

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

Open Meeting  
6:00 pm

Tuesday  
October 19, 2021

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair  
M. Gilbert, Trustee (Via Zoom)  
R. Irwin, Trustee  
Y. Taylor, Trustee  
B. Dolan, Trustee  
D. Samchuck, Superintendent  
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer  
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary  
G. Gough, President, FNDTA (Via Zoom)

Call to Order

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the Open Agenda.

One item was added to Personnel – Action.

- Vaccinations in our school

R21-047      That the Board of Education accept the Open Agenda as amended.  
CARRIED

Y. Taylor/B. Dolan

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions to the Open Minutes of September 28. As none were identified Chair Dolen accepted the Open Minutes as presented.

Report on Closed

- Mandatory Vaccinations – Discussion
- Administrative Protocol #40
- Superintendents & Secretary-Treasurer Sample Postings
- Status of Surplus
- GRE – Government Reporting Entity Quarterly Submission

Vaccination Mandate – Discussion

Chair Dolen stated that there has been some talk around the province with the vaccine mandate. We are not prepared to move forward on this until we receive further advice from the province. Trustee Dolan would like to draft a notice on behalf of the Board to post on our Website as well as in Fort Nelson News and any other public forum

stating that we are in agreement with the Provincial Health Guidelines and recommendations.

R21-048      That the Board of Education support Trustee Dolan in the writing of a letter supporting all provincial health guidelines and recommendations including the wearing of masks, social distancing and double vaccinations in the interest of protecting our students, staff and public. B. Dolan/M. Gilbert  
CARRIED

Trustee Gilbert stated that he is very disappointed in the minister of the province in leaving individual Boards in a position of this nature. This decision is far more suited to being made universally at a provincial level by those with authority.

R21-049      Principal Reports      Y. Taylor/B. Dolan

That the Board of Education accept the Principal Reports as received.  
CARRIED

Trustee Dolan asked how the Fountas and Pinnell method was progressing? Superintendent Samchuck stated that we are progressing, people are not happy, but we are moving forward. Staff are being supported and the hope is that in time they will wrap their heads around it.

He also read that at JSC there were a small number of students participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment and a high rate of exemptions. Is there any idea of how high a rate? Superintendent Samchuck stated that she had to approve the students that are exempt and that these numbers are legitimate.

#### Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Chair Dolen – She attended the Board Chairs & Partnership Liaison meetings last week. Some of the discussion items included vaccine mandate and student achievement as well as anti-racism presentations. One of the highlights was meeting up and chatting with Deputy Minister Scott MacDonald. Superintendent Samchuck can expand on why he is so pleased with our District. Superintendent Samchuck stated that she posted his email on Board Business. That our transition to postsecondary numbers are good and he is very pleased. He spoke to her at the table and told the table to find out exactly what she is doing up here and that the ministry is going to send a team up to do a case study on us.
- Trustee Irwin – He attended the RLA PAC meeting, they continue to discuss fundraising and projects. The one new item that the principal shares was the renovations and how staff will work around it, they have no concerns.
- Trustee Dolan – Thanks to Trustee Taylor for covering the PAC meeting at FNSS, they have the same executive that he worked

with when their kids were young. Trustee Taylor also covered the Pro-D meeting in his absence. Alexsia has been busy prepping and reminding people about the stipulations for the use of the funds and to get the forms in. Also, Mayor Foster reached out to him a few weeks ago, regarding J. MacKay from the Northern Development initiative trust. This is the group that administers government money. He is working on the bussing transportation issue we are experiencing up here. Trustee Dolan spoke with him and provided him with a copy of the letter he had sent on behalf of the Board, just to bring him up to speed on our current situation. He tried to put a school district spin on it with regards to parents, students and even recruitment of staff. This is something Mr. McKay will work on this winter. Their challenge is to keep the limited service as it is and not drop anything while they work out a better plan.

- Trustee Taylor – She attended the Pro-D meeting virtually. They are very organized. The keynote speaker on Thursday is Shelley Moore and Friday will be George Couros. There will be four sessions each day, one day will be a catered lunch. They are trying to get Set BC up here again; they do not generally do district wide Pro-D anymore but are making an exception for us. She attended the FNSS PAC meeting for Trustee Dolan. Mark spoke about the assembly on local history in residential schools. They had locals participating and the attendance was great. People there were very attentive and interested. Parent teacher interviews were very well attended. There is a significant amount of vandalism in the school, this is a concern and great expense. They spoke about fundraising and the fact that they will not be doing much this year as they still have money left from last year. They mentioned the cafeteria and are hoping to get that up and running. She has a PAC meeting coming up at JS Clark on Thursday.
- Trustee Gilbert – He missed the PAC meeting at GWC due to missed communication. He asked Secretary-Treasurer Hall if the Hydro issue got resolved. She stated that it was still delayed but is scheduled to be completed on Saturday, was hoping to get it earlier. The entire arrangement was disappointing but at least we have a date now. He asked Superintendent Samchuck if we, during the current public health situation, have seen increased absenteeism among students or staff. Her response was no, it has been business as usual.
- Superintendent Samchuck – She attended the Superintendents' meeting and Joint Partner Liaison meeting with Chair Dolen. They offered good sessions. The one on health was very good, the speaker was very knowledgeable. The presentation from BCPSEA on the work they are doing for Boards to make the decision on the Vaccine Mandate for

employees, discussions on framework for enhancing student learning as well as childcare were well presented. She was happy with the table she was assigned to. The people were very good at sharing information. Over-all it was a good session.

- Secretary-Treasurer Hall – We work very hard and spend a lot of money to improve schools to make the buildings nice for students. She is very disappointed in the amount of vandalism at FNSS. On a more positive note, GW Carlson school has been completed, the final step was having the name placed, it looks great! We can be proud of that building and move on to RL Angus. In the next few weeks, the portable should be finished and we will soon see kids there. She visited the portable and is happy with how it looks, we are getting there. Chair Dolen asked if we had plans to take pictures and post on our website. Secretary-Treasurer Hall said yes, we will! We will need to make some decisions on this building as this one is scheduled to be done after RL Angus.
- FNDTA President G. Gough – Apologies for missing the first meeting of the school year, but has made his way to all schools and is pleased at how well the start up is going despite the challenging situation we are in. Generally, the staff has been very positive as well.

Adjourned

Chair Dolen declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

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Linda Dolen  
Chair

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Margaret-Anne Hall  
Secretary-Treasurer