# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

Open Meeting of the Board of Education
September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

## Minutes

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The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Nil

Acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples and ancestors.

**Adoption of Agenda**

MOVED/SECONDED

"That the Agenda for September 22, 2026, be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

**Adoption of Minutes**

MOVED/SECONDED

"That the June 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

**Recognition, Presentation and Delegations**

- School Trustee – Montana, Kaela, - Kaela introduced herself and Montana – positive start with highlights road runner collective – students participate in activities that are outside the regular. Back to school pancake breakfast. Girls Volleyball has started. Drama production has started. Barrier fall fair with a few of the students participating. School Trustee Montana is showing a lamb.
- Celebrations – communications this week – West Boundary – was given a grant for music instruments. Celebrate all the staff who helped with Terry Fox run.

**10-Minute Comment Period for Rightsholder and Partners**

Jannine Frsaser – spoke about assessments for K-3. Teachers are told that they must do these assessments

three times over the year. Teachers are not being given any training in administration, implementation, or results. Extra Supports are need for appropriate students. Need to be able to identify these students early on so need more funding and not just the assessments. There is a need to invest in the teachers to be able to implement these assessments after training and awareness.

**Strategic Plan Update**

- Superintendent Davidson presented the Strategic Plan with no real change and wanted to highlight that the board voted to extend the plan for one extra year with all the changes in Management staff and trustee.
- School Growth Plans – developed through the year. They will be posted on website. Conversations will be happening with focus on goals each PVP has established. Good conversations on Why's with each of the plans.
- Trustee Zitko – is there a way at the end to get feedback from what went well or needed to be changed.
- Superintendent Davidson – has asked a PVP to make a presentation on how they made these goals and how they evolved. Measure on outcomes from school leadership.

**Business Items**

1. **Committee Reports**

**FINANCE**

- Independent Auditor's Report by BDO Canada LLP
- Kayla Northcote was the presenter – 4:30 – 4:42, engagement partner at BDO Canada LLP, presented the final audit report to the Board and confirmed a clean audit opinion has been issued.
    - **Audit at a glance:** $1,300,00 Materiality is based on 5% of total expenses. Start Date: July 2026 to September 2026. No fraud has been detected. Confirmation that maintained independence accounts.
    - **Status of Audit:** Receipt of signed management representation letter, subsequent events review through to the financial statement's approval date, approval of financial statements by the board of trustees.
    - **Audit Findings:** All audit testing in revenue recognition, management override of internal controls, and school generated funds were executed as planned with no issues to be reported.
    - **Internal control Matters:** documented operating systems to assess the design and implementation of control activities, discussed and considered potential risks with management. No control deficiencies were noted that, in our opinion, are significant to discuss. We have, however, provided management with a letter outlining some best practice recommendations for consideration.
    - **Adjusted and Unadjusted differences:** There were no differences that were corrected by management during the audit engagement. There was one unadjusted difference: It was an estimate so not flow through financials.
    - **Section PS 1202 –** commencement next year – how figures are presented in the future.

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That the Board of Education receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2026"

CARRIED

- Internally Restricted Surplus – Operating Fund
    - Zare reviewed the note 17
    - Speech Services funds have been spent in the 2025 so this is why no funding in 2026 in the restricted surplus.

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That the Board of Education receive and approve the Internally Restricted Accumulated Operating Surplus as detailed in Note 17 of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2026"

CARRIED

- 2025/2026 Audited Financial Statements

    - In response to a question from Board Chair Hall regarding the auditors' recommended adjustments, Zare clarified that, in accordance with the auditors' recommendation, both the expenditures and the related revenue associated with the flood restoration work were reported separately in the financial statements.

