

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

Open Meeting
6:00 pm

Wednesday
January 21, 2026

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair
B. Dolan, Vice-Chair
Y. Taylor, Trustee
K. Dickie, Trustee
F. Peach, Trustee
M. Theobald, Superintendent
D. Osmond, Secretary-Treasurer
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary

Guests: J. Gilbert, B. Froese, S. Clark, S. Attrill

Call to order

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the agenda. As none were noted, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any omissions or errors in the minutes of December 3. One omission was added:

- Trustee Taylor requested an update on the cost of the Auditor's contract over the next three years.

R26-001 That the Board of Education and Child Care accept the minutes of December 3rd as amended. K. Dickie/B. Dolan
CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer will provide this information on the Board Business email forum.

R26-002 That the Board of Education and Child Care Approve the cancellation of the April 1 meeting due to limited preparation time following spring break. F. Peach/K. Dickie
CARRIED

RL Angus Presentation on Student Belonging Inquiry

B. Forese, S. Clark and J. Gilbert of RLA presented their Student Belonging Inquiry and shared the progress they are making with the program.

B. Froese, S. Clark and S. Attrill left the meeting at 6:41 pm.

R26-003	<p>Bylaw #3 – Board Meeting Proceedings – 2nd Reading That the Board of Education and Child Care pass the 2nd reading of the proposed amendments to Bylaw #3 – Board meeting Proceeding.</p>	
R26-004	<p>Policy 3540 – Responding to Unexpected Health Emergencies That the Board of Education and Child Care approve Policy 3540 – Responding to Unexpected Health Emergencies. CARRIED</p> <p>This policy was circulated for 30 days, and no feedback was received.</p>	Y. Taylor/F. Peach
R26-005	<p>Policy 5310 – School Fundraising That the Board of Education and Child Care amend the policy to reflect feedback received, then circulate for an additional 30 days for review and feedback. CARRIED</p> <p>Remove the first bulletin in section 5 – Carry student identification</p>	Y. Taylor/F. Peach
R26-006	<p>GW Carlson Amended Fundraising Plan That the Board of Education and Child Care approve GW Carlson’s amended fundraising plan. CARRIED</p>	F. Peach/K. Dickie
R26-007	<p>Education – Information Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Belonging Inquiry • Superintendent’s Report • Principals’ Reports • SD81 Logo • Letter to the Minister re: Chief Harrold <p>That the Board of Education and Child Care file the Education – Information items as received. CARRIED</p>	B. Dolan/F. Peach
R26-008	<p>Staff Amendments That the Board of Education and Child Care file the Staff Amendment Report as received. CARRIED</p>	F. Peach/D. Dolan
R26-009	<p>Finance – Information Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary-Treasurer’s Report • Financial Update <p>That the Board of Education and Child Care file the Finance – Information items as received. CARRIED</p>	F. Peach/B. Dolan

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

- Chair Dolen read that Mexico has banned all products with regard to vaping and inquired about the status of vaping in our schools. The Superintendent stated that vaping continues to be an ongoing issue in our schools. Although detectors have been installed in washrooms, the problem persists. One positive outcome is that our district is among six districts with the highest rates of self-reported vaping. As a result, the Ministry of Health is seeking to provide additional support to communities where higher levels of vaping have been reported. We have been contacted to determine whether we would like to connect with other districts on this list. This presents an opportunity to participate in a working group aimed at addressing and reducing this ongoing issue.
- Vice Chair Dolan attended the GW Carlson Christmas Concert; it was very entertaining.
He was on the panel for two days for the FNSS Capstone Project Presentations last week.
He attended the FNSS PAC meeting on January 13. The principal reports that there are currently 49 grade 12s eligible to graduate and another six who are completing the courses required to fulfill their graduation requirements.
The principal reported that a committee has been reviewing the school attendance policy/procedures and will be submitting feedback soon.
The principal informed the PAC that he is leading a Student Belonging working group of staff looking and students with high absenteeism. This group is generating questions to ask these students to try to identify the factors/causes of their poor attendance.
The PAC president appreciated the Superintendent's clarification on the school fundraising policy revision.
A PAC parent inquired about our district's response to the several student suicides in other districts. Another parent was well informed about the matter and passed on some Foundry program intervention sessions information, which he forwarded to the Superintendent for information/response.
He is registered for the upcoming Provincial Council meeting and plans to attend the spring AGM in April.
- Trustee Peach was unable to attend the GWC PAC meeting but received an update. Their Christmas fundraising program raised just under 5K.
They are looking to host a family dance.
They were reminded that starting in September, parents will be responsible for purchasing school supplies.
He will be attending the upcoming Provincial Council meeting.
He attended the celebration of life for S. Broughton. It was great to see so many district staff in attendance.

- Trustee Dickie attended the JSC concert. It is neat to see all the kids come together and create such an amazing performance. She attended the GWC Concert, where they were treated to a lovely tea and snacks. It was a great concert. She attended the RLA PAC meeting, where they discussed fundraising. They no longer do a Christmas Concert; they do Maker Days instead, which include a variety of activities for the students and staff.
- Trustee Taylor attended the Capstone Projects at FNSS. They were excellent. She distributed gift cards to JSC from the Board. She attended the JSC Christmas dinner and helped out with the Christmas lunch served up at FNSS, prepared by Steve and Betty. It was awesome. They are doing great work in the cafeteria. She will attend the next JSC PAC meeting on January 27.
- Secretary-Treasurer Osmond advised the Board that we are looking to purchase a new vehicle for the maintenance department.

Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Linda Dolen
Chair

Darlene Osmond
Secretary-Treasurer