Coast Mountains Board of Education School District 82

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT WERE:

Board Chair - M. Warcup
Vice Chair - K. Jonkman
- E. Harrison
- A. Maitland
- W. Jones
- M. Maxim

Superintendent of Schools - T. MacMillan
Secretary Treasurer - G. Fuller
Recording Secretary - L. Harder

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:

Director of Instruction, Inclusive Education - J. Nieckarz
Director of Instruction, Learning Services - P. Barron
Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education - D. Mortimer
Director of Facility Services - R. Schibli

Board Chair Warcup acknowledged with respect the school District's business being conducted on the unceded traditional territories of the Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a, and Ts'msyen Peoples. She further acknowledged that the meeting was being held in Terrace on the traditional territory of the Ts'msyen Peoples. The Board expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the children and families of these Nations and acknowledged the privilege of living and working on these lands.

Board Chair Warcup welcomed guests who joined the first Regular Board meeting of the 2026-2027 school year. The meeting was also livestreamed via Coast Mountains School District YouTube Channel. Trustees and District staff were introduced and Board Chair Warcup welcomed Coast Mountain Teachers' Federation (CMTF) Representative.

Board Chair Warcup welcomed students, staff and families to the new school year, with a special welcome to those joining Coast Mountains School District for the first time. She expressed appreciation to staff for preparing schools over the summer and supporting students and families during September startup.

Board Chair Warcup acknowledged and recognized the following observances and events taking place since the previous Regular Board Meeting:

- On September 25th a *District In-Service Day* was held, appreciation was expressed to the Indigenous Education Department and local Nations for organizing opportunities for shared learning and connection. She thanked those who welcomed staff and shared their knowledge, stories, experiences and teachings throughout the day.

- Honoured *Terry Fox Run* and his Marathon of Hope, acknowledging the participation of students and educators in Terry Fox Run activities. She recognized his courage and determination and the inspiration his example continues to provide to students to make a difference in their communities. She extended appreciation to students, staff, volunteers and families who supported these activities.

- September 30th is *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, honouring the children who never returned home from residential schools, survivors, their families and communities. She recognized the lasting impacts of the residential school system on Indigenous Peoples across generations.

- September 30th is *Orange Shirt Day*, recognizing the day as a movement that brings attention to the continuing impacts of residential schools and affirms that Every Child Matters. She noted that both observances invite us to remember, listen and deepen our understanding of this history and its lasting effects on Indigenous Peoples.

The following reminder was shared by Board Chair 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 Lindsay Harder, 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 5:00 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was declared.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion #8979

THAT the agenda for September 29, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board (Public) be approved as circulated.

Carried
All in Favour

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

4.1 Regular Meeting of the Board, June 17, 2026

Motion #8980

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held June 17, 2026, be approved.

Carried
All in Favour

5. RECEIPT OF RECORDS OF IN CAMERA MEETING

5.1 Summary of In Camera Meeting, June 17, 2026

Motion #8981

THAT the Summary of the In Camera Meeting of the Board held June 17, 2026, be approved.

Carried
All in Favour

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Truth and Reconciliation in Canada: Donna Mortimer, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education

Donna Mortimer, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education, introduced three short videos featuring Phyllis Webstad in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day:

- Phyllis Webstad Introduction: Phyllis introduced herself as a residential school Survivor, an intergenerational Survivor and a founding member of Orange Shirt Day.
- Phyllis Webstad Reads Phyllis's Orange Shirt: Phyllis shared her story through a reading of her book, recounting her experience of having her orange shirt taken away when she arrived at residential school and reinforcing the message that Every Child Matters.
- Purpose of Orange Shirt Day: Phyllis explained the importance of continuing conversations about residential schools, listening to Survivors with an open mind and heart, and remembering their experiences.

