



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

**Regular Board Meeting Held in Public**

**(Live streamed; attendees may be recorded)**

**AGENDA**

**January 27, 2026**

**5:30 pm**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER – School District Office**

1.1. Call to Order

(Welcome, Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory and Diversity Statement)

1.2. Adoption of the Agenda

(THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.)

1.3. Approval of the Minutes

(THAT the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Special Regular Meeting and December 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be approved as circulated.)

**2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

2.1. Audit Working Committee Report

2.2. Budget Advisory Committee Report

2.3. Education Policy Advisory Committee Report

2.4. Trustee Written Reports

2.5. BCSTA Report

2.6. Indigenous Education Council Report

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AGENDA**

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

4.1. Formal Consultation Process on Facilities and Enrollment

4.2. Policy Amendments – 200 & 300 Series Barrier Scan

4.3. BCSTA AGM Motion

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AGENDA**

**6. MEETING SUMMARIES**

**7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

8.1. Next Board of Education Meeting: February 17, 2026 at 5:30pm



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING**

**The Board of Education  
School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025

**Location:** School District Office

<b>Members Present:</b>	Chair	David Swankey
	Vice Chair	Margaret Reid
	Trustee	Carin Bondar
	Trustee	Richard Procee
	Trustee	Willow Reichelt
	Trustee	Laurie Throness
	Trustee	Teri Westerby

<b>Staff Present:</b>	Superintendent	Rohan Arul-pragasam
	Secretary Treasurer	Simone Sangster
	Assistant Superintendent	Paula Jordan
	Assistant Superintendent	Kirk Savage
	Assistant Superintendent	David Manuel
	Executive Assistant	Talana McInally

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**1. CALL TO ORDER - School District Office**

**Call To Order**

Secretary Treasurer Simone Sangster called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and opened the meeting with a welcome and acknowledgment of Traditional Territory.

**1.1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**145.25** Moved by: Trustee Reichelt  
Seconded by: Trustee Swankey

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**2. ACTION ITEMS**

**2.1. Election of Board Chair**

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Trustee Swankey was nominated by Trustee Bondar for the position of Board Chair.

Trustee Swankey accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Swankey was acclaimed as Board Chair.

**2.2. Election of Board Vice Chair**

Board Chair Swankey called for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair.

Trustee Reid was nominated by Trustee Reichelt for the position of Board Vice Chair.

Trustee Bondar was nominated by Trustee Westerby for the position of Board Vice Chair.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Bondar declined the nomination, Trustee Reid accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

**2.3. Election of BCPSEA Representative and Alternate**

Board Chair Swankey called for nominations for the positions of BCPSEA Representative and Alternate.

Trustee Bondar was nominated by Trustee Westerby for the position of BCPSEA Representative.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Bondar accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as BCPSEA Representative.

Trustee Westerby was nominated by Trustee Reichelt for the position of BCPSEA Representative Alternate.

Trustee Throness was nominated by Trustee Bondar for the position of BCPSEA Representative Alternate.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Throness declined the nomination, Trustee Westerby accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as BCPSEA Representative Alternate.

**2.4. Election of BCSTA Provincial Councilor and Alternate**

Board Chair Swankey called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor and Alternate.

Trustee Throness was nominated by Trustee Procee for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

Trustee Reid was nominated by Trustee Reichelt for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Throness declined the nomination, Trustee Reid accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

Trustee Throness was nominated by Trustee Procee for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate.

Trustee Procee was nominated by Trustee Throness for the position of BCSTA Provincial Councilor Alternate.

There were no further nominations.

