

**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, March 17, 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.

26-46 Call to Order

Chair Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, noting upcoming district events.

26-47 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning shared recent news from around the district, including continued work on remediating Carihi with full funding approvals from the Treasury Board expected later in the spring.

26-48 Approval of the minutes of February 24, 2026

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

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2026
are hereby approved as submitted.***

26-49 Additions to the agenda

12C 2026-03-12 French programs advisory committee

26-50 Approval of the agenda

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

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

26-51 Report from the March 17, 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.

26-52 International programs update

Mercedes Hayduk, Manager, International programs, gave a presentation on the outlook for international programs in the 2026-2027 school year. The program is at capacity for 2026-2027 with 97 students spread over both semesters for 75 full time equivalents (FTEs). Students are expected from eleven countries with fourteen students returning for a second year here and three students expected to graduate in June 2027.

The International program team works closely with student leadership groups at both Carihi and Timberline to help orient and welcome the students in September and February. Host families are key to the success of the program. The international program prioritizes: maintaining a solid 75 FTE program; strengthening community engagement; enhancing student support systems and experience; and maintaining safeguarding.

26-53 Board governance policy review

Chair Gillis provided notice of motion on the board governance policy committee's work on changes to Board Governance Policy 10: *Role and Responsibilities of the Superintendent*. This policy will consolidate the current Board Governance policies 10, 11 and 14. Following a period open for public feedback, the board will bring a motion to approve the changes at the April 14, 2026 board meeting.

26-54 Board governance policy review

Trustee Eddy shared a preview draft of the board governance policy committee's proposed revisions to Policy 5: *Diversity, Equality and Equity*. The committee expects to bring the revised policy to the board for a notice of motion later in the spring.

26-55 2026-2027 preliminary operating grant comparison

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the 2026-2027 preliminary operating grant comparison. He noted that per student funding has not changed from 2025-26 which leads to a deficit when increased costs from inflation and benefits are factored in. The preliminary grant does not reflect funding for agreed on general wage increases. The district is also expecting lower revenues from all sources.

Kindergarten numbers are closely monitored for future enrolment trends. Early planning informs the staffing plan for the fall. Significant enrolment drops are being seen across the province

26-56 Committee reports

2026-03-04 City of Campbell River/ School district liaison committee Board Chair Gillis noted that the committee, composed of elected members and staff from both organizations, met to discuss items of mutual interest.

2026-03-06 Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA) branch president Trustee Kat Eddy together with Trustees Briggs, Gillis, Gladish and McMann attended the VISTA branch meeting in Cowichan Valley on March 6-7. Trustees discussed branch business leading up to the BC School Trustees Association AGM in April. Trustees noted discussions that centred on the importance of indigenizing curriculum and community food hubs. VISTA will be moving to one online and one in person branch meeting per year in recognition of the need for fiscal restraint.

2026-03-12 French programs advisory committee Trustee Dave Harper reported on discussions at the March 12 meeting of the French programs advisory committee. Operational procedures related to the program were reviewed. Approximately 900 students from K-12 participate in immersion programs in the district.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm