target. High risk behaviours indicate that the person of concern is at high or imminent risk to harm self or others. Immediate Risk Situations are those that require immediate police intervention. Bo Macfarlane, principal of Boundary Central Secondary Schools, is our Safe School Coordinator and supports the Violent Threat Risk Assessment process.

- Secretary Treasurer (ST) Zare presented his report on:
 - Banking – With BEEM there are still issues with the signing of cheques. Looking into other bank options.
 - Update: Money for Just B4, this will give reports for tracking costs. Utilize the system to determine where funds are being used. This program will allow for more efficient use of time for secretaries and parents.

4. Trustee Reports

- BCSTA Provincial Council – nothing to report
- Recreation Commission – Trustee Bird reported out and highlights were that there is a need for new Zamboni, atv club presented at their 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 – nothing to report.
- 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 – Nothing to report
- 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

- Catchment Areas
- Strategic Plan

Next Board Meeting: June 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
School Board Office, Grand Forks, B.C

Question Period

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

Chairperson

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

Secretary-Treasurer