

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JAN.10, 2023

January 11, 2023
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/TM-nTZ24cus>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy started the meeting by wishing everyone a joyful and happy new year. She shared that 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit and said that she hopes that it brings members of our learning community gratitude and opportunities.

She continued by also acknowledging that January 27 is International Family Literacy Day, and that the community will be celebrating throughout that week with a selection of free events which recognize parents as their child's first and best teacher. The schedule of events and other information about Family Literacy Week are being shared across the community on social media and the school district's website.

Watch: 0:00:11

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow opened his comments by also wishing the district's extended learning community a happy new year and welcoming students, staff, and parents back from the break. He shared his excitement about the learning that will take place this year and reflected on where we were this time last year, when the return of students was delayed by a week for school districts to plan for the possibility of functional school closures because of high illness rates.

He continued by recognizing the work of custodians, as well as teachers-on-call and other casual staff who cover staff absences to ensure continued learning. Each day, these itinerant staff often report to a different worksite, responding to wherever there is a need, and he expressed his appreciation for the work that they do.

Watch this segment: 0:01:33

Holiday Food Gift Cards and Giving Tree of Seasonal Clothing Just Some Ways Student & Family Affordability Fund is Helping Students

Close to \$340,000 under the Student and Family Affordability Fund has already been used to help vulnerable students and their families across the district. Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing and District Principal of Indigenous Education Debra Martel provided the board with an update on the innovative mechanisms the district is using to help students and families struggling with rising costs due to inflation.

In August, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced the Student and Family Affordability Fund to enhance food and meal programs, offset costs for school supplies and other education-related fees, as well as help provide clothing and footwear needed for school sports and other school activities.

The district received \$607,563 under this one-time funding and, through consultation with Indigenous groups, school communities and parent advisory councils, determined a multi-tier approach to ensure that the funding would be used in a way that was most responsive to community needs.

Under the district's multi-tiered approach, \$33,000 of the \$75,000 that was allocated for district-based initiatives has been spent to-date on school supplies and waiving school fees for vulnerable families.

Another \$261,000 has been spent to-date out of a \$300,000 allocation for school-based initiatives. Schools were able to apply for funds to help them address needs specific to their school community. Some examples of how these funds have been used by schools include: providing seasonally



appropriate clothing and personal hygiene products; bus passes; helping with medical/dental expenses; purchasing equipment to enhance meal programs and washers and dryers for the school to help those that may not have laundry access at home; and covering costs so that students can participate in school extracurricular activities and graduation special events.

Watch this segment: 0:27:10

Heading into the winter break, an additional \$45,500 of a \$230,000 allocation was spent to provide an extension of district meal programs. Three hundred \$100 Quality Foods gift cards were distributed to help 282 students across the district and \$15,500 was distributed to support local Indigenous Nations with food hampers or community meals.

While the Ministry had additionally asked that these funds be spent by the end of this year, they have decided to allow any remaining funds to carry forward into next year. School District 72 is committed to using these funds thoughtfully and responsively and so, if there are any remaining funds at the end of the school year, they will be used to help vulnerable families with next year's back to school costs.

Watch this segment: 0:07:40

District Sees an Increase in Operating Grant

A slight increase in final student numbers, a popular Summer School program, as well as an increase in designated special needs students has the district seeing a \$1.1 million increase in its operating grant fund from the Ministry of Education.

The district builds its preliminary budget for the upcoming year each February and that preliminary budget and the district's staffing levels are built off an estimated number of students. The Ministry of Education provides final funding based on the actual number of students in classrooms as of September 30.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick expects that the district will finish the year with a slight surplus because while the operating grant has increased costs are also expected to increase. The district may have an opportunity to rebuild some of the contingency fund for the next budget development cycle.

The year's final budget will be presented at the February 28 public board meeting.

