

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS)**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
NECHAKO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – LIBRARY
HYBRID MEETING (IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL)**

PRESENT WERE:

Chair - M. Warcup
- E. Harrison
(virtual) - W. Jones
Vice Chair - K. Jonkman
- A. Maitland
(virtual) - M. Maxim
(virtual) - J. Sundell

Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Recording Secretary

- T. MacMillan
- G. Fuller
- C. Gagnon

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

Director of Instruction, Learning Services
Director of Instruction, Learner Support
Director of Facility Services
District Principal, Early Learning & French Immersion

- P. Barron
- J. Nieckarz
- R. Schibli
(virtual) - T. McDonald

Board Chair Warcup acknowledged with respect the school district's business being conducted on the unceded traditional territories of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a, Ts'msyen and Lheidli T'enneth Peoples noting Trustees Jones, Maxim and Sundell attended the meeting virtually from Stewart, Thornhill and Prince George respectively. We are honoured to work with their children and privileged to live on these lands.

A warm welcome was shared with meeting guests who joined in person and virtually noting the Board was pleased to be in Kitimat to conduct its Regular Board Meeting. Special thanks were extended to the staff and students at Nechako Elementary School for their wonderful hospitality and extra efforts in coordinating the Board's visit. Introductions followed by Trustees and District staff attending the meeting. The meeting was also livestreamed via CMSD's YouTube Channel.

Board Chair Warcup spoke to the deep sadness regarding the tragic event that occurred at the Lapu Lapu Festival in Vancouver on April 26, 2025 which has had a profound impact on the Filipino community. On behalf of Coast Mountains School District, the Board extended its heartfelt condolences to all those affected by this tragedy.

While the event took place outside of our immediate region, we recognize that students, families, and staff within school communities may be feeling its effects — whether directly or indirectly. We encourage everyone to continue to be mindful, supportive, and attentive to those who may be experiencing grief, anxiety, or uncertainty during this time.

Board Chair Warcup noted that our District Safe Schools Coordinator, Julia Nieckarz, and team, are available to provide school administrators with additional support should any members of our school communities require it. Should anyone need assistance in offering resources or responding to emerging needs, please do not hesitate to reach out via school administration.

Flags at Coast Mountains' schools and office buildings will be lowered to half-mast commencing April 28 until further notice, to mark the tragic deaths that occurred at the festival.

Board Chair Warcup thanked everyone for the care, compassion, and stability they continue to provide for students and families — especially during challenging times like these.

The following reminder was shared by Board Chair Warcup for meeting guests regarding the Question Period:

- At the end of each Regular (Public) Board Meeting, there is a 10-minute question period for the public. Questions must pertain to the agenda and can be presented in person at the Regular Board Meeting or emailed no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day of the Regular Board Meeting to the attention of Carole Gagnon, Executive Assistant.
- Questions or comments about personal issues, individuals or property acquisitions are not appropriate for public meetings. A written response to questions to the Board will be provided as soon as practicable. Questions asked at the Regular Board Meeting are recorded for follow up by the Board in the event an answer is not provided during the Question Period.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Board Chair Warcup introduced Director Nieckarz to speak to the presentation of Skeena Middle School's new video. Director Nieckarz shared the new video stemmed from an idea of creating a useful tool for the school's neurodiverse learners, so they can become more familiar with the school. Watch the video to see firsthand how the school nurtures curiosity, inspires excellence, and empowers every student to reach their full potential. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the heart of Skeena Middle School. It is the hope that the students and/or parents who have worries attending school will watch the video and will see how amazing Skeena Middle School is, where we believe in nurturing the minds and hearts of all students.

The vibrant communities at all Coast Mountains' schools are dedicated to fostering inclusive schools, a love for learning and encouraging creativity through collaboration and care. The Skeena Middle School video provides a glimpse of the dynamic classrooms, innovative programs, and the wonderful experiences that make Skeena Middle School unique, where every student can thrive on a journey of discovery, growth and success.

Access the school district's website at <https://cmsd.bc.ca/> to view Skeena Middle School's new video.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Warcup called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was declared.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion #8803

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried
All in Favour

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

4.1 Regular Meeting, February 26, 2025

Motion #8804

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held February 26, 2025 be approved as amended.

Carried
All in Favour

5. RECEIPT OF RECORDS OF IN CAMERA MEETING

5.1 Summary of In Camera Meeting, February 26, 2025

Motion #8805

THAT the Summary of the In Camera Meeting of the Board held February 26, 2025 be approved.

Carried

In Favour 6 / Abstained 1 (Trustee Maxim)

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 2024/2025 Hazelton French Immersion Consultation Follow-Up

Motion #8806

THAT the Board receive for information the 2024/2025 Hazelton French Immersion Consultation Follow-Up letter issued by Superintendent MacMillan to the Hazelton French Immersion parents and caregivers on April 25, 2025.

Carried

All in Favour

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

8. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' MONTHLY REPORT – APRIL 2025

Motion #8807

THAT the Superintendent of Schools' Monthly Report to the Regular Board Meeting of April 30, 2025 be received as presented.

Carried

All in Favour

9. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT – MARCH/APRIL 2025

Motion #8808

THAT the Board receive for information the Indigenous Education Report for March/April 2025 prepared by Superintendent Tracey MacMillan.

Carried
All in Favour

10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Business Committee Report (Trustee Ed Harrison)

10.1.1 Business Committee Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2025

Motion #8809

THAT the minutes of the Business Committee Meeting held on April 9, 2025 be received for information.

Carried
All in Favour

10.1.2 Ministry Estimated Operating Grants 2025/2026 Announcement

Motion #8810

THAT the Board receive the Ministry of Education's Estimated Operating Grants 2025/2026 announcement as presented for information.