Trustee Procee declined the nomination, Trustee Throness accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Councilor.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Secretary Treasurer



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
The Board of Education  
School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025

**Location:** School District Office

<b>Members Present:</b>	Chair	David Swankey
	Vice Chair	Margaret Reid
	Trustee	Carin Bondar
	Trustee	Richard Procee
	Trustee	Willow Reichelt
	Trustee	Laurie Throness
	Trustee	Teri Westerby

<b>Staff Present:</b>	Superintendent	Rohan Arul-pragasam
	Secretary Treasurer	Simone Sangster
	Assistant Superintendent	Paula Jordan
	Assistant Superintendent	Kirk Savage
	Assistant Superintendent	David Manuel
	Executive Assistant	Talana McInally

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome, an acknowledgment of Traditional Territory, and the Board's Diversity Statement.

**1.2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**146.25** Moved by: Trustee Bondar  
Seconded by: Trustee Reichelt

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**NO VOTE**

**147.25** Moved by: Trustee Swankey  
Seconded by: Trustee Westerby

THAT the agenda be amended to move item 5.1 Policy Amendments to follow the BAA Course related items in 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.

**CARRIED**

**148.25** Moved by: Trustee Swankey  
Seconded by: Trustee Reichelt

THAT the agenda be amended to remove item 8.0 Superintendent's Update.

**CARRIED**

**149.25** Moved by: Trustee Bondar  
Seconded by: Trustee Reichelt

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

### **1.3. Approval of the Minutes**

**150.25** Moved by: Trustee Westerby  
Seconded by: Trustee Throness

THAT the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and November 20, 2025 Special Regular Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **2. PRESENTATION ITEM**

### **2.1. Strategic Plan Update: School Progress Checkpoint**

The senior leadership team provided an update on the Strategic Plan. Three schools presented evidence of progress at this meeting: Strathcona Elementary, Chilliwack Middle School, and Yarrow Elementary. Additional school presentations will occur in March and June, with a total of nine throughout the year. District level updates will continue through Board Learning Sessions, which are documented on the District website.

Meeting Recessed at 6:39 pm

Meeting called back to order at 6:44 pm

## **3. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **3.1. Education Policy Advisory Committee Report**

Trustee Reichelt provided the Education Policy Advisory Committee report, outlining the policy reviews and recommended amendments arising from the barrier scan.

### **3.2. Trustee Written Reports**

Trustees submitted written reports listing key activities they've attended since the last public board meeting as well as upcoming events.

### **3.3. BCSTA Report**

Trustee Reid provided an update on matters related to the BCSTA.

### **3.4. Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Update**

The Board received an update from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC).

## **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AGENDA**

- No comments or questions were received.

## **5. ACTION ITEMS**

*Note: Action Items were considered in the following order per the amended agenda: 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.1.*

### **5.1. Policy Amendments – 200 & 300 Series Barrier Scan**

**154.25** Moved by: Trustee Reichelt  
Seconded by: Trustee Westerby

Trustee Reid acknowledged their conflict of interest and recused themselves from discussion and voting on this item.

THAT the Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 371 – French Immersion, in alignment with the District's barrier scan process and Board Policy 161.

**CARRIED**

**155.25** Moved by: Trustee Reichelt  
Seconded by: Trustee Westerby

THAT the Board of Education approve the amendments to Policies 373 – Student Field Experiences, 314 – Student Substance Use, 315 – Weapons, and 320 – School Admission and Placement, as recommended by the Education Policy Advisory Committee, in alignment with the District's barrier scan process and Board Policy 161.

**CARRIED**

### **5.2. Board Authority/ Authorized (BAA) Course Reaffirmations**

**151.25** Moved by: Trustee Westerby  
Seconded by: Trustee Bondar

THAT the Board of Education reaffirm the following BAA Courses:

- Instrumental Survey 12
- Guided Learning 12

**CARRIED**

### **5.3. Board Authority/ Authorized (BAA) Course Proposal**

**152.25** Moved by: Trustee Westerby  
Seconded by: Trustee Reichelt

THAT the Board of Education approve the Board/Authority Authorized Course:  
Technology Explorations 11A and 11B.

