

SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 (FORT NELSON)  
FORT NELSON SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Open Meeting  
6:00 pm

Tuesday  
January 19, 2021

In Attendance VIA Zoom:

L. Dolen, Chair  
M. Gilbert, Trustee  
R. Irwin, Trustee  
Y. Taylor, Trustee  
B. Dolan, Vice-Chair  
D. Samchuck, Superintendent  
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer  
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary  
G. Gough, FNDTA President  
J. Gilbert, FNDTA Liaison  
E. Dorosz-Gagne, FNDTA Liaison

Call to Order

Chair Dolen called the Open Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the Open Agenda. As no additions or changes were identified Chair Dolen accepted the Open Agenda as presented.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions to the Open Minutes of December 15. As no errors or omissions were identified Chair Dolen declared the Open Minutes accepted as presented.

Report on Closed

- Update on Return to School
- 2021/22 School Calendar
- Evaluation – Director of Facilities

R21-001 Policy 5330 – Graduation Policy & Policy 5331 School Graduation Finances Policy

M. Gilbert/R. Irwin

That the Board of Education approve the amended Policy 5330 – Graduation Policy for distribution to stakeholders for input.  
CARRIED

Trustee Dolan suggested we add to section 3.3 the Board's motion from the previous meeting:

*The formal involvement of School District #81 and its' staff in the Fort Nelson Secondary School graduation events ends at the conclusion of*

*the school's graduation ceremony.* Trustee Taylor also reminded that we are to change the first sentence to read:  
*The Board of Education believes that a formal school graduation ceremony is a significant and important occasion recognizing the achievements of the district's grade 12 students throughout their school careers.*

R21-002      2020/21 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw      M. Gilbert/ R. Irwin

That the Board of Education authorize all three readings of the 2020/21 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw.  
CARRIED

R21-003      That the Board of Education adopt the 2020/21 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$12,750,947.00.      M. Gilbert/R. Irwin

CARRIED

Secretary-Treasurer Hall explained the report. Over all it has been a good year. We have been able to manage fairly well given the situation. Discussion ensued.

R21-004      Principal Reports      Y. Taylor/B. Dolan

That the Board of Education file the Principals' reports as received.  
CARRIED

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Trustee Taylor – She attended the JSC PAC Meeting via Zoom. They discussed year books. It seems they are experiencing more troubles than normal getting pictures for the yearbook, staff will try and help with that. Hot lunch has started. They have a set up a plan with Dominos which is working well.
- Trustee Gilbert – As a Board he feels that we should relay our commendation to our staff again. Although they are indeed frontline workers, they are providing stability to students and families, they are not publicly recognized. He is concerned about the lack of transparency that is available to parents. He appreciates the need for individual privacy, but there should be some middle ground for providing parents information on the safety of their children. He is disappointed in how the information is provided and that the District's hands are tied.  
He will attend the upcoming Provincial Council Meeting February 20 via Zoom.
- Trustee Irwin – He did not attend the RLA PAC meeting, however he chatted with the principal. She mentioned some ongoing fundraising such as having kids design cards

for events throughout the year. Hot lunches are still happening. The PAC will fund any required bussing for the remainder of the year. They will be opening the store again and will be selling hoodies and T-shirts.

- Vice-Chair Dolan – He attended the FNSS PAC meeting via zoom, little to report there. They have not had many expenses so there isn't much fundraising happening right now. The band department needed an electric piano, a family and student who has moved away gave money that was fundraised. This went back into the band program, plus with some of the money the PAC raised from gaming, the piano will be purchased. A plaque will be in honor of that student giving back. He attended Pro-D meetings by Zoom. The registration is open. There have been some glitches with some of the presenters, but it is all coming together. It will be good offering, COVID style. He participated in student interviews with Ms. Larson. The students were better prepared, and the interviews were successful. This is so gratifying; we are interviewing kids to support kids.
- Chair Dolen - She participated in a call with Board Chairs. There is only 8.5 weeks until spring break!! They are in the process of building a restart plan for September. The revised budget is scheduled to come prior to or on March 15. The budget is scheduled to be released in April. Mask requirements – they still maintain that masks are not effective in lower grades as it encourages younger children to touch their faces. We will be adding early childhood care in the budget in 2023. There is a partner liaison meeting this week as well as a BCPSEA meeting.
- Superintendent Samchuck – She attends the Deputy Minister's meetings every Friday. She and the principals came to the decision on what day would work best for the district in-service and April 16 was chosen. This in-service will have an indigenous focus. There are a number of indigenous speakers. L. Burke has been invited to work on greetings with the staff. Indigenous speakers will be online. For a few years we have been trying to acquire training on Mind Up, this training is now being offered online. We have arranged for three elementary schools and the high school to take part in this training. Dates have been sent out. We are hoping to do this after school as we do not have TTOC coverage, the sessions range from 60-90 minutes. Participants will receive a day off in lieu of their time spent in this training. Participants will receive their books and times soon.
- Secretary-Treasurer Hall – Nothing to report
- FNDTA President, G. Gough – He would like to echo Trustee Gilbert on the concerns surrounding BCTF and FNDTA

regarding transparency of getting the information from Northern Health. Our rates per capita are increasing. Northern Health cannot keep up with the communication aspect. We appreciate the fact that the district has gone above and beyond what the district is supposed to do, acting on the information provided by those affected.

- FNDDTA Liaison, J. Gilbert – Nothing to report
- FNDDTA Liaison, E. Dorosz-Gagne – This week there has been a sharp decline in attendance. Most of the kids have come in with questions. She has been relaying the message that the transmission is not happening throughout the school. Things are going okay. Students are happy about the extra cleaning; they have noticed, and they appreciate it.

Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the Open Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

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Linda Dolen  
Chair

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Margaret-Anne Hall  
Secretary-Treasurer