

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

Open Meeting
6:00 pm

Tuesday
April 20, 2021

In Attendance:

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

- Remove Staff Appreciation discussion from the agenda.

R21-018 That the Board of Education accept the Open Agenda as amended.
CARRIED

Y. Taylor/R. Irwin

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions o the Open Minutes of March 2. As no errors or omissions were identified Chair Dolen accepted the Open Minutes as presented.

Policy 1320 - - Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

Superintendent Samchuck stated that this mostly came from the Ministry and the only thing she needed from the Board was for them to focus on the dates. Does the reporting dates that are outlined in the policy work for them?

Vice Chair Dolan made some small changes, slight edits that he will send to Administrative Assistant Anderson to update.

Superintendent Samchuck will put out on Board Business for discussion. No motion is needed at this time.

R21-019 Education Information Items

R. Irwin/M. Gilbert

- a) Letter from Western Financial Group
- b) Board Chair's Report

That the Board of Education file the Education Information items as received.

CARRIED

R21-020

March Monthly Financials

M. Gilbert/Y. Taylor

That the Board of Education file the March Financial Reports as received.

CARRIED

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Trustee Irwin – He attended the RLA PAC meeting. RLA is a busy place. They recently had the White Hatter presentation. The message in this presentation remains the same, helping students remain safe on the internet. There is a program called Value Up that addresses mental health issues. This program has been arranged for their students. This presentation focuses on developing and understanding respect and bullying issues. PAC is working hard and planning ahead for hot lunches for the students of RLA.
- Vice Chair Dolan – Attended a District Pro-D Committee meeting. The chair, Alexsia of that committee seems to be doing a great job liaising with Superintendent Samchuck. The information is out there, and the direction is very clear. There is more emphasis this year on online wellness. Everyone should have all the information they need to get the most out of their Pro-D money. He attended FNSS PAC meeting. In addition to other literacy supports they had an academic support block embedded in their rotation and the principal said that this was quite successful this year. There have been some good results and they plan to include this again next year. There was a parent query about the level of anxiety surrounding COVID. Principal Theobald followed up with a letter to parents outlining the services that are available at the school, the community as well as online services and supports that our parents and students could access to alleviate COVID related stress and anxiety. The students seem to be well cared for in that regard. There is a plan in place to purchase virtual reality headsets, all schools, there are a couple of options, to buy a full set or buy half this year. The plan is to share costs amongst the district. These are of good quality and sound really promising. Funds will come from all school PACS if they are

up for it. Depending on the type they purchase, it would be suitable from primary school right on up to high school. It is a neat thing to give our schools to give students a glimpse into so many other situations.

- Trustee Taylor – This was a topic of discussion at the JSC PAC meeting. Parents at the PAC meeting were very enthusiastic about the idea and thinking they would like to use gaming money. Each PAC would have to contribute about \$4000 for this to work. Trustee Gilbert said that Principal Kenney put out the opportunity for PAC members to ask questions about this ahead of time. He had some misgivings, having seen new technologies come and go and be left sitting and unused, also the fact that it is developed in the US it emphasizes US content, not Canadian content and this causes concern.

Trustee Taylor said the JSC PAC also talked about year end activities. The kites have been ordered for one of their activities. They are continuing with their hot lunches. They now have a Treasurer and all their books are up-to-date. They are looking at picnic tables as part of their Capital request, they see value having these outside for kids.

- Trustee Gilbert – Thank you to D. Johnstone. He has consistently introduced new and innovative technology and approaches to the District that have worked in our favor. This should not go without notice. He is missing the PAC meeting today at GWC due to scheduling. He participated in the Provincial Council, nothing of significance to report. There were some housekeeping motions to do with budget approvals. All motions that were put in front of the provincial council were approved unanimously with minimal discussion and no dispute.
- Chair Dolen – She spent the weekend attending BCSTA AGM where they passed 42 regular motions and 5 extraordinary motions. When the final report on these motions are available, she will post online. She attended a BCPSEA call with regards to teacher bargaining.
- Superintendent Samchuck - We had our District Inservice for Indigenous content on Friday. Each school chose what their staff was most interested in looking at. It sounds like it was very successful. People valued the opportunity to have time participate. FNSS timetable is not quite ready yet, but Principal Theobald is working hard on getting that completed. For the first time ever, we have had 8 students that have expressed an interest in taking Calculus 12, this has never been offered before. Unfortunately, this is unaffordable for us, however, M. Theobald has agreed to

teach this as a part of his principal time. He is quite excited about this and feels that it will be well received by the parents of these students.

We have received word from the Breakfast of Canada that they had enough funds that they were willing to add another school, JSC has been chosen for this. They will receive their breakfast programs and aprons very soon.

- Secretary-Treasurer Hall – We had our formal letter sent from the Ministry of Education confirming that we are receiving the funding for the recladding of RLA as well as funding for LED upgrades, which will complete that project district wide.

It's been very busy in the office training for the transition to PowerSchool. We started pre-live training prior to Spring Break, worked through spring break and folks are spending 1.5-4 hours a day on zoom. It has been a huge commitment. She is very proud to say how hard everyone has been working.

- FNDDA President Gough – Nothing to report. Everything is going well.
- FNDDA Liaison Gilbert – He wanted to acknowledge the high quality of the indigenous education Pro-D that they received. He was impressed with what was provided locally it was very enjoyable. Thanks to all that were involved.
- FNDDA Liaison Dorosz-Gagne – On April 13 Paeon Fuentes won silver in the province wide Public Speaking skills competition. This was very exciting; she did a really great job and she also received an early entrance scholarship to UVIC. Mr. Dibley started at FNSS this week, she has had kids from each of his classes tell her that they really like him and are enjoying his classes. Kids are ready for this year to be over. They are just gearing up for the end. Staff at FNSS also enjoyed Pro-D and learned lots.

Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the Open Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Linda Dolen
Chair

Margaret-Anne Hall
Secretary-Treasurer