**CARRIED**

**5.4. Board Authority/ Authorized (BAA) Course Proposal**

**153.25** Moved by: Trustee Westerby  
Seconded by: Trustee Bondar

THAT the Board of Education approve the Board/Authority Authorized Course: Lá:lém  
Siyá:m (House of Leaders) 10.

**CARRIED**

Meeting recessed at 8:00 pm  
Meeting called back to order at 8:06 pm

**5. MEETING SUMMARIES**

Meeting summaries were provided listing In-Camera items since the last Regular Public Board Meeting.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

- No comments or questions were received.

**7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Note: this item was removed per the amended agenda.*

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**8.3. Next Board of Education Meeting Date**

**Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026  
5:30 p.m.  
School District Office**

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Board Chair

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Secretary Treasurer

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** David Swankey, Audit Working Committee Chair

**RE:** **AUDIT WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Trustee Swankey will provide an update on the Audit Working Committee meeting held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Margaret Reid, Committee Chair

**RE:** **BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT**

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I present some amendments to the committee's timeline and milestones for the 2025-26 school year, as they were published in the board report to the November 18, 2025 meeting. The amended budget will be presented to the committee on February 12. The presentation of the amended budget will provide updated information on the district's financial results as of December (see policy 162, paragraph 2.1) and therefore we will not review a December quarterly report this year. The amended budget will then be presented at the board's February board meeting.

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Willow Reichelt, Chair of the Education Policy Advisory Committee

**RE:** **EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

As directed by the Board on September 23, 2025, the District has initiated a barrier scan of all Education Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) policies (Sections 200 and 300 of the Policy Manual), in alignment with Board Policy 161. This review ensures that policies are accessible, inclusive, and aligned with equity principles, Truth and Reconciliation, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

#### **UPDATE:**

At its meeting on December 24, 2025, the EPAC reviewed policies as part of the barrier scan process and recommended amendments to **Policies 290 – Educational Heritage, 340 – School Fees And Financial Hardship, 372 – Career Programs** to enhance clarity, align with Ministry requirements, and improve accessibility for all users.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

The recommended amendments have been incorporated into the policies and are presented to the Board for approval under Decision Items.

# Minutes



## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Held December 15, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

<b>Attendance:</b>	Willow Reichelt Richard Procee Ryan Pastorchik Iain Gardner Sarabpreet Riar Katie Bartel Jessica Clarke Madilyn Marchesi Abbi McClements	Trustee Trustee CPVPA CPVPA CTA DPAC DPAC Student, Imagine High Student, Chilliwack Secondary
<b>Staff:</b>	Rohan Arul-pragasmam Lisa Champagne	Superintendent Executive Assistant
<b>Regrets:</b>	Teri Westerby Donna Dove Loren Muth April Mancinelli Aggie Malecki	Trustee MGMT-Leaders Indigenous Education Council CUPE CUPE
<b>Absent:</b>	Reid Clark Humna Mukhtar	CTA Student, GW Graham Secondary

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Reichelt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Katie Bartel  
Seconded by: Sarabpreet Riar

THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### NEW BUSINESS

### 3. POLICY 290 EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE

The committee reviewed this revised policy and suggested changes.

# Minutes



Moved by: Madilyn Marchesi  
Seconded by: Jessica Clarke

THAT REVISED Policy 290 – Educational Heritage be referred to the Board of Education for approval.

**CARRIED**

## **4. POLICY 340 SCHOOL FEES AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**

The committee reviewed this revised policy and suggested changes.

Moved by: Madilyn Marchesi  
Seconded by: Iain Gardner

THAT REVISED Policy 340 – School Fees and Financial Hardship be referred to the Board of Education for approval.

**CARRIED**

## **5. POLICY 372 CAREER PROGRAMS**

The committee reviewed this revised policy and suggested changes.

Moved by: Katie Bartel  
Seconded by: Madilyn Marchesi

THAT REVISED Policy 372 – Career Programs be referred to the Board of Education for approval.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT 6:46 p.m.**

# TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee: David Swankey

Report Date: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

*List of key dates/activities related to the Trustee role, including school visits and school initiatives/events, committee attendance, conference attendance, etc.*

- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – Met with Qualicum School District Board Chair
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Visited KSS South Campus for classroom presentation and discussion
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Attended Chilliwack DPAC for their regular business mtg
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Attended Central Elementary's Annual Santa's Pancake Breakfast
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Joined members of the board for meeting with MLA Warbus
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Mémiyelhtel Annual Holiday Dinner
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Attended BCSTA Board Mtg
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - Participated in Board Learning
  - <https://sd33.bc.ca/board-strategic-learning-sessions-2025-2026>
- Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – Attended district hosted facilities and enrollment discussion at Leary Elementary
- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Attended BCSTA Board Mtg
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – Met with FV Branch Nominations Committee to support preparations for BCSTA Branch AGM
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> - Participated in Board Learning
  - <https://sd33.bc.ca/board-strategic-learning-sessions-2025-2026>
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Chaired BCSTA Finance & Audit Committee Mtg to approve draft budget for consideration by PC
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Chaired District Audit Working Committee Mtg
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Chaired Special In-Camera Mtg of the Board
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Attended Civic Engagement Forum at District 1881
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Attended BCSTA Metro Branch Mtg
- Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Participated in BCSTA hosted Board Chairs Call
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Participated in BCPSEA hosted Board Chairs Call
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Met with BCSTA Board Liaison to FV Branch
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Participated in BCSTA FV Branch AGM
  - Congratulations to Trustee Reid serving as Branch president and to the incoming Branch Executive

The Chair/Vice Chair Committee met on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE BOARD

- April 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2026 – BCSTA AGM
- July 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Deeper Learning Canada
  - <https://deeperlearningcanada2026.sched.com/>
- July 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2026 – CSBA National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education
  - <https://bcsta.org/csba-gathering-2026/>

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Margaret Reid, BCSTA Representative

**RE:** **BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION (BCSTA) UPDATE**

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Margaret Reid will provide an update on BCSTA matters.

## INFORMATION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** David Manuel, Assistant Superintendent

**RE:** **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL UPDATE**

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#### **IEC Meeting Summary**

Assistant Superintendent David Manuel will provide a meeting summary of the January 13<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting.

#### **Discussion items included:**

- Targeted IEC Capacity Funding
- NITEP Field Center
- Enhancement Agreement Goals
- Indigenous Awards Ceremony
- Steqoy:e and Longhouse Extension Program

#### **Presentations were provided on the following topics:**

- Chilliwack Foundry Development (Sue Davis, Foundry Development Coordinator)
- Feeding Futures Program (Rosanne James, Feeding Futures Coordinator)

**Next Meeting:** Regular IEC meeting is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>

## DECISION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Rohan Arul-pragasam, Superintendent

**RE:** **FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS ON FACILITIES AND ENROLLMENT**

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#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT the Board of Education approve initiating a formal public consultation process for the Enrollment and Facilities Review Draft Proposal, in accordance with Policy 660, with engagement opportunities and timelines as outlined in this report.

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's permission to begin a formal public consultation period on the District's Enrollment and Facilities Review Draft Proposal. This is not a decision on a final plan. It is a request to consult, so students, families, staff, and community members have meaningful opportunities to provide feedback on the draft proposal before the Board makes any decisions.

#### **BACKGROUND AND DUE DILIGENCE TO DATE:**

This work began as a Boundary Review and evolved into an Enrollment and Facilities Review because the challenge we are addressing is broader than boundary lines alone. Chilliwack includes many mature neighbourhoods and multiple schools within a relatively small geographic area. In that context, small boundary adjustments often shift pressure from one school to another without creating long-term stability. That is why this review focuses on system levers that create lasting coherence, including: feeder school relationships that support stable pathways for students, grade configuration and transitions that reduce disruption, and district program placement and configuration, including consideration of how programs affect enrolment patterns and capacity.

Since January 2025, staff have undertaken extensive preliminary engagement to ensure early community input was heard before seeking permission to begin formal consultation on the Enrollment and Facilities Review Draft Proposal. This preliminary work included 36 meetings with 583 participants, along with strong online engagement and transparent documentation to support informed dialogue. In addition, the What We Heard Report was downloaded 416 times, the Q and A documents were downloaded 685 times, the Let's Talk platform received approximately 2.2K visits, staff responded to 201 questions, and the District received 365 comments.

This early engagement also confirmed that proposed changes could directly impact students, families, and staff across 14 school communities, and it helped surface consistent themes that the Board can expect to hear again during formal consultation. These include access and resources (including transportation and childcare considerations), impact on students and school culture, long-term planning and stability, transitions and well-being, grade configurations, and communication and transparency.

This early work matters. It demonstrates due diligence, provides the Board with a strong foundation of community themes, and ensures that formal consultation begins from an informed place, with clear evidence of what we have already heard and the questions families still need answered.

Guided by the principle of Tómiyeqw, we have approached this work with care and responsibility, recognizing that changes to school attendance or facility planning are deeply personal for families and communities.

## **EVIDENCE OF LISTENING AND ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:**

Throughout the preliminary period, we have adjusted our thinking based on what we heard. Families and Communities consistently asked for:

- student stability and fewer transitions where possible
- clearer and earlier communication
- long-term planning that feels durable, not temporary
- attention to transportation realities and daily family logistics
- confidence that the Board will listen and make decisions after hearing from the public

In particular, staff have adjusted planning considerations related to Promontory and Yarrow more than once in response to the feedback received. This matters because it demonstrates that community input has already influenced the direction of the work, even before formal consultation begins.

## **WHY ARE WE HERE NOW:**

We are now at the point where staff are requesting that the Board authorize a formal consultation period so that:

1. the community can respond to a clearly articulated draft proposal, supported by full background information
2. Trustees can hear directly from families, staff, students, and community members through structured and accessible engagement opportunities
3. any eventual Board decision can be made after a process that meets the intent of Policy 660, including adequate time and opportunity for input

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION APPROACH:**

To support a respectful, informed consultation process, staff have developed a Community Engagement and Information Plan that is designed to:

- help the public understand the draft proposal and the rationale behind it
- clarify what is and is not being decided on January 27
- provide multiple ways for families and community members to participate
- reduce misinformation through consistent, timely information and clear Q and A supports

The approach includes plain language communication, translation where appropriate, varied formats, and multiple channels such as District and school websites, School Messenger, newsletters, and the Let's Talk platform. Engagement opportunities include open houses, online sessions, a public survey, and ongoing written submissions.

## **ROLES DURING CONSULTATION:**

A successful consultation process requires role clarity.

Trustees will

- listen and consider community feedback
- remain anchored in governance and decision-making responsibilities
- help direct the public to accurate District information and participation opportunities

Staff will

- respond to operational and technical questions
- provide consistent Q and A supports
- organize and facilitate engagement events
- monitor and correct misinformation through District communications channels

This shared clarity will help protect the integrity of the consultation process and ensure families experience a consistent message across all engagement opportunities.

## **CLARITY FOR FAMILIES PRIOR TO THE JANUARY 27 BOARD MEETING:**

We recognized that the January 27 public Board meeting will likely be emotional for many families. People will naturally arrive from the perspective of “what does this mean for my child and my family,” and that is understandable. As a District, our responsibility is to ensure families have accurate information about what is being asked of the Board on January 27.

District staff have already taken steps during the week of January 19 to proactively communicate with parents, guardians, and caregivers in the school communities that participated in the preliminary conversations. This initial outreach was intentionally focused on those school communities to avoid creating unnecessary confusion or anxiety for families who have not yet been part of the early discussions.

Our Engagement Communications and Readiness Plan outlines this sequence of work, including publishing updated materials, ensuring administrators have the information and supports they need, sharing consistent messaging with staff and the identified school communities, and then posting materials publicly through District channels. The plan also includes a deliberate approach from January 23 to January 27 to monitor for misinformation and quickly clarify misunderstandings about what is, and is not, being approved on January 27.

The key message we will continue to reinforce is:

- January 27 is a decision to consult, not a decision on a final plan.
- The public will be reviewing a draft proposal.
- If the Board approves consultation, families will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback through Let's Talk, a public survey, online sessions, open houses, and written submissions.
- Trustees will listen throughout the consultation period, and community input may result in changes to all or parts of the draft proposal before any final decision is made. The Board will make its

decision only after consultation closes and staff bring forward a final report summarizing what was heard.

### **CONSULTATION AND DECISION TIMELINE:**

The following timeline reflects the proposed engagement sequence for the North and South Side Enrollment and Facilities Review:

- Decision to Consult: January 27, 2026
- Let's Talk Launch: January 27, 2026
- Staff Online Session: February 2, 2026
- Survey: February 17 to March 10, 2026
- Student Engagement: February 18, 2026
- North Side Online Session: February 24, 2026
- South Side Online Session: February 25, 2026
- North Side Open House: March 3, 2026
- South Side Open House: March 5, 2026
- Consultation Closes: April 10, 2026
- Reviewing Data: March to May 2026
- Board Meetings for Consideration of Final Direction: May 19, 2026 and June 16, 2026

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-THROUGH**

Staff will evaluate the engagement process using both quantitative and qualitative measures, including participation levels, themes, and indicators of understanding and trust. Staff will also provide a clear feedback loop to the public, including a summary of what was heard and how it influenced recommendations that return to the Board for consideration.

### **SUMMARY**

Staff are seeking the Board's permission to consult on the Enrollment and Facilities Review Draft Proposal. We have completed extensive preliminary engagement, adjusted our thinking based on what we heard, and developed a Community Engagement and Information Plan designed to support respectful, informed participation through multiple engagement methods. If the Board approves the recommendation on January 27, the next phase will be formal consultation, after which staff will return with a summary of what was heard and any recommended refinements for the Board's consideration.

## DECISION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Rohan Arul-pragasam, Superintendent

**RE:** **POLICY AMENDMENTS – 200 & 300 SERIES BARRIER SCAN**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Board of Education approve the amendments to **Policies 290 – Educational Heritage, 340 – School Fees And Financial Hardship, 372 – Career Programs**, as recommended by the Education Policy Advisory Committee, in alignment with the District's barrier scan process and Board Policy 161.

#### **RATIONALE:**

These amendments are part of the Board's commitment to ensuring all policies are clear, accessible, and equitable. They reflect feedback from the EPAC Committee, align with current legislation and Ministry standards, and support the goals of the District's Accessibility Plan.

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

## Policy Manual

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## POLICY 290 EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE

### **Purpose**

The Board of Education (the “Board”) knows that public schools are an important part of our community’s history. The Board supports keeping and protecting items and records that show the history of the Chilliwack School District (the “District”).

### **Guidelines**

#### **Collecting and Protecting Historical Items**

- The District will encourage staff to:
  - Gather important records,
  - Restore and protect textbooks and classroom items,
  - Save any item that shows the history of education since 1870.

#### **Checking items before disposal**

- Before the District sells, auctions, or throws away an item, staff must check whether it has heritage value.

#### **Working with the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society**

- The District will support the work of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society.
- The curator for the Chilliwack Museum and Archives will decide if an item should be added to the Museum’s collection.

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

## Policy Manual



## POLICY 290 EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE

### Purpose

The Board of Education (the “Board”) knows that ~~recognizes the significant role that~~ public schools ~~are an important part of our community’s history, have played and will continue to play in the culture and history of our community.~~ The Board supports ~~keeping and protecting items and records that show the history of the retention and preservation of educational artifacts and archival records that document the historical heritage of schooling within the district~~ Chilliwack School District (the “District”).