Director Mortimer invited participants to reflect on the connection between Every Child Matters and caring, respectful relationships in education, where students feel known, valued and connected, and their identities, languages and cultures are respected. She emphasized reconciliation as an ongoing responsibility through listening to Survivors, learning alongside local Nations and strengthening relationships with students, families and communities.

Board Chair Warcup thanked Director Mortimer for the presentation and reflected on the importance of storytelling.

Received
(No motion required)

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Minister of Education and Child Care – SOGI 123 and Safe, Inclusive Schools

Board Chair Warcup summarized correspondence dated July 22, 2026, from Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare. The letter advised that funding to the ARC Foundation, which developed SOGI 123 in collaboration with education partners, would not continue in the 2026–2027 fiscal year. Existing SOGI 123 resources would remain available for optional use by schools and educators. The Minister reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments for all students and staff.

Received
(No motion required)

8. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' MONTHLY REPORT – September 2026

THAT the Superintendent of Schools' Monthly Report to the Regular Board Meeting of September 29, 2026, be received as presented.

Received
(No motion required)

9. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT – September 2026

THAT the Board receive for information the Indigenous Education Report for September 2026 presented by Superintendent MacMillan.

Received
(No motion required)

10. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL (IEC) – Updates for September 2026

Superintendent MacMillan read the September 29, 2026, written update on behalf of IEC Chair Jericho Collison, who sent regrets. The Council reported that a Secretariat had been engaged to support coordination and ongoing engagement, and that its next meeting was planned for October.

Received
(No motion required)

11. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 **Business Committee Report** (Trustee Harrison)

11.1.1 Business Committee Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2026

THAT the minutes of the Business Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2026, be received for information.

Received
(No motion required)

11.1.2 Draft 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements

The external auditor, Steve Kietzmann, presented a verbal report on the audit of the District's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026. He reviewed the operating, capital and special purpose funds, described the District's financial position as healthy, and advised that the audit firm, Doane Grant Thornton LLP, was in a position to express an unqualified opinion. He also explained the reporting framework used by British Columbia school districts.

The auditor and Chair thanked Secretary Treasurer Fuller and the Finance team for their work in completing the audit and supporting the Board's review.

Motion #8982

THAT the Board approves the 2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements and Notes (Version: 6003-5258-3275).

Carried
Opposed: Trustee M. Maxium *(recorded at his request)*

11.1.3 2025-2026 Indigenous Education Targeted Fund Carry Forward

Trustee Harrison presented the proposed carry forward of unspent Indigenous Education targeted funds and advised that a letter would be provided to the Indigenous Education Council to inform them of the surplus carry forward.

Secretary Treasurer Fuller corrected the funding allocation and clarified that the carry-forward amount was $1,282,537. Trustee Harrison accepted the correction to his motion before the vote.

Motion #8983

THAT the Board approves the carry forward of $1,282,537.00 in surplus Indigenous Education Targeted Funds to the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Carried
Opposed: Trustee M. Maxim *(recorded at his request)*

11.1.4 Draft 2025-2026 School Year Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report

Trustee Harrison presented the report, which summarizes significant events, financial activities and factors affecting the District's financial statements. Secretary Treasurer Fuller encouraged readers to use the report to assist in understanding the financial statements and schedules.

Motion #8984

THAT the Board approves the Draft 2025-2026 School Year Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report.

Carried
Opposed: Trustee M. Maxim *(recorded at his request)*

11.2 Education Committee Report (Trustee Karen Jonkman)

11.2.1 Education Committee Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2026

THAT the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2026, be received for information.

Received
(No motion required)

11.2.2 Enhanced Student Learning (ESL) – 2026 Interim Progress Report

Superintendent MacMillan outlined the 2026 Interim Progress Report, previously presented to the Education Committee on September 16, 2026. The report reviews student learning outcomes and identifies areas for growth and planned actions in literacy, numeracy, student well-being, graduation and post-secondary transitions. It was presented for Board approval prior to submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Board Chair Warcup acknowledged the work undertaken to establish the goals and the commitment to supporting students. Trustees were invited to ask questions; none were raised.