    - Zare presented 2025/2026 Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis

**EDUCATION**

- Enhancing Student Learning Report
    - Superintendent Davidson worked with previous Superintendent to establish a report
    - Grade 4 literacy having downward trend
    - Assessment validity could be next step
    - Early Literacy big focus and especially found big gaps after COVID.
    - Grade 7 and 10 catch up and this show staff have been working hard to reduce the gap.
    - Growth – not every student feels like they belong pg 24 of report
    - Trustee Hall – Comment – wellbeing high importance and so looking at implementation and how to do we hit the targets.
    - Superintend Davidson discussed a few ways to help with these and the strategies out there that educators can use and need to find what works and have some systems in place. Skill building is a big factor and helps build resilience of students. Building healthy relationships is not schools' entire role and home life plays a factor in these relationships. Anyone who has been a teacher can see students come in with challenges so focus on building a classroom community with how we are going to treat others with respect and kindness. With all the positive focus and interactions at school, students at the end of year or school can surpass expectations.
    - Trustee Danyluk discussed that with guiding minds survey shows that if good environment then transfers down.

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That the Board of Education receive and approve the School District No. 51 (Boundary) Enhancing Student Learning Report for 2026/27 for submission to the

Ministry of Education and Child Care, publication and ongoing use as a planning document."

CARRIED

**OPERATIONS**

- 2027/2028 Five-Year Capital Plan – Minor and Major Capital Programs submission

Major

- School Age Care on School Grounds program which supports the creation of net before/after school childcare spaces with existing school facilities.
- Floods – GFSS
- Submitting for a replacement – three years away – BCSS

Minor

- Roofing assessment – every 6 yrs
- Replace roof sections at Perley, Grand Forks Secondary School and Christina Lake Elementary School
- Replace elevator - Grand Forks Secondary School
- Fire suppression systems – Grand Forks Secondary School, West Boundary Elementary School
- Electrical upgrades – Walker Development Center
- Carbon Neutral – lighting upgrades – Boundary Central Secondary School, HVac - Boundary Central Secondary School, Electrical – Grand Forks Secondary School
- Playground – upgrade surfacing - Christina Lake Elementary School
- Bus Acquisition – new electric bus
  - Purchased second year
  - Looking at different suppliers
  - Biggest push is mechanical support so limits where to purchase

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That, in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 51 (Boundary) hereby approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (Minor Capital Programs) for 2027/28, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2027/28 submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care."

MOTION: "That, in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 51 (Boundary) hereby approves the proposed Capital Plan (Major Capital Programs) for 2027/28, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2027/28 submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care."

CARRIED

**POLICY**

- Policy 124- TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

MOVED/SECONDED

MOTION: "That the Board approve the following revised policy with amendment from the policy meeting for circulation as recommended by the Policy Committee: Policy 124 – TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT"

CARRIED

**2. Board Chair Report**

- Board Chair Hall provided an update highlighting most recent Board Chair report
    - Congratulations to Trustees Zitko, Danyluk and Bird who were acclaimed in their respective areas as well as new incoming trustees Thomas for Area C and Thielman for Area D. I'd also like to wish Trustee Jepsen and Massey and all the other candidates the very best in the upcoming elections in Greenwood and the City of Grand Forks.
    - Highlights from the Board Chair call:
        - Minister Beare attended the call and noted that the Provincial Government is calling on reforms on social media and AI to take action to address the harms students are facing online in cooperation with the federal government.
        - School safety is the #1 Priority with the second priority being academic excellence – focusing on literacy and numeracy. Mandatory literacy screening in the early years is being implemented. The government is also looking into a math strategy in order to address the declines in that area as well.
        - Minister Beare noted that the partnerships with the IEC are really making a difference in outcomes for Indigenous students and the ministry is grateful for our partners for driving those outcomes. I know this is a priority for our district as well and I'm glad to hear that contact has been established and that conversations are being had.
        - Trevor Davides noted that the team is busy preparing for BCSTA Academy November 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency. The Academy following election is important so they've opted to make Academy the full three days with no preconference with hopes that trustees will be able to attend the full three days.
        - BCSTA is working with the EA's to register current trustee's for Academy and they will allow the individual names to be changed post election.