### Guidelines

#### Collecting and Protecting Historical Items

- The district District will encourage staff to:
  - Gather important records,
  - Restore and protect textbooks and classroom items,
  - the compilation, collection, restoration and preservation of significant records, major reports, textbooks, school and classroom furnishings and objects, and Save any other item that has relevance to shows the history of education in this region since public schools were established in since 1870.

#### Checking items before disposal

- Before the District sellsItems for resale, auctions, or other disposalthrows away an item, staff must check whether it has are to be screened for heritage value.

#### Working with the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society

- The district District will support the mission work of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society.
- in maintaining the educational heritage of the area. The curator for the Chilliwack Museum and Archives will decide if an item should be added to the Museum’s collectionjudge the value of items for inclusion

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Related Legislation:

Related Contract Article: Nil

Adopted: October 26, 1999

Amended: December 8, 2015; February 8, 2022

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

## Policy Manual

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## POLICY 340 SCHOOL FEES AND FINANCIAL HARSHSHIP

### Purpose

The Board of Education (the “Board”) offers many types of learning opportunities and experiences. Students will not be charged for educational resources needed to meet the general graduation requirements.

### Guidelines

#### **Fees and Deposits allowed by Law**

- The Board may charge fees for goods and services, as permitted by Ministerial Orders and the School Act.
- The Board may also require deposits for educational resource materials as allowed under Section 82 of the School Act. These deposits may be fully or partly refundable.

#### **Optional Programs and Activities**

- The Board may set fees for optional programs, extra-curricular activities, or other goods and services that the Chilliwack School District (the “District”) provides to enhance learning and school life.
- Students and parents must be told how they can request a fee waiver if they cannot pay.

#### **Publication of Fees and Deposits**

- Before each school year begins, the Board will ensure schools publish a schedule of all required fees and deposits.
- This schedule must be available to students and parents, guardians, and caregivers.

#### **Financial Hardship**

- The Superintendent will make procedures to ensure fees and deposits do not stop a student from taking part in educational programs or activities.
- These procedures must allow students facing financial hardship to participate, even if they cannot pay the fees or deposits.

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

## Policy Manual



### POLICY 340 SCHOOL FEES AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

#### Purpose

The Board of Education (the "Board") offers many types of learning believes that providing a wide range of educational opportunities and experiences enhance students' learning and will provide, free of charge, educational resource materials necessary to participate in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation. Students will not be charged for educational resources needed to meet the general graduation requirements.

#### Guidelines

##### Fees and Deposits allowed by Law

- The Board of Education may charge fees for goods and services, in accordance as permitted by with Ministerial Orders and the School Act.
- The Board of Education may also require deposits for refundable or partly refundable deposits for educational resource materials as allowed under Section 82 of the School Act. These deposits may be fully or partly refundable in accordance with Section 82 of the School Act.
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##### Optional Programs and Activities

- The Board authorizes may set fees for optional programs, and extra-curricular activities, or other goods and services provided by that the Chilliwack School district District (the "District") provides to enrich enhance curricula learning and school life for students.
- In these circumstances students and parents must be told how they can request a fee waiver if they cannot pay, informed of the process whereby fees may be waived.
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##### Publication of Fees and Deposits

- Before each school year begins, the Board The Board of Education will ensure schools ensure that a schedule of fees and deposits required is publish a schedule of all required fees and deposits.
- This schedule must beed prior to the beginning of the school year and is available to students and parents, guardians, and caregivers.
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Related Legislation: School Act [RSBC 1996, Part 6, Division 2, Section 82 & Ministerial Order 236/07]

Related Contract Article: Nil

Adopted: October 28, 1997

Amended: March 8, 2016; June 14, 2022

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33  
(CHILLIWACK)  
Policy Manual



**Financial Hardship**

- To ensure that fees and deposits do not become a barrier to student participation in educational programs, the Superintendent shall will make procedures to ensure fees and deposits do not stop a student from taking part in educational programs or activities.
- These procedures must allow students facing financial hardship to participate, even if they cannot pay the fees or deposits. establish procedures for schools to address financial hardship which will allow participation in activities by students who would otherwise be excluded.