Motion #8985

THAT the Board approves the Enhanced Student Learning (ESL) – 2026 Interim Progress Report for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Carried
Opposed: Trustee Maxim *(Board Chair Warcup directed vote be recorded)*

11.2.3 Final Approval: Out-of-Country Field Trips for Caledonia Secondary & Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School *(This item was brought forward and considered immediately following Agenda Item 10)*

Trustee Jonkman presented the requests for final approval of the Caledonia Secondary School trip to Portugal and Spain and the Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School trip to the Alps and Mediterranean Coast during Spring Break in March 2027. Both trips had previously received approval in principle and were presented ahead of the 120-day pre-departure timeline. The travel plans outlined the proposed itineraries, with exact flight and accommodation details to be confirmed and provided to the District closer to departure.

Patsy Chant, Travel Group Leader, for Caledonia Secondary School, provided an update on the trip, noting that 37 students were currently registered. A recruitment meeting would be held that evening to offer the five remaining spaces to eligible students. She also outlined the chaperone arrangements, advising that six chaperones were in place and noting a ratio of one chaperone for every six students. No questions were raised.

Janelle Hittel, Principal, and Lissa Waite, Travel Group Leader, representing Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, were available to answer questions regarding their school's trip, as outlined in the written travel proposal included in the Board package.

Motion #8986

THAT the Board grant final approval for the Caledonia Secondary School and Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School out-of-country field trips during Spring Break 2027, as outlined in the attached travel plans, at no cost to the Board and subject to ensuring student safety and adhering to applicable federal and provincial travel advisories, regulations, and protocols.

Carried
All voting Trustees were in favour. Trustee Maxim did not vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1. 2026-2027 Annual Board Work Plan

Board Chair Warcup presented the Annual Board Work Plan as a guide to the Board's priorities and activities for the coming school year and noted that it may be updated as circumstances change.

Motion # 8987

THAT the Board approve the 2026-2027 Annual Board Work Plan as presented.

Carried
All in Favour

13. TRUSTEE REPORTS

13.1 Board Chair Report – September 2026

Added Item: Superintendent MacMillan's Self-Initiated Performance Review

Board Chair Warcup introduced the item concerning Superintendent MacMillan's self-initiated performance review, added during approval of the agenda. She spoke positively about the review and the Superintendent's commitment to continued learning and improvement.

Motion # 8987

THAT at the In Camera meeting, the Board accepted Superintendent Tracey MacMillan's self-initiated performance review as presented. The Board appreciated the review's thoughtfulness, self-reflective approach and clear connection to the District Strategic Plan. We thank and commend Tracey's commitment to professional growth and continuous improvement. We encourage the sharing of the report's graphics as a way to highlight this positive work from her leadership and its alignment with the District's priorities.

Carried
Opposed: Trustee M. Maxim (recorded at his request).

Board Chair Warcup thanked Superintendent MacMillan for the review and her leadership.

13.2 Trustee Reports

Board Chair Warcup invited Trustees to provide reports.

Trustee Harrison reflected on attending the June feast at Skeena Middle School with the Grade 9 students. He noted that he was impressed with the students and the respect they demonstrated, both for Indigenous Peoples and for their own participation. He described the feast as a terrific event that was very well organized.

Trustee Jonkman reflected on the District In-Service Day at Kitamaat Village (Haisla), describing it as an excellent day. She noted that she learned a great deal about Haisla culture and how the feast works through conversations with Elders throughout the day.

Trustee Jonkman also advised that a forum for Kitimat Trustee Candidates would be held at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School on October 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Received
(No motion required)

14. QUESTION PERIOD

Board Chair Warcup invited questions pertaining to the agenda. No questions were received.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next hybrid Regular Board of Education Meeting will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Board of Education Chair

Secretary Treasurer