**3. Senior Management Reports**

- Superintendent Davidson presented report on entry plan progress where he has been focused on listening, learning and building relationships across the district and broader community. Through school visits, stakeholder meetings, professional learning, and organizational review. The observations and activities reflect early work in support of the Districts Strategic Directions: Equity, Inclusion & Belonging; Student Voice & Agency; Wellness & Resilience; and Community Connections. Made a visit to all schools first week of school and observed students happy and wanting to be at school. Superintendent Davidson wants to ensure best data available to help strong relationships. Indigenous education council not established at this time but in the process, this will give us access to resources. We will all improve by incorporating local focus and helps learning. August Days – shown leadership from staff and gathering student voices helps with engagement and transforms into success for students. Ministry focuses on student voice in the curriculum. Guarding Minds survey – Ministry puts dollars towards dollars for adult wellness which also helps students' success. Guarding Minds at Work Survey had input from all staff and reviewed at wellness committee. Some schools have used no instruction days to review this data and how to address the concerns. Teaching can be a very isolated work environment even with them being with students so shows that some teachers are experiencing roadblocks within their schools. Need systems in place so everyone feels valued at work. Community Connections – Boundary Integrated Services Model (BSIM) – this region is a shining example

of what this community has to offer. Wanted to highlight – project behind administrative procedure manual. Smaller districts – lots of internal guidance but no set procedures into General Administration, Instructional Programs and Materials, Students, Personnel and Employee relations, Business and Operations.

- Secretary Treasurer Zare verbally presented his report on Audit, school Cash online, Banking, payroll, and enrollment. Good results from the Audit – working on the recommendations. School Cash Online – Live at end of October. Banking change to RBC – services printing cheques or uploading payments – Payroll will move to RBC first. Have more support through RBC. Payroll – still having automated system and moving away from manual work. New System for maintenance – better system – enhanced abilities for actives, better value and user experience. Enrollment – favorable and higher than expected. Elections is coming up in Oct 17.
    - Trustee Hall -Does Cash online have a way to waive the fee for students – Secretary Treasure Zare responded yes there are abilities to waive fees for certain students when needed.

**4. Trustee Reports**

- BCSTA Provincial Council – No meeting to report
- Recreation Commission – Trustee Bird reported about the fire at the Grand Forks Arena, and aquatic staff seen the smoke and called the fire department. Contained to crawl space. Insurance haven't asked for investigation. Air quality delayed opening.
- Boundary Integrated Services Model (BISM) – Trustee Van Marck reported out on importance of this group. Theme is there is a 50 kid wait list = 2.5 year waitlist for early childcare. No mental health for child and youth currently. Recruitment is an issue. Concerning for our children. Police to be added to the BSIM. Boundary Family Services – 50th Anniversary Monday – might be on hold due to flooding in the building.
- BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch – N/A
- BCPSEA – Trustee Jepsen – sent out a report that updated actions for Slips, trips and falls resources now available, funding flow from support staff bargaining, Meeting date updates.
- PAC Highlights – Trustee Van Marck provided written reports – family affordability account got canceled. Munch a lunch – wondering if this is canceled. Secretary Treasure stated that it is still running and coordinator is Laurie Grant.
- Okanagan Labor Relations Council – No meeting to report
- Rural and Remote – Trustee Jepsen – on hold
- DPAC – No meeting to report

**Trustee Activities and Upcoming Events**

- BCSTA Trustee Academy – November 26-28, 2026
- BCPSEA Symposium – November 30 – December 1, 2026
- BCPSEA AGM – February 5, 2027 (virtual)
- BCSTA Provincial Council – February 19, 2027
- BCSTA Provincial Council – February 19, 2027
- BCSTA AGM – April 15-17, 2027
- BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch AGM – TBA

**Future Agenda Items**

- Catchment Areas
- Strategic Plan

- Long Range Facilities Plan
- District Calendar of Events

**Question Period**

- No questions were asked relevant to the September 22, 2026 Regular Agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

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Chairperson

ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ON FILE

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Secretary-Treasurer