

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT 27, 2022

September 28, 2022
INFORMATION RELEASE

Please note these are not official minutes of the Campbell River Board of Education.

Minutes are available from the school district website at www.sd72.bc.ca.

Find us on Facebook under [Campbell River School District – SD72](#) or on Twitter under [@CRSD72](#)

You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
<https://youtu.be/enveyO4Z9vU>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson John Kerr opened the meeting by sharing that he and Trustees Eddy, Franklin and Wilson travelled to Surge Narrows School on September 9 to take part in the opening ceremony for the Surge Narrows Community Pavilion. He shared that the school district supported this project and contributed the base for this outdoor structure so that students would have access to a covered space for outdoor learning. He said that this project highlights what can be accomplished when the school district and the community partners in a common goal that benefits both the learning opportunities for students and creates a shared community space.

He continued his remarks by acknowledging the retirement of 26 district employees and the retirement evening held in their honour on September 22. He noted that many of the retirees who attended the evening spoke about how meaningful their career had been for them and he stated that district students had been fortunate to have had the support of these dedicated employees during their school careers.

Chairperson Kerr also shared that on Sunday, September 25 he attended both the CUPE Local 723 annual picnic and a festival at the Haig Brown House to accept, alongside Vice-Chair Eddy and Project Manager Steve Woods, a stewardship award on behalf of the district.

The school district was honoured with a stewardship award from the City of Campbell River for our efforts in water and energy conservation initiatives. He commended Steve Woods for his work over the last couple of years which resulted in the school district reaching its energy conservation targets four years earlier than originally planned.

As the October 15 school trustee election nears, Chairperson Kerr spoke to his hope that the next Board of Education continue to advocate the provincial government for adequate funding for public education that addresses inflationary and other unfunded cost pressures, as well as for the replacement of Cedar Elementary School.

In closing, he stated that while school is not in session on September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, that district staff, students and families are invited to take part in the annual walk at Spirit Square organized by Laichwiltach Family Life and KDC Health. The walk starts at 11 a.m. and information can be found on the school district website's calendar of upcoming events.

Watch this segment: 0:00:57

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by sharing that, in addition to also attending the opening of the Surge Narrows Community Pavilion, he recently travelled to Cortes School to meet with school staff, as well as those working and learning through the new Cortes Island Academy. The Cortes Island Academy is being piloted this year in partnership with the Cortes community to enhance opportunities for youth and allow for the provision of some high school programming on the island.

Twenty students from the island as well as out-of-district are registered in this innovative, outdoor, experiential learning program that was made possible thanks to the advocacy and grant writing of some Cortes Island residents. More information about the academy can be found on the district website and at www.cortesislandacademy.ca.



He continued his remarks by sharing that the district's preliminary enrolment numbers are appearing higher than our spring projections. Final student enrolment numbers will be shared at the next board meeting following the September 30 student count.

Superintendent Morrow also acknowledged that families had to make last minute arrangements due to the federal holiday for the National Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II and spoke to how that late announced school closure put strain on some families.

As he neared the end of his remarks, he also spoke about the district's retirement event and the commitment and dedication of these employees throughout their career, as well as acknowledged Diana Camerin for her work in organizing Timberline Secondary School's 25th anniversary celebration on September 21.

Superintendent Morrow closed his remarks stating that, while September 20 is set aside as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, reconciliation is part of our daily work, and we are deeply committed to making sure that we are taking daily action to support reconciliation. He shared that all week our schools have engaged in meaningful and active learning to acknowledge the importance of truth and reconciliation.

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Board Reviewed Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2022

For the year ending June 30, 2022, School District 72 had a combined deficit of \$2.4 million according to Cory Vanderhorst of the accounting firm MNP LLP.

Overall, district revenues were up by approximately \$890,223 but expenses were also up \$1.7 million.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick shared that the district had spent the full budgeted operating deficit of \$2.2 million, while historically the district would have underspent and not realized the full deficit amount. This was a result of increased cost pressures from sick replacement costs and inflation.

The district continued to draw down reserves from \$6.4 million in 2018-2019 to \$2.2 million in 2021-2022.

Revenues increased through the bounce back of international student tuitions post pandemic and a return of investment income.

The district's increased expenses to budget were largely attributed to a couple of key areas including the unexpected departure and rehiring of some senior district positions and increased energy costs from upgrading ventilation systems to MERV-13 filters and a colder than normal winter.

It was acknowledged that the district received a clean audit report; meaning that there were no procedural changes required in the district's finance department.

Following recommendation from Trustee Joyce McMann on behalf of the board's audit committee, the board voted to adopt the financial statements and extend the auditor's contract with MNP LLP. The financial statements will be available on the district website at www.sd72.bc.ca under 'What's Happening', 'Reports & Publications'.

Watch this segment: 0:17:40

Multi-Term Trustees Presented Certificates of Recognition

Trustees who have served for more than one term were presented with certificates and pins of recognition on behalf of the BC School Trustees' Association. Chairperson John Kerr and Trustee Richard Franklin were recognized for serving two terms; Trustee Susan Wilson was recognized for three terms; Trustee Joyce McMann was recognized for four terms; and Trustee Daryl Hagen was presented with a lifetime member pin in honour of his service for over 30 years as a school trustee in School District 72.

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Locally Developed Resources Supporting Truth and Reconciliation Learning

The board reviewed and highlighted some of the work that the district's Indigenous Education Department have done in honouring September 30 as National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Schools have each received a teddy bear along with a book about the Spirit Bear and the Calls to Action as part of a



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locally developed curriculum to help teachers speak about truth and reconciliation in a trauma-informed way, particularly for younger students.

Two other books, in both Kwakwaka and English, have also been locally developed, written by an Indigenous author from Alert Bay and featuring illustrations from two Indigenous artists, including Jessica Chickite, a former SD72 student.

Vice-Chair Eddy acknowledged the leadership of District Principal of Indigenous Education Debra Martel and her commitment in helping schools and educators in gaining core knowledge about this chapter in the history of our country.

Watch this segment: [0:59:51](#)

