

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72  
(CAMPBELL RIVER), HELD IN PERSON AND ELECTRONICALLY AT 7:30 PM, ON  
TUESDAY, May 13, 2025**

**Present** K. Eddy, Chair; C. Gillis, Vice-Chair; J. Gladish, D. Hagen, D. Harper, J. McMann Trustees; P. Cizmic, Associate Superintendent, G. Manning, Superintendent; and K. Patrick Secretary-Treasurer.

**Absent:** S. Briggs, Trustee

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**25-75 Call to Order/Chair's remarks**

Board Chair Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She thanked the gallery's attendance at the meeting and noted that the Board is legally required to pass a balanced budget each year. The participation of union groups and staff is important to the development of the budget. Eddy concluded with a call for stable, adequate funding for the K-12 education system.

**25-76 Superintendent's remarks**

Superintendent Manning highlighted the interactive career and natural resources expo that was held at Timberline secondary school on May 9. The event was jointly presented by SD72, SD71 and North Island College. Welcome to Kindergarten events are on now and continuing through June. Manning encouraged all incoming Kindergarten families to register for fall 2025 and attend a welcome event.

**25-77 Approval of the minutes of April 29, 2025**

Correction to item 25-70: Trustee McMann attended the DPAC meeting on April 22, 2025.

It was proposed by C. Gillis, seconded by D. Hagen and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of April 29, 2025  
are hereby approved as amended.***

**25-78 Approval of the agenda**

It was proposed by D. Harper, seconded by J. McMann and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the agenda is hereby approved as circulated.***

**25-79 Report from the April 29, 2025 Confidential Board Meeting**

Vice-Chair Gillis reported general statements of matters discussed in the Board's Confidential Meeting, and in accordance with Section 72(3) of the School Act, reports the following:

1. Teaching, administrative and support staff changes;
2. Property, legal and financial issues.

**25-80 Campbell River Music Educators' Association presentation**

Kirstin Liske and Emily Hickford spoke on behalf of the Campbell River Music Educators' Association. Their presentation highlighted music education at all schools levels, the importance of music education in a lifelong love of learning and music and "Resilience in Action". They noted fiscal challenges in general, the impact of the Carihi fire on programs at that school and district music events.

**25-81 Campbell River District Teachers' Association re 2025-2026 budget**

Debra Coombes, President of the Campbell River District Teachers' Association (CRDTA), laid out the Association's position in opposition to the budget proposals, particularly in regard to the teacher librarian proposal. She acknowledged opportunities for feedback and input to date at group meetings, one-on-one, in written submissions and at the board meeting.

Trustees asked about impacts to staff and increased benefits costs to both staff and the district. Coombes concluded by encouraging a joint approach to advocate to government for funding.

**25-82 Quarterly Finance Report - period ending March 31, 2025**

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick presented the third quarter finance report for the period ending March 31, 2025. He highlighted trends based on the year-to-date.

**25-83 Presentation of 25/26 operating budget proposals**

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the senior leadership team's preliminary budget proposals. The Board tasks management to gather feedback and develop a balanced budget. This year respondents were asked to comment on reductions, not additions as the district is facing a deficit. Starting in February the senior leadership team reached out to stakeholders and partner groups to get their feedback on the proposed reductions and solicit ideas that would generate the needed savings.

Patrick described the reductions, projected impacts and any sources of revenue recovery or new funding. Provincially, the ten-year projection is for almost all school districts, even those currently seeing significant growth, to be in reductions with declining enrolment numbers.

Trustee Harper suggested there should be cuts at the board office. Vice Chair Gillis asked if any significant alternate proposals had been suggested through the budget function committee meetings. Secretary-Treasurer Patrick said that while some suggestions had been brought forward at the budget function committee meetings, there were none that would contribute in significant amounts to the deficit or come without their own significant cost to implement. Trustees proposed that joint advocacy to the Ministry was needed to advocate for adequate funding.

**25-84 Questions from anyone present on agenda Items for this meeting**

**Question 1** – Debra Coombes, CRDTA President – Would it be fair to say because the Board is trying to be fair would it be fair to say 1.4 FTE (full time equivalent) Principal/ Vice principal would have to be reallocated to teacher jobs that it results in teacher reductions?

Superintendent Geoff Manning responded yes however it is expected that positions will be found for anyone displaced.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm

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**Kat Eddy, Chair.**

KWP:nc

May 13, 2025

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**Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.**