

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 5, 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.

26-69 Call to Order

Chair Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, noting the National Day of Mourning to remember workers killed, injured or made ill on the job on April 28, 2026 and the National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls on May 5, 2026.

He also acknowledged the District Parent Advisory Committees recent events to connect with parents throughout the district.

26-70 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning shared that the province has committed capital funding for the construction of an accessible playground at Ocean Grove elementary school. "Indigenous students making a difference" celebrations will be taking place at schools throughout May. Two high school teams have qualified for the Skills Canada national competition in June. Manning recognized the work of all the students, teams and teachers who have worked hard on their skills, starting with the regional competitions that took place in February. Manning will be visiting schools during May to review student achievement plans with principals and vice principals.

26-71 Approval of the minutes of April 14, 2026

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

THAT the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2026 are hereby approved as submitted.

26-72 Additions to the agenda

14A Carihi building remediation update (C Gillis)

26-73 Approval of the agenda

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

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

26-74 Report from the May 5, 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.

26-75 Student achievement plans

Sandowne elementary school principal Kelly Gage and vice-principal Georgina Knox gave a presentation on their school's process for developing and reviewing their student achievement plan. Goals for student achievement and building an optimal learning environment at the school were developed in alignment with the district's strategic plan. School staff were engaged to collectively identify priorities and revisit their goals throughout the year. Student voice was incorporated in the development of the plan. Gage and Knox reported that their school has seen positive growth in behaviour, literacy, numeracy and the incorporation of Indigenous learning.

26-76 Board governance policy review

Chair Gillis provided notice of motion on the board governance policy committee's work on changes to Board Governance Policy 5: *Diversity, Equality and Equity*. Following a period open for public feedback, the board will bring a motion to approve the changes at the May 26, 2026 board meeting.

26-77 Carihi building remediation update

Despite immediate and ongoing action by the district following the fire at Carihi secondary in November 2024 to mitigate the building damage and provide temporary solutions to the loss of classroom space and displacement of students and classes, the district remains without a funding commitment from the province for the rebuild of the school.

Chair Gillis noted recent advocacy by the Carihi parent advisory committee (PAC) to publicly voice frustration and disappointment over the delays and the impact on students. Superintendent Manning wrote to the Minister of Infrastructure on April 17, 2026. Chair Gillis received a phone call from the Minister of Infrastructure, Bowinn Ma on April 29, 2026 expressing their dismay over the delays and intent to prioritize the project.

The Board discussed what further actions they could take to continue to advocate for the capital funding commitment from the province necessary to see the school rebuilt.

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

THAT the Board send a letter to Minister Ma, copied to Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare concerning their frustration on the Carihi Secondary funding delays.

26-78 Finance Warrant No. 9, March 31, 2026

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

THAT the Finance Warrant No. 9 dated March 31, 2026 be accepted as presented.

26-79 Quarterly Finance Report - period ending March 31, 2026

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the Quarterly Finance Report for the period ending March 31, 2026. The report reflects a positive position and savings in the third quarter, despite the impact of uncovered inflationary costs.

26-80 Presentation of 2026/2027 operating budget proposals

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick presented the operating budget proposals for 2026-2027. As school districts are required to pass a balanced budget, the district was faced with difficult decisions this year to make up a projected \$2.1 million funding deficit. Patrick spoke of expense reductions, the pursuit of additional funding sources and reductions through staff attrition.

Trustees asked Patrick about feedback received proposing that the number of Trustees be reduced. Reducing the number of Trustees is a governance change, governed by the *School Act*, requiring Ministerial approval. It isn't an option for this election cycle. While board numbers vary, the average throughout BC is seven per school board. The number of trustees is always an odd number to ensure a majority vote.

Several other ideas were discussed for budget reductions in areas such as staff reductions and technology resources in K-3 which would require further investigation and long range planning to assess their impact.

Base funding amounts to school districts from the province have not changed to reflect inflation or increased costs.

26-81 Committee reports

2026-04-21 District Parent Advisory Committee meeting

Vice Chair McMann attended the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting on April 21, 2026. DPAC members heard a presentation from Secretary-Treasurer Patrick and discussed concerns related to the budget.

2026-04-20 Core Pro D

Trustee Hagen attended the CORE- pro-d meeting on April 20, 2026 together with Superintendent Manning. Manning noted that the CORE pro-d committee has been reviewing the application of teachers' professional development funds. They surveyed CRDTA members and have shared a proposal with members for feedback to make allocations more equitable.

26-82 Questions from Anyone Present on Agenda Items for This Meeting

Question 1 – Christa Corrigan, president and Sophia Sauter, vice president, Carihi PAC: Corrigan and Sauter noted their gratitude for the Board's work to date on the Carihi building remediation. They shared their advocacy efforts and encouraged the Board to keep the urgency of the request.

Question 2 – Debra Coombes, CRDTA President – Is there anything precluding employees from the two week window to give additional feedback on the budget proposals. Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that employees are still able to give feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

Craig Gillis, Chair.

KWP:nc
May 5, 2026

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.