

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 3

Thursday, March 7, 2024

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Shane Brien Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:18 a.m. Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Sarra Storey Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe
	Director Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers
	Alternate Directors	Frank Wray, Town of Smithers – via Zoom
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via Zoom Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator – via Zoom - arrived at 11:01 Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – arrived at 10:56 a.m. Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 11:03 a.m. Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:18 a.m. Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent, School District 54 Bulkley- Valley – left at 10:45 a.m.
	Media	Saddman Zaman, LD News

CALL TO ORDER Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2024-3-1

"That the Board Meeting Agenda of March 7, 2024 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes
-February 22, 2024

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brien

2024-3-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54 BULKLEY-VALLEY – Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent Re: Update

Chair Parker welcomed Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent, School District 54 Bulkley-Valley.

Superintendent McDiarmid provided a PowerPoint Presentation

- SD#54 at a glance
- The best way to get to know us is to talk about our plans and priorities
- SD#54 priority areas, goals, environmental responsibilities
- What data/metrics are monitored?
- Learning priorities
- Student academic indicators compared to provincial norms
- Student wellness/emotional health indicators
- Expanded food programs to support students
- Excellent instruction/student support and new programming
- Indigenous education priorities
 - o Goal: Increase indigenous culture and the presence of Witsuwit'en language
- Choice and flexibility priorities
- Operational priorities.

The following was discussed:

- Superintendent McDiarmid thanked the Regional District for its support with the raising of the Reconciliation Pole at Walnut Park Elementary School in 2023
- Trades Day in Houston
 - o Converted the auto shop at the Houston Secondary School to provide trade space for post-secondary and industry partners to provide training opportunities
 - o Currently providing pipefitting and welding training
- In the past Kemess Mine and Northern Thunderbird Air would provide a tour of the Kemess Mine operations for students

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54 BULKLEY-VALLEY – Mike McDiarmid, Superintendent Re: Update (Cont'd)

- Student mental health from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - o Focus and monitoring
 - o Lessons learned
 - Need for more counselors if a similar event occurs
 - o Staffing is a key issue in every job category but especially in councilor job positions
- Busing
 - o Challenges hiring
 - o Set pay scale
 - o Prioritize SD#54 student ridership
 - o If space is available provide ridership to private schools
- Alternate Director Wray thanked SD#54 for the cooperation between the Town of Smithers and SD#54 and looks forward to future collaboration
- Use of cell phones in classrooms
 - o Schools have rules in place they may implement
 - o Providing learning opportunities for management of cell phones and expectation that management techniques are utilized
- Social media impacts to student mental wellness
 - o No internal data
 - o Provide programs regarding online safety and the dangers of online behaviour
- Enrollment is currently stable
 - o SD#54 has made difficult decisions to close schools and sell properties in the past
 - o Have remodeled schools utilizing grant funding and included daycare space to better utilize school space to accommodate changing enrollment numbers
- SD#54 places a high priority on partnering with other agencies to provide programs to students and the community
- Current initiative to building a covered turf and are investigating partnership opportunities to complete the project.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. McDiarmid for attending the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Secondary Suite Incentive Program

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

2024-3-3

“That the Board direct staff to inform the North Coast Regional District (NCRD) that the RDBN wishes to be a signatory to the proposed March 22, 2024 letter drafted by the NCRD.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

North Central Local
Government Association
(NCLGA) Resolutions

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Brienen

2024-3-4

“That the Board approve the following resolutions for submission to NCLGA:
1. Healthcare Worker Shortage – Reducing Barriers to Training
2. Search and Rescue – Capability Approval Process
3. Industry Shutdown – Timber Rights
4. Housing Support in Northern and Small Communities
5. Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Five Year Financial Plan
Bylaw 2036 for 3rd Reading

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Dekens

2024-3-5

“That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2036, 2024 be given third reading this 7th day of March, 2024.”

(All/Weighted/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Organics Diversion Pilot
-Grant to Village of Burns Lake

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Wiebe

2024-3-6

“That the Board receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Organics Diversion Pilot – Grant to Village of Burns Lake memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding funding for climate action initiatives.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Housing
Parliamentary Secretary
for Rural and Regional
Development – 2023 UBCM
Follow-up

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Elphee

2024-3-7

“That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Housing Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development regarding 2023 UBCM Follow-up.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Union of BC Municipalities
Community Emergency
Preparedness Fund
-Emergency Operations
Centre Application

Moved by Director Moutray
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-3-8

“That the Board supports the submission of an application to the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Operations Centre for the 2024 funding stream.

Further, the Board authorizes staff and understands that if the grant is approved, the RDBN will receive and manage all grant funding, and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

City of Campbell River:
Delegation Re: Health Care
Worker Shortage

Director Lambert shared that he provided the City of Campbell River’s Delegation regarding Health Care Worker Shortage. Director Newell mentioned that he has recently spoken with a medical professional regarding the impacts from the vaccine mandate and health care worker shortage.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Pitt Meadows UBCM
Resolutions Re: Proposed
Farmland Taxation

Director Moon brought forward for awareness Pitt Meadows UBCM Resolutions calling on the Province:

- to create an unfarmed land tax that would be applied to any property within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) this is not being utilized for farming purposes
- to remove the eligibility for vacant or unused farmland to receive the school tax exemption
- to change the minimum gross income required in order for a property to receive farm classification and receive the corresponding tax benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Lambert

2024-3-9

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:13 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services