

**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, February 24, 2026**

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

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**26-29 Call to Order**

Chair Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

**26-30 District music teachers presentation**

A group of district music teachers and the Carihi secondary choir made a presentation to the board. Teachers spoke about the programs available to elementary, middle and high school students. Two students shared stories of how participating in school music programs had impacted their lives and given them a voice. The presentation closed with a moving performance by the choir.

**26-31 Chair's remarks**

Chair Gillis noted upcoming district music events including the Timberline musical "Big Fish", the Carihi musical "Something Rotten" and the district music showcase.

Gillis shared that in a recent call Board Chairs across the province had expressed their messages of support and concern for the Tumbler Ridge community. School districts will need to look for budget efficiencies as planning begins for the 2026-2027 budget year.

**26-32 Superintendent's remarks**

Superintendent Manning commended the students who participated in the north island regional Skills Canada BC competition held at Timberline on February 20, 2026. Medal winners will advance to the provincial competition on April 15.

He highlighted a number of other events in the district including the Southgate girls' basketball team win at the north islands, the district music showcase on March 5 and Pink Shirt Day on February 25.

**26-33 Approval of the minutes of February 3, 2026**

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

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2026  
are hereby approved as submitted.***

**26-34 Approval of the agenda**

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

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

**26-35 Report from the February 24, 2026 Confidential Board Meeting**

Vice-Chair McMann 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.

**26-36 Motion to adopt Board Governance Policy 15**

Chair Gillis reported that the following policy has been revised and is ready for adoption:

*Board Governance Policy 15 – Meetings*

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

***THAT Board Governance Policy 15 – Meetings,  
dated February 24, 2026, be given all three readings at this meeting:***

It was proposed by J. McMann, seconded by K. Eddy and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
amendments to Board Governance Policy 15 – Meetings  
dated February 24, 2026, be read for the first time.***

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

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
amendments to Board Governance Policy 15 – Meetings  
dated February 24, 2026, be read for the second time.***

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by K. Eddy

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
amendments to Board Governance Policy 15 – Meetings  
dated February 24, 2026, be read for the , be read for the third time,  
passed and adopted.***

**26-37 Motion to adopt Board Governance Policy 31**

Chair Gillis reported that the following policy has been developed and is ready for adoption:

*Board Governance Policy 31 – Child Care*

It was proposed by S. Briggs, seconded by J. McMann and **CARRIED:**

***THAT Board Governance Policy 31 – Child Care,  
dated February 24, 2026, be given all three readings at this meeting:***

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

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
adoption of Board Governance Policy 31 – Child Care  
dated February 24, 2026, be read for the first time.***

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

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
adoption of Board Governance Policy 31 – Child Care  
dated February 24, 2026, be read for the second time.***

It was proposed by S. Briggs, seconded by K. Eddy

***THAT the Board Governance Policy Committee's recommended  
adoption of Board Governance Policy 31 – Child Care  
dated February 24, 2026 , be read for the third time,  
passed and adopted.***

**26-38 Strategic Planning: Honour Indigenous World Views and Perspectives**

Board Gillis noted that the district continues to focus their strategic priority work on Honouring Indigenous World Views and Perspectives.

**26-39 How Are We Doing 2024/2025 report**

Superintendent Manning said that the Ministry of Education and Child Care recently released the Aboriginal Students: How Are We Doing 2024/2025 report. The report is an annual, public-facing report focusing on Indigenous students in BC. The data provides important information on how Indigenous students are developing and identifies. Measures such as school completion rates, numeracy, literacy and attendance are analyzed to identify areas for interventions or further action.

**26-40 Budget Bylaw – Amended 2025-2026 Operating Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick highlighted the amended 25/26 final operating budget. Changes from the preliminary budget reflect updated expenses, actual revenues based on student enrolment, salary costs from the implementation of labour settlements and cost increases due to inflation.

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

***THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of \$95,588,062 be given all required readings at this meeting.***

It was proposed by C. Gillis, seconded by J. Gladish and CARRIED:

***THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2025/2025 Budget in the amount of \$95,588,062 be given first reading.***

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

***THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of \$95,588,062 be given second reading.***

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

***THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2024/2025 Budget in the amount of \$95,265,816 be given third reading.***

**26-41 2026-2027 Enrolment forecast**

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared that the provincial trend is towards declining enrolments in all districts. This is attributed to declining birthrates and restrictions on immigration. Budget planning has started for 2026-2027 with an anticipated deficit of \$2 million.

**26-42 Guiding Principles for Decision Making**

The guiding principles for decision making are a way for the Board to communicate to stakeholders and to represent Board policy in the development of the budget.

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

***THAT the Board adopt the Guiding Principles for Decision Making - Budget Cycle 2026 – 2027 as presented.***

**26-43 Finance Warrant**

It was proposed by D. Hagen seconded by K. Eddy and **CARRIED**:

***THAT the Finance Warrant No. 7, dated January 31, 2026 be accepted as presented.***

**26-44 Committee reports**

**2026-02-04 Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA)** branch president Trustee Kat Eddy noted that VISTA met on February 4 and are looking forward to their regional conference March 6-7 in the Cowichan Valley.

**2026-02-04 British Columbia School Trustees' Association Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)** representative Trustee Jan Gladish shared impressions from the IEAC meeting she attended on February 4 in Vancouver.

**2026-02-09 Board governance policy committee** Board Chair Gillis noted that the committee is continuing their work to review and update the board's governance policies.

**2026-02-09 CORE professional development:** Trustee Hagen highlighted discussions concerning goals and upcoming events at the February 9 pro-d committee meeting.

**2026-02-17 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)** Vice Chair McMann noted DPAC's ongoing work to build participation and connect with parents on topics of interest.

**2026-02-20 British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council** Trustee Eddy attended the February 20 Provincial Council meeting that was held online. Discussions centred on legislative matters, preparation for the BCSTA AGM in April and BCSTA's role in preparing for the October 17, 2026 municipal election.

**26-45 Questions from anyone present on agenda items for this meeting**

**Question 1** – Debra Coombes, CRDTA President – Question to the Secretary-Treasurer through the Chair: Just wondering if you could share a little bit more about the difference between the two data points that you were talking about like the 105 that we're kind of predicting but that there was a data point that said it might be 180 and that feels like a lot of when you multiply it by the per pupil funding and then with a \$2,000,000 potential deficit that 80 could be really significant. Can you tell me more about it?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that in 2026 the district projects an exit of 450 graduates from the system and an enrolment of 360 new students across all grades. The demographic forecasts from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Baragar software used by school districts in BC indicate some inward migration of students, but it will not be enough to offset outward migration and exits of students who are graduating.

**Question 2** – Debra Coombes, CRDTA President – And do you have a point at which you make the call to you know that we need to budget on 145 instead of 180

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that the district pays close attention to enrolment numbers for staffing purposes. It is disruptive if staffing isn't appropriate. Most of our enrolment gains will be in grades 10-12 for 2026-2027.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm