

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
MAR.21, 2023

March 22, 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](http://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/6MQsGgF9xF4>

## Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy shared in her opening comments that earlier in the day she had attended the Indigenous student recognition ceremony at Robron Centre, which celebrated the work and commitment that honoured students have shown to their education. She praised the Robron Centre teaching staff for creating these opportunities and the space for students to find achievement through alternate pathways.

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## Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow started his comments by congratulating Timberline Secondary School and retiring musical director and teacher Celine Ouellette on their successful theatre production of "Chicago: The Teen Edition."

He also shared that Carihi Secondary is offering "Newsies: The Broadway Musical" in April and tickets are on sale now, before reflecting on the time and dedication students and staff put into these productions and how, even through the pandemic, they put together and offered entertaining online productions.

As the district heads into spring break, he highlighted that CUPE Local 723 is generously sponsoring a family swim for all families this Saturday, March 25 at Strathcona Gardens.

In addition to several schools celebrating the achievements of their Indigenous students over the past couple of weeks, the Skills BC regional competition was recently held at North Island College. Superintendent Morrow congratulated Carihi Secondary students Elliot Sidlick and Logan Jones who earned the gold medal for 3D animation, and Markus Johnson who earned gold in welding. He also congratulated Timberline student Andrew Hyrbko for gold in cabinetmaking.

He continued his remarks by sharing that the district has once again partnered with the CR Family Network, City of Campbell River and Pacific Care to offer the Ready-Set-Go! Children's Health Fair for families with children up to 6 years old on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Robron Centre. There will be free child development, hearing and speech screenings, as well as family resources and activities. More information can be found on [www.sd72.bc.ca](http://www.sd72.bc.ca).

In closing, Superintendent Morrow wished students, staff and families a fun and restful spring break, which starts on Monday, March 27.

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## THRIVE Program Looks to Re-Engage Students with Attendance Issues with School

The board heard a presentation from Rachel Nelson, Mike Munsie, Ryan Chenard and Tami Johnson about the new THRIVE program that will be starting at École Phoenix Middle School in September to re-engage students who have not attended school, or very sporadically attended, since before the pandemic.

As the presenters shared, THRIVE is an acronym for the philosophies of the program standing for: Together; Honour Indigenous ways of knowing and doing; Reflect student needs, goals and passions; Innovative and inclusive; Voice of students; and Engagement.

The program will offer grade 6, 7 and 8 classes for students who have not attended school regularly over the last 2.5 years for a variety of reasons, whether it is transportation issues, family and household circumstances, a history of negative experience with school, illness, or injury.



These classes will provide a different environment than a conventional classroom approach and will be responsive to the needs of these vulnerable students, working to remove any barriers to accessing education.

Through a survey, students indicated that the hardest part of returning to school was often that they were too far behind and felt pressure to be like a “typical” student when they returned, as their usual classroom teachers would need to catch them up while still moving the rest of the class ahead.

The THRIVE classes are being planned in a way that addresses what students shared as the hardest parts of returning to school and how that could be made easier. The basis of the class will not be project or group-based work, there will be a core focus on progressing in literacy and numeracy to catch up and fill any gaps in these areas, and students will be able to start where they left off and not expected to try to start projects in the middle.

THRIVE classes will be responsive with regards to pacing and flexibility, and will allow for students to be with the same teacher all day to try to build their confidence and re-establish their identity as a student.

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## Ministry Approves Funding for Capital Plan Projects

The Ministry of Education has approved \$2.5 million in projects from the district’s five-year capital plan request under the school enhancement program, carbon neutral capital program, and bus acquisition program.

The following items have been announced to receive capital funding by the Ministry of Education: heating and ventilation upgrades at Quadra Elementary School, Sayward Elementary School, and Southgate Middle School; a roofing upgrade at Southgate Middle School; electrical charging stations at Cortes Island School, Sayward Elementary and the maintenance yard; and two new school buses.

The Board of Education held all three required readings and unanimously passed the required capital plan bylaw to allow the district to receive the funds and go ahead with these projects.

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## School Calendar for Next Year Approved; Calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Being Reworked

The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the final school calendar for next school year, 2023-2024, as presented by Superintendent Morrow. The school calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are being adjusted in response to staff and parent feedback and will be brought back to the board for final approval at the April 18 public meeting.

The proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school calendars had two full Pro-D days split into four half-days to allow for more regular collaboration and professional learning. Feedback received by parents and staff expressed concern with these half-days and so the calendar committee will rework the calendar to adjust these proposed half days back to two full Pro-D days.

The final school calendars for 2023-2024 will be available for download from the district and school websites.

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## Operating Grant Review

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick shared with the board that the district is expecting a grant amount of \$67,853,988 next year. Per pupil funding has increased by 9.4% which includes the labour settlements. Between this increase in grants and the expected enrollment increase, the district will see \$6 million more in operating grants, however this \$6 million increase will be offset by matching costs.

The Student and Family Affordability Grant will be replaced next year with food security funding of approximately \$700,000 to SD72. The Ministry is providing an additional \$300,000 in the annual facility grant, the first significant increase in several years.

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