

**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, September 15, 2026.**

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

26-115 Call to Order

Chair Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Gillis welcomed everyone back for the 2026-2027 school year and reflected on his visits to schools at all levels. He looked ahead to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that will be observed on September 30. Gillis noted the release of School District 72's Director of Indigenous Education Anne Tenning's children's book "I Am Indigenous" in both English and French.

26-116 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning said that the school year started strong with kindergarten numbers slightly exceeding projections.

The district will be providing monthly updates on the Carihi remediation project.

The Kwak'wala and Lik'wala Language Program at Ripple Rock Elementary will now be a part of the regular school experience for all students at that school. Language instruction is provided by language teachers from local First Nations and is integrated into each classroom's weekly schedule.

26-117 Approval of the minutes of June 15, 2026

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

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2026
are hereby approved as submitted.***

26-118 Additions to the agenda

16 Canadian School Board Association conference (J Gladish)

26-119 Approval of the agenda

It was proposed by K. Eddy, seconded by S. Briggs and **CARRIED:**

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

26-120 Report from the September 15, 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.

26-121 Correspondence

The Board received correspondence on property matters regarding Pinecrest Park, Robron field and related issues.

26-122 Strategic Planning: Honour Indigenous Worldviews and Perspectives

Board Chair Gillis spoke about upcoming school activities for the observation of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are reflected in many curricular areas from Kindergarten through grade 12.

26-123 Public presentation: Brian Westdorp re Robron Park all weather field

The board heard a public presentation from Brian Westdorp on the City's proposal to build an all-weather artificial turf field on school district land at Robron Park.

Trustees responded with questions and their support for recreation opportunities but need more information before making a long-term decision involving school district property. The board shared that they had previously decided that the matter should be revisited after the next board takes office.

26-124 Proposal for appropriations from 2025/26 financial reserves

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared senior management's proposal for appropriations from the 2025/26 financial reserves. Board Governance Policy 26: Accumulated Operating Surplus identifies how the board may use savings from the previous budget year for one time items. The surplus represents savings and an underspend of approximately 1.2% from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026.

Patrick presented the list of proposals which include a replacement of the district's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system which is the system that the district uses to connect and manage core daily business functions including human resources, payroll and finance.

26-125 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2026

Auditor Graham Roberts from MNP, LLP shared an overview of the financial reporting framework. The year end audit takes place over the summer. He highlighted the financial statement comparing the year ended June 30, 2025 to the year ended June 30, 2026. Operating, special purpose and capital revenues were discussed, as well as expenses.

26-126 Financial statement discussion and analysis as at June 30, 2026

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick provided a written analysis of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026. Operating, capital and special purpose funds were detailed. The financial performance of the district was analysed with areas of concern and actions taken to target those areas highlighted. The impact on operating accounts of delays on receipt of remediation funding for the Carihi fire was an area of concern as was the impact of labour settlements on the funding cycle.

26-127 Recommendation from Audit Committee

Trustee Briggs said that the Board's Audit Committee met on September 9, 2026 and made the recommendation to accept the financial statements as presented.

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

THAT the Audited Financial Statement for the term ending June 30, 2026 be adopted as presented by Auditor Graham Roberts from the firm of MNP, LLP.

26-128 Recommendation of reserve transfers

The Audit Committee recommended the adoption of the reserve transfers shared by Secretary-Treasurer Patrick in senior management's proposal for appropriations from the 2025/26 financial reserves.

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

THAT the reserve transfers for the term ending June 30, 2026 be adopted as presented.

26-129 Representation contract

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick noted that the current representation contract for audit services will expire soon and have to go to a public request for proposal (RFP) for the next contract.

26-130 Minor capital plan submission 2027-2028

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the district's minor capital submission for School Enhancement Program (SEP), Playground Equipment Program (PEP) and Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) projects in 2027-2028. Minor capital is part of the district's 5 year capital plan and includes a variety of infrastructure projects including roofing, electrical, interior, HVAC and playground replacements and upgrades.

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

THAT the Board approve the 2027/2028 Minor Capital Plan submission as outlined in the summary provided by Secretary-Treasurer Patrick.

26-131 Minor capital plan submission 2027-2028

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the district's minor capital submission for Food Infrastructure Program (FIP) projects in 2027-2028. Minor capital is part of the district's 5 year capital plan.

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

THAT the Board approve the 2027/2028 Minor Capital Plan submission as outlined in the summary provided by Secretary-Treasurer Patrick.

26-132 Finance Warrant No. 12, June 30, 2026

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

THAT the Finance Warrant No. 12 dated June 30, 2026 be accepted as presented.

26-133 Finance Warrant No. 11, July 31, 2026

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

THAT the Finance Warrant No. 1 dated July 31, 2026 be accepted as presented.

26-134 Committee reports

2026-07-05 to 08 Canadian School Boards Association conference. Trustee Gladish shared her experiences and learning at the conference as a representative of School District No 72 and the BC School Trustee Association's Indigenous Education Council.

26-135 Questions from anyone present on agenda items for this meeting

Question 1 - Steve Wood, public gallery: Why did the board allow a presentation and not share letters? Who is running this meeting and what is the intent this evening?

Board Chair Gillis responded that the request to develop an artificial turf field at Robron Park came from the City at the end of last school year. The Board must consider future impacts of decisions for students.

Question 2 - Debra Coombes, CRDTA President: We finished last year with a \$933,00 surplus. Was that straight operating and not restricted funds? Would that be accurate?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that there was an underspend of the projected operating budget of approximately \$960,000 due to careful management of funds at schools and at the district level. Board Governance Policy 26: Accumulated Operating Surplus provides for the mechanism for the use of these funds for one-time projects, in line with provincial guidelines. The \$275,000 underspend in the Indigenous Education funds is restricted and cannot be spent on other projects.

Question 3 - Debra Coombes, CRDTA President: And the slide that showed proposals?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that the \$960,00 in budget appropriations will be made as shown in the presentation which has been approved by the board in this meeting.

Question 4 - Debra Coombes, CRDTA President My concern is in June 2025 we made significant cuts and were projecting a deficit. Where is the process to not make cuts?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that last year a balanced budget was projected, as required by the *School Act*. A \$1.6 million deficit occurred. This year we ended up with a \$960,000 underspend. The unexpected benefit cost increases last year were \$650,000. Budgeting has to be based on what is known and staying ahead of inflationary increases. Board Governance Policy 26: Accumulated Operating Surplus requires that this surplus should be used to fund one-time items. This minimizes the impact on the operating budget and sustainability over time, rather than reactive cuts and additions which create unpredictability. Patrick gave credit to staff in the schools for carefully managing their budgets. Associate Superintendent Cizmic further emphasized the critical nature of the need to fund the replacement of the Enterprise Resource Planning program used district wide from the operating budget surplus appropriations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm