

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.  
HAZELTON SECONDARY SCHOOL – LIBRARY  
HYBRID MEETING (IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL)**

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**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  
District Vice Principal, Indigenous Education

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

Board Chair Warcup acknowledged with respect the school district's business being conducted on the unceded traditional territories of the Gitxsan, 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 Hazelton to conduct its Regular Board Meeting. Special thanks were extended to the staff and students at Hazelton Secondary School for hosting the Board's visit and for their welcoming hospitality. Introductions followed by Trustees and District staff attending the meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting was not livestreamed to the CMSD YouTube Channel due to last-minute technology issues.

Board Chair Warcup shared we were honoured to celebrate Hobiye, the Nisga'a New Year, across many of Coast Mountains' schools. This important celebration marks the start of a new season and reflects the traditional knowledge of the Nisga'a Nation, highlighting the connection between the moon and the natural cycles of life. Schools engaged in learning opportunities that included drumming, dancing, storytelling, and exploring the significance of Hobiye in Nisga'a culture. This year the Hobiye will be celebrated by the Nisga'a Nation on February 28 and March 1.

Board Chair Warcup recognized and acknowledged the celebration of Black History Month during the month of February. She noted recognition for French Immersion Week in BC held during the week of February 2 to 8 and the annual Women's Memorial March for missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada held on February 14.

Board Chair Warcup noted that on February 26, Pink Shirt Day, school communities across Canada will come together for this annual event under the banner of kindness to demonstrate their commitment to inclusive learning environments by wearing pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying in our communities. This year's theme, Let Kindness Grow, is inspired by moments of kindness, empathy and understanding centered around the ideas of diversity, inclusion and acceptance. The aim is to help create a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness and standing up against bullying. Our schools hold a variety of events to support anti-bullying day and to practice kindness. Together we can make a difference!

Board Chair Warcup indicated there are no Committee Meetings or Board Meetings in March. The next hybrid Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 30 at 5:00 p.m. in Kitimat at Nechako Elementary School.

Board Chair Warcup indicated we are nearly three quarters through the school year and Spring Break is arriving in approximately three weeks. She wished everyone, on behalf of the Board, a safe and fun Spring Break with relaxation time, rest and time to be with family and friends.

Board Chair Warcup shared the following reminder for meeting guests regarding 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.

**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 #8780

**THAT** the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried  
All in Favour

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

**4.1 Regular Meeting, January 28, 2025**

Motion #8781

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held January 28, 2025 be approved.

Carried  
All in Favour

**5. RECEIPT OF RECORDS OF IN CAMERA MEETING**

**5.1 Summary of In Camera Meeting, January 28, 2025**

Motion #8782

**THAT** the Summary of the In Camera Meeting of the Board held January 28, 2025 be approved.

Carried  
In Favour 6 / Abstained 1 (Trustee Maxim)

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6.1 Hazelton French Immersion Consultation Presentation & Report**

Motion #8783

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Hazelton French Immersion Program Review Report as presented at the February 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Carried  
All in Favour

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 Correspondence Received from BC Ombudsperson, Jay Chalke**

Board Chair Warcup confirmed Trustees' intent to proceed writing a letter of advocacy from the Board in response to the letters received from the BC Ombudsperson, Jay Chalke on January 10 and February 10, 2025, respectively regarding the investigation he is initiating to determine whether the Ministry of Education and Child Care and school districts are fairly administering and overseeing the exclusion of K-12 students, in particular students with diverse needs. The investigation focuses on BC's public K-12 education system and will not include private or independent schools. Board Chair Warcup noted a motion was not required.

Notation:

- February 25, 2025 – Renee Syvret, Executive Director with the Association des Francophones et Francophiles du Nord-Quest (AFFNO) emailed a letter in support of the Hazelton French Immersion Program which was provided for the Board's information in preparation for the February 26 Regular Board Meeting.
- February 26, 2025 – Troy Peters, District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Chair emailed a letter in support of the Hazelton French Immersion Program which was provided for the Board's information in preparation for the February 26 Regular Board Meeting.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025**

Motion #8784

**THAT** the Superintendent of Schools' Monthly Report to the Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2025 be received as presented.

Carried  
All in Favour

**9. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025**

Motion #8785

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Indigenous Education Report for February 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, February 12, 2025**

Motion #8786

**THAT** the minutes of the Business Committee Meeting held on February 12, 2025 be received for information.

Carried  
In Favour 6 / Abstained 1 (Trustee Maxim)

**10.1.2 Quarterly Financial Statements, December 31, 2024**

Motion #8787

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Quarterly Financial Statements as at December 31, 2024.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.1.3 Ministry 2024-2025 Amended Operating Grants**

Motion #8788

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Ministry of Education and Child Care 2024-2025 Amended Operating Grants as presented.

Carried  
All in Favour

#### 10.1.4 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS) (called the "Board") to adopt the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024-2025 pursuant to section 113 of the *School Act*, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

1. The Board has complied with the provisions of the *Act*, Ministerial Orders, and Ministry of Education and Child Care Policies respecting the Amended Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2024-2025.
3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$81,486,564 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the *Act*.
4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

Motion #8789

**THAT** the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw (Version: 8743-7997-6015) be read a first time the 26th day of February, 2025.

Carried  
All in Favour

Motion #8790

**THAT** the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw (Version: 8743-7997-6015) be read a second time the 26th day of February, 2025.

Carried  
All in Favour

*Unanimous consent was received and confirmed by Board Chair Warcup prior to proceeding to third reading of the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw.*

Motion #8791

**THAT** the 2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw (Version: 8743-7997-6015) be read a third time, passed and adopted, the 26th day of February, 2025.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.1.5 Ministry Data Collection Projected Enrolments – 2025-2026, 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 School Years**

Motion #8792

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Ministry Data Collection Projected Enrolments for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.1.6 Trustee Remuneration Annual Review – CMSD82 Policy 5095**

Motion #8793

**THAT** the Board approve an increase of 2.6% effective March 1, 2025 to include all Trustee remuneration based on the 2024 Annual B.C. Consumer Annual Price Index.

Carried  
In Favour 6 / Abstained 1 (Trustee Maxim)

**10.2 Education Committee Report (Trustee Karen Jonkman)**

**10.2.1 Education Committee Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2025**

Motion #8794

**THAT** the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held February 12, 2025 be received for information.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.2.2 Final Approval: Out-of-Province Field Trip Application, Caledonia Secondary School Music Tour, Toronto MusicFest Canada, May 14-19, 2025**

Motion #8795

**THAT** the Board approve the Caledonia Secondary School Out-of-Province Band and Choir Field Trip Application to MusicFest Canada held in Toronto, May 14-19, 2025 at no cost to the Board and subject to ensuring the safety of students and adhering to Federal and Provincial travel advisories, regulations and protocols through the travel dates.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.2.3 Board Approval in Principle – Caledonia Travel Club  
- Out-of-Country Field Trip, Portugal and Spain Tour, Spring Break 2027**

Motion #8796

**THAT** the Board approve in principle the Out-of-Country Field Trip to Portugal and Spain for Caledonia Secondary School's Travel Club to be held during Spring Break 2027.

Carried  
All in Favour

**10.2.4 Mid-Year Update – 2024-2025 School Improvement Plans**

Motion #8797

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Mid-Year Update for each school relating to their 2024-2025 School Improvement Plan as presented.

Carried  
In Favour 6 / Abstained 1 (Trustee Maxim)



### **10.2.5 Mid-Year Update – Strategic Plan 2022-2027**

Motion #8798

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Mid-Year Update for the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan and the Enhancing Student Learning Report review as presented.

Carried  
All in Favour

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to present.

## **12. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **12.1 Board Chair Report – February 2025**

Motion #8799

**THAT** the Board receive for information the Board Chair Report for February 2025.

Carried  
All in Favour

### **12.2 BCSTA Spring Provincial Council Meeting Report**

Motion #8800

**THAT** the Board receive for information the BCSTA Spring Provincial Council Meeting Report as presented at the February 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Carried  
All in Favour

### **12.3 Trustee Reports**

Trustee Maxim commented on the Minister of Education and Child Care's firing of the entire Victoria School Board in a dispute over a safety plan where the Board barred police from schools except in emergencies. Trustee Maxim further noted he will be updating his letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care into the behaviour of this Board.

Amendment: Trustee Maxim referenced the *School Act* section 8.5(3) a superintendent of schools for the school district, a designate of the superintendent or a trustee of the school district may attend any meeting of the district parents' advisory council. Trustee Maxim asked Board Chair Warcup if she would support this. Board Chair Warcup indicated Trustee Maxim's question did not pertain to the meeting agenda and was not relevant to the Regular Meeting of the Board.

### 13. QUESTION PERIOD

Frank Verde, a parent and MEMSS School PAC Chair, expressed his concern about the lack of inclusion for Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School students in extracurricular activities. He highlighted the success stories of other schools and questioned the Trustees and the Board on what actions will be taken to ensure MEMSS students can participate in activities like their peers. He emphasized the disappointment that students from Kitimat cannot travel to Terrace for basketball due to a non-existent policy and called for equitable opportunities for all students in the district.

Board Chair Warcup thanked Mr. Verde for his inquiry noting District staff will address his concerns and follow up with him.

Taria Roberge, a concerned parent of Parkside Secondary School, expressed worries about district administrators targeting students over attendance issues, particularly at Parkside Secondary School, an alternate education school. Ms. Roberge, whose Indigenous transgender child feels targeted, urged Trustees and Board members to address this harmful situation. As an advocate for marginalized and vulnerable students, Ms. Roberge emphasized the need for culturally safe and inclusive measures, ensuring students can voice concerns without facing repercussions. Ms. Roberge highlighted the emotional impact on her child, who is considering dropping out due to the principal's actions and called for equitable treatment and support for all students.

Board Chair Warcup thanked Ms. Roberge for raising her concerns noting District Staff will address her concerns and follow up with her. Board Chair Warcup further noted the school district is committed to inclusion, equity and diversity.

Bryana Jack, a parent on behalf of the Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School French Immersion students, expressed gratitude for the meeting being held in Hazelton. Unfortunately for parents-caregivers, who care deeply about this meeting, many were unable to attend the meeting as it wasn't a good day for their schedules. She emphasized the importance of the French Immersion Program in their community, noting its high graduation rates and low absenteeism compared to other programs. She highlighted the success of students in the French Immersion Program and called for more parent involvement to address absenteeism issues. Ms. Jack also requested future consultations to be scheduled at more convenient times, considering the busy schedules of parents, especially single working parents.

Ms. Jack stressed the need for a supportive system that allows all parents to participate and have a voice in the decision-making process.

Board Chair Warcup thanked Ms. Jack for her valued feedback which will be documented for the Hazelton French Immersion Consultation Meetings to be scheduled in the fall 2025.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

The next hybrid Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at Nechako Elementary School in Kitimat.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

  
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Board of Education Chair  
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Secretary Treasurer