Carried
All in Favour

**10.1.3 Ministry Response to Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission
2025/2026 & Capital Bylaw 2025/2026 – CPSD82-01**

CAPITAL BYLAW NO. 2025/26-CPSD82-01 - CAPITAL PLAN 2025/26

WHEREAS in accordance with section 142 of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains) (hereinafter called the "Board") has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education and Child Care (hereinafter called the "Minister") and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 143 of the *School Act*, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:

- (a) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;
- (b) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the capital project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each capital project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (c) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,
- (d) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

- 1. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2025/26 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 25, 2025, is hereby adopted.
- 2. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains) Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD82-01.

Motion #8811

THAT the Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CP-SD82-01 (Capital Plan 2025/26) be read a first time the 30th day of April, 2025.

Carried
All in Favour

Motion #8812

THAT the Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CP-SD82-01 (Capital Plan 2025/26) be read a second time the 30th day of April, 2025.

Carried
All in Favour

Unanimous consent was received and confirmed by Board Chair Warcup prior to proceeding to third reading of the Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CPSD82-01 - Capital Plan 2025/26.

Motion #8813

THAT the Capital Bylaw No. 2025/26-CP-SD82-01 (Capital Plan 2025/26) be read a third time, passed and adopted the 30th day of April, 2025.

Carried
All in Favour

10.2 Education Committee Report (Trustee Angie Maitland)

10.2.1 Education Committee Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2025

Motion #8814

THAT the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held April 15, 2025 be received for information.

Carried
All in Favour

10.2.2 Board/Authority Authorized Course: Resiliency Grade 12, North Coast Distance Education Program (NTETC).

Motion #8815

THAT the Board approve the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Course, Resiliency Grade 12 for the North Coast Distance Education Program commencing the 2025/2026 school year as submitted by the Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre.

Carried
All in Favour

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Maintenance & Facilities Department Replacement Vehicles

Motion #8816

THAT the Board approve the purchase of the 2024 Ford F-150 truck and the 2025 Ram Promaster cargo van for a total combined price of \$144,986.26 utilizing capital replacement dollars through Local Capital Reserves.

Carried
All in Favour

12. TRUSTEE REPORTS

12.1 Board Chair Report – April 2025

Motion #8817

THAT the Board receive for information the Board Chair Report for April 2025 noting an addition to the report that a Board Chairs Call was requested by the Minister of Infrastructure, Bowinn Ma on May 1, 2025.

Carried
All in Favour

12.2 Trustee Reports

Trustee Maxim reported on his attendance and participation at the BCSTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held April 24-26, 2025 in Vancouver.

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Chief Councillor Colin Sutherland-Wilson did not have a question noting it was good to meet everyone. He shared he was attending the meeting as a friendly observer and wanted to introduce himself as he was one of the two representatives designated by the Kispiox First Nation with respect to the Indigenous Education Council. Board Chair Warcup thanked Chief Councillor Sutherland-Wilson for joining the virtual meeting noting we look forward to meeting him in person.

Michelle Hall, a member of the Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School (MEMSS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC), attended the meeting regarding the status of the infrastructure of the MEMSS building including comments that many MEMSS teachers will be retiring at the end of this school year, particularly for Grade 9. The MEMSS PAC has written to Superintendent MacMillan, the Board and Minister of Education and Child Care regarding their concerns relating to the MEMSS infrastructure.

Director Schibli spoke to the Ministry of Infrastructure process for allocating funding to schools which are provided in three streams: Major Capital Projects, Minor Capital Projects and the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG). He noted the Capital Bylaw passed at this meeting was the only Minor Capital funding received (\$800,000) for 2025/2026 which is significantly down from previous years. The AFG is a small pool of money (\$2.5 million) self-directed for upgrades to schools. This funding was used to complete the required upgrades and engineering assessments at MEMSS.

Director Schibli reiterated Board Chair Warcup's comments that we have put all the school district's priorities forward to the Ministry of Infrastructure, including MEMSS which has been at the top of the school district's list for the past several years.

Superintendent MacMillan noted she attended a District Parent Advisory Council meeting with Director Schibli and the district further responded to the MEMSS PAC Chair twice with detailed information regarding the MEMSS infrastructure.

David Mills, Principal of Nechako Elementary School, asked whether the student enrolment impacts the school district's request for funding with the Ministry. Director Schibli noted MEMSS is too large, it had a capacity of 1,300 students, but now the student enrolment is less than 500 students. It is not a strong argument when we go to the Ministry for funding, when other school districts are using portables.

Michelle Hall, MEMSS PAC representative, asked about the large number of teachers retiring at MEMSS. Superintendent MacMillan indicated the school district is presently going through the staffing process as we speak. We are involved in several different recruitment/retention initiatives with universities and career fairs right across the country including recruiting virtually. The school district increased its partnerships with universities to encourage teachers to complete their practicums with our school district as a possible retention initiative. The upcoming school year is looking positive - out of one group of 20 we are hiring 11. We are constantly recruiting the very best teachers we can with increased advertising, postings to the district website, and working with the province's Make a Future and Education Canada. The school district is always open to new ideas and suggestions. It is a top priority with the school district recruiting the best qualified teachers in CMSD.

Ms. Hall asked what happens when the school district cannot recruit teachers. Superintendent MacMillan shared the school district will work with its leadership team and school administration to find a solution by doing its best to have qualified teachers. She indicated this is not only happening in our school district, noting there is also a teacher shortage right across the country.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next hybrid Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at Bear Valley School in Stewart.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.


Board of Education Chair


Secretary Treasurer