

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

Open Meeting
6:00 pm

Tuesday
October 18, 2022

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair
B. Dolan, Vice Chair
M. Gilbert, Trustee
R. Irwin, Trustee
Y. Taylor, Trustee
D. Samchuck, Superintendent Mentor (VIA Zoom)
M. Theobald, Superintendent/Acting Principal, FNSS
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary
F. Peach, Newly Appointed Trustee
G. Gough, FNDTA President
K. Trainor, FNDTA Liaison
L. Gilbert
J. Gilbert

Call to Order

Chair Dolen called the Open Meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the Open Agenda. As none were identified, Chair Dolen accepted the Open Agenda as presented.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions in the Open Minutes of September 27. One error was identified:

- The spelling of Vice Chair Dolan's last name on page three.

Administrative Assistant Anderson will make this change.

R22-042 That the Board of Education accept the Open Minutes of September 27 as amended.
CARRIED

Y. Taylor/B. Dolan

Report on Closed

- Secretary-Treasurer Position
- FNSS Principal Position

Presentation:

Chair Dolen presented Trustee Gilbert and Trustee Irwin with a gift recognizing their retirement and years of services with the Board.

R22-043	Amendment to 2022-2023 Local School Calendars That the Board of Education approve the amended local school calendar for Fort Nelson and Toad River schools. CARRIED	M. Gilbert/Y. Taylor
R22-044	That the Board of Education approved the amended fundraising plan for FNSS Music Department for the 2022-2023 school year. CARRIED	Y. Taylor/M. Gilbert

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Trustee Taylor attended the PAC meeting at JS Clark. All but the secretary position has been filled in their executive. They are currently working on their fundraising plan. She attended the Pro D meeting on behalf of Trustee Dolan. They are very organized and have already lined up two guest speakers who will attend virtually. They mentioned the Health & Wellness funds that are available to FNSTA members, once these funds are gone, they are gone. She attended the equity scan. Very informative and the speaker was great.
- Vice-Chair Dolan attended the FNSS PAC meeting. There was a delegation of parents that came to see what the process was to advocate to shifting grad ceremonies to the Rec Centre. The policy has been distributed until November 2nd.
The issue came up of student access to the school in the morning during winter.
Also, the issue of the cafeteria which remains unopen. Parents feel that this will reduce the number of lates and/or absences if the students can be fed on site, even if not every day.
A new sport is being considered, lacrosse. Vice Principal Ostopovich has done some research on packages to introduce the sport. The school is doing its best to buy locally. They see our local suppliers for supplying consumables before ordering online. This seems to be an established practice of physed in our district.
- Trustee Irwin attended the RL angus PAC meeting. They have selected their executive. The principal said that parents are happy that funds are available through the affordability fund, and they have some great ideas that can help some families.
Parent-teacher interviews on October 27 and 28. No school for elementary schools on Friday October 28. They hosted a welcome back dance which went over very well, they had 120 students participate in the dance. Staff and parents are very pleased.

- Trustee Gilbert will attend the GW Carlson PAC meeting this week. They have selected a full executive and they are as efficient as ever. It has always been a pleasure to work with that group of people. He often reminds them of the power of unified moms.

He would remind and suggest that there be a reminder passed on to staff that we are still not making any purchases from Russia. It only takes a second to check the list.

This is the end of a 20-year stint which have had many highs and lows, many challenges. Some things will be missed, others will not but it has been a good run.

- Chair Dolen has nothing to report
- Superintendent Samchuck expressed thanks to Trustee Gilbert and Trustee Irwin for all their work on the board and all their work throughout the district over the years.
- Superintendent Theobald said that schools have almost finished FSA at grades 4-7 level achieving high success rates thanks to administrators.

He attended the onboarding meeting for Equity Scan which turned out to be a great day of learning. He really appreciated the thought shared in this process. This is a process every District in BC will go through and is examining the inequities of indigenous learners.

- Secretary-Treasurer Hall attended the Equity in Action session. Over the past six months she has attended several racism sessions, but she really enjoyed this one. It was very well done, and she learned a lot.

We have been given funds to be used in a couple of different directions. One was the affordability fund which was used to help families who are struggling in economic times. Families did not have to pay for school supplies this year. Some schools have approached us to put forward lunch programs and to subsidize lunch programs. Her concern with the affordability fund is that it is a one-time thing, what will happen next year when families are expected to incur these costs again? With regards to the cafeteria, as hard as we have tried to get someone to take it over, we remain unsuccessful. In the future we hope to find someone willing to take this on.

Other funds we received were from an early learning grant. We have a strong relationship with the Family Development Society, we've moved the portable for them, we have afterschool programs and preschool programs. We are working with them at moving into childcare as there has been an identified need for this here, especially from birth to about three years. We have been involved, along with Superintendent Samchuck, to have a greater understanding on how to spend the funds. We have an environmental scan

to complete to determine need based on our data, this must be completed by the end of the year. We will take it slow as we have many service providers that we will meet with; there is a lot of work going on in this area.

Thank you to Trustee Gilbert and Trustee Irwin for their service. She has worked with both in a variety of positions and worked on the Board for several years with deep respect. She wishes them both all the best.

- FNDTA Liaison, K. Trainor has nothing to report.
- FNDTA President G. Gough has nothing to report.
- Newly Elected Trustee, F. Peach is looking forward to being a part of the Board.

Chair Dolen reminded trustees that the Trustee Academy and New Trustee Orientation is scheduled for December 1 -3. Secretary-Treasurer Hall will meet with F. Peach after the meeting and get in touch with K. Dickie to go over a few things. Vice Chair Dolan suggested that we book the rooms for all trustees and cancel if necessary.

Trustee Gilbert adjourned the meeting. As we used to hand off a new ship to a crew, God bless this ship and all that sails on it. Adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Linda Dolen
Chair

Margaret-Anne Hall
Secretary-Treasurer