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)

## Policy Manual



## POLICY 372 CAREER PROGRAMS

### Purpose

The Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes that career education offers students opportunities to explore a variety of career options for their future through classroom and practical community experiences.

The Board supports career education that helps students develop the skills and competencies they need to explore their strengths, interests, and future career goals.

### Guidelines

#### Access to Career Programs

The Board supports fair and equitable access to career programs that combine classroom learning with real workplace experiences.

These programs include, but are not limited to:

- Work Experience 12
- Youth Work in Trades
- Youth Train in Trades
- Regional Career Programs
- Dual Credit
- Board Authority/Authorized (“BAA”) Courses

# THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK) Policy Manual

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The Board supports career education that helps students develop the skills and competencies they need to explore their strengths, interests, and future career goals.

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- Work Experience 12
- Youth Work in Trades
- Youth Train in Trades
- Regional Career Programs
- Dual Credit
- Board Authority/Authorized (“BAA”) Courses

Work Experience 12, Youth Work in Trades, Youth Train in Trades, Regional Career Programs and Dual credit, as well as related Board Authority/Authorized Courses.

The Board of Education supports career education that helps students gain the skills and competencies needed to support their personal career life aptitudes, interests and goals.

## DECISION REPORT

### Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** January 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Teri Westerby, Trustee

**RE:** **BCSTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) MOTION**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Board of Education approve the submission of the following motion to the BC School Trustees Association for consideration:

*“THAT the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Education and Childcare to develop improved methods of gathering high-quality, system-level, disaggregated data for the purposes of equity and accountability, in collaboration with sector partners.”*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) is a standardized literacy and numeracy test administered to Grade 4 and 7 students across British Columbia as required under the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL). The FSA has been used to monitor equity gaps for Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities and diverse abilities.

Educators and parents have raised concerns about test-related stress, the narrowing of learning, and the undermining of teachers' professional judgment.

In Chilliwack, the district has developed “FSA with Care”, which focuses on compassionate administration, universal supports, and involving teachers in the marking process. Early results have shown that students attempt to answer more questions and participation rates improve, while families receive clear communication that the FSA does not affect report cards.

The Chilliwack School Board recognizes the value of system-level, disaggregated data to promote equity and accountability. At the same time, we share concerns about the misuse of such data, the potential harm to students, and the risk of undermining educators' professional autonomy.

The motion addresses the tension between the need for reliable, system-level, disaggregated data (to monitor equity and accountability) and the potential harm caused by standardized tests like the FSA. There is a clear need for better ways to gather and use equity-focused data without potentially adding stress to students or narrowing educators' ability to teach responsively.

**This evidence shows that while system-level data is necessary, its collection and use need reform to protect students and communities.**

The BCSTAs Annual General Meeting will be held in April of 2026. The intent is to submit the proposed motion prior to the deadline on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## MEETING SUMMARIES

### **In-Camera Meeting – December 9, 2026**

Trustees: David Swankey, Teri Westerby, Carin Bondar, Richard Procee, Willow Reichelt, Margaret Reid, Laurie Throness

Staff: Rohan Arul-pragasam, Simone Sangster, Talana McInally

1. BCPSEA Report
2. Bargaining Update
  - No in-conflict items were discussed
3. Principal and Vice Principal Pool
4. Principal and Vice Principal Assignments and Reassignments
5. Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report
6. Principal Appointment

### **Special In-Camera Meeting – January 13, 2026**

Trustees: David Swankey, Teri Westerby, Carin Bondar, Richard Procee, Willow Reichelt, Margaret Reid, Laurie Throness

Staff: Rohan Arul-pragasam, Simone Sangster, Talana McInally

1. Finance Organization