

**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 27, 2025**

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

25-85 Call to Order/Chair's remarks

Board Chair Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Eddy reflected on the formal reading process to approve the Board's budget and that school districts are legally required to annually submit balanced budgets to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by June 30. She noted the approach of the end of the school year and the many activities that come with it including: graduation, students awards, track meets and recognition ceremonies.

Eddy noted the pressure of declining enrolments on school district budgets and the need to sustain and strengthen a public education system that meets the needs of every learner.

25-86 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning highlighted: strong interest in summer school programs; the Southgate wetland project; Indigenous student celebrations held at Cedar and Georgia Park; and the district graduation awards ceremonies at Timberline and Carihi.

25-87 Approval of the minutes of May 13, 2025

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by J. Gladish and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2025
are hereby approved as submitted.***

25-88 Additions to the agenda

12D Board advocacy (J Gladish)

25-89 Approval of the agenda

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

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

25-90 Report from the May 27, 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.

25-91 2025-2026 board meeting schedule

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick provided the draft 2025-2026 schedule of board meetings.

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by S Briggs and **CARRIED:**

**THAT the draft Board of Education Meeting Schedule for
2025-2026 be adopted as presented.**

25-92 Vancouver Island School Trustee Association fall conference update

Vice Chair Gillis updated the Board on ongoing planning for the fall Vancouver Island School Trustee Association conference being held in Campbell River October 3-4, 2025.

25-93 Annual budget bylaw for the fiscal year 2025-2026

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick presented the preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The district must currently consider declining enrolments, increasing costs and no new funding in the development of the annual operating budget. Initial proposals and feedback from partner groups and individuals have been considered by senior management for viability and impact.

Patrick noted changes that have been made to the draft budget since the preliminary budget was shared with the board on May 13, 2025. The teacher librarian reduction has been reduced from 5 FTEs to 4.4 FTEs. One district teacher coordinator position has been removed from the budget through attrition.

In summarizing the budget statements Patrick noted that inflation and benefit costs have increased without funding to support it.

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

THAT the Board hold all required readings of the Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$92,234,938 for the fiscal year 2025/2026 at this meeting.

Trustees Briggs, Eddy, Gillis, Gladish, Hagen and McMann voted for. Trustee Harper voted against.

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

THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$92,234,938 for the fiscal year 2025/2026, pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, be and is hereby read for the first time.

It was proposed by J Gladish, seconded by D Hagen and **CARRIED**:

THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$92,234,938 for the fiscal year 2025/2026, pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, be and is hereby read for the second time.

As the motion to hold all required readings of the Budget Bylaw was defeated, the third reading of the budget bylaw will be held at the next Board meeting, on June 17, 2025.

25-94 Board advocacy

Trustee McMann spoke of a desire to develop an action plan for advocacy. From her work with the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) she noted there is interest from DPAC on working on advocacy together. Trustees noted advocacy that is embedded in organizations such as the BC Teachers' Federation, the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association and the district's partner liaison meetings. Trustees went on to discuss how to strengthen advocacy efforts.

It was proposed by D. Harper, seconded by S. Briggs and **CARRIED**:

THAT the Board directs the Superintendent to bring forward options for advocacy to the next Board meeting.

25-95 Finance Warrant No. 10, April 30, 2025

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

THAT the Finance Warrant No. 10 dated April 30, 2025 be accepted as presented.

25-96 Questions from anyone present on agenda items for this meeting

Question 1 – CUPE local 723 President Andrea Craddock (in person): commented on the union's position in regard to the budget proposals and the impact they feel it will have on members.

Craddock asked why was child care included in the budget as I understand it is a user pay system?

Secretary-Treasurer responded that the Ministry of Education and Child directed where districts should put expenses and revenues from child care programs. Even if the program is cost neutral, the expenses and revenues still have to be reported and the costs of delivering child care have to be shown in the budget.

Question 2 – CRDTA President Debra Coombes (online): There has been a recent staff announcement of retiring administrators and they are being replaced in an overlap model where their successors are going to be hired for several months while the current administrator is still working. This could account for spending in thousands of dollars. Are these costs covered in the operating budget, grant money, or another funding source?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that special purpose funds are being used to cover the overlap to facilitate the training of key personnel.

Question 3 – CRDTA President Debra Coombes (online): The increase in the P/VP budget is 425,636, this cannot simply be due to the change in where we "list" the former Associate Superintendent. What are the other costs being added to the P/VP budget line for this year?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that where we can, we have relied on special purpose funds to pay for additional P/VP salaries. Reducing the P/VPs paid through special purpose funds increases the amount shown on the P/VP line.

Question 4 – CRDTA President Debra Coombes (online): If the increase is in the P/VP line, why didn't the "other professionals" budget line decrease to reflect where we listed if there is where that position was moved from?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick noted a P/VP salary that was moved to P/VP line after the preliminary budget was approved in 24/25. It shows as an increase in the 25/26 P/VP line.

Question 5 – CRDTA President Debra Coombes (online): Is the Board aware that there are teachers losing jobs, contrary to the information shared tonight, because many positions being offered are not reasonable, require multiple schools or assignments and do not complement positions they already have so teachers are choosing to reduce FTE and take cuts. Not all teachers being displaced are being made whole.

Board Chair Eddy responded that the Board is required to pass a balanced budget and it is important to unite through advocacy on impacts to students and staff.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Kat Eddy, Chair.
KWP:nc
May 27, 2025

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.