

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAY 9, 2023

May 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.
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You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
https://youtu.be/tNZAWv-z_-E

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by acknowledging Red Dress Day on May 5, an annual day to honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people. She encouraged others to research and learn more about the disproportionate amount of gender violence faced by Indigenous women and two-spirited people, as well as the national discussion and movement regarding this issue.

Chairperson Eddy continued by also asking that everyone honour the discovery of the 215 graves at the site of the former Kamloops residential school two years ago and the ongoing discovery of unmarked burial sites across the country. She spoke of the personal urgency she feels to reset the balance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians and her desire to be part of creating an equitable education system that honours the gifts of every child.

In closing, as we move closer to the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Chairperson Eddy also acknowledged the work of grad committee volunteers, fundraisers, parents and school-based partners in creating events that allow students to mark the end of their K-12 education with grand celebrations.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow congratulated École Phoenix Middle School and Sandowne Elementary on placing second and fourth, respectively, in the Small Planet Energy Earth Day community clean-up competition. Both schools won cash prizes and gift certificates from Boston Pizza.

He continued by also recognizing the cast of Carihi Secondary's musical theatre production, Newsies, and

teachers Christine Knight and Beth Kingston on a stellar production. Newsies was supposed to be Carihi Secondary's musical theatre production in 2020, but its cast never got to perform because of the pandemic. The cast of 2023 paid a touching tribute to the cast of 2020, many of which are now grade 12 students.

Looking ahead to upcoming events, Superintendent Morrow shared that the district track meet for students in grades 5 to 7 will be taking place again on May 25 at École Phoenix Middle School and district elementary schools are hosting Ready, Set, Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten events to welcome new students and families into the district.

Summer School registration will open on May 15, and he encouraged families to check out the available courses and the registration information on the district website as there is a new registration process that required families to create an account before they will be able to register.

At the end of his remarks, Superintendent Morrow congratulated Matthew Baker of Timberline Secondary, and the team of Eliot Sidlick and Logan Jones of Carihi Secondary on their gold medal wins at the Skills Canada Provincials on April 19. Matthew, Eliot and Logan are now headed to the Skills Canada National competition on May 25-26 in Winnipeg to compete in their respective categories of website development and 3D animation.

Congratulations also go to Andrew Hrybko of Timberline for earning the silver medal in cabinet making and Markus Johnson of Carihi Secondary for his bronze in welding.

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Cedar Elementary Sees Promising Results with Small Group Literacy Intervention

The board heard a presentation from principal James Zlatanov, elementary literacy coordinator Christine Fraser, and literacy intervention teacher Jennifer Comeau on the results of small group literacy intervention at Cedar Elementary School.

To provide additional support and help get more students reading at grade level, Cedar Elementary identified 34 students in grades 2 to 5 and another 34 students in kindergarten to grade 2 that needed additional literacy interventions.

From January to March, in addition to the literacy work being done with their classroom teacher and interventions through the learning support and Indigenous support teachers, Comeau began working with small groups of three to five identified students on the specific skills that they needed additional help with. Each group worked for 20-minute blocks Monday through Friday.

By creating a space outside of their usual classroom to try and where it was safe to make mistakes, play games and have fun with learning, students seem to be thriving with the additional intervention.

From January to March, 13 students were able to progress to the point that they no longer need support for decoding skills and there has been a 15 percent decrease in the need for intervention amongst the Indigenous students that were identified.

After spring break, Comeau began working with the 34 kindergarten to grade 2 students using the same small group, 20-minutes a day model.

As a literacy intervention teacher, Comeau connects regularly with the classroom teacher to share what is happening in the intervention so that it can be connected back and reinforced with what is being taught in the classroom. This, combined with elementary literacy coordinator Christine Fraser's work with teachers to help them identify multiple ways of breaking learning how to read down for all students is building teacher capacity.

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Board Considers Intent of International Program Surplus

Trustee Dave Harper brought forward a concern about the past and possible future use of surplus funds from the international program to address the district's operating deficit. He challenged that the program was always supposed to be self-contained and that if the program has a surplus that it should be used to lower fees, provide more services, raise the homestay allotment, or provide homestay respite.

Expressing concern that the district is putting off a difficult decision by offsetting a structural deficit with a subsidy from the international program, Trustee Harper put forward a motion that "under no circumstances shall surplus revenues from the international program, paid for by international student fees, be spent on any other district program."

Following a discussion that centered on the need for more information about the international program and the possible need for a board governance policy clarifying the board's vision for the program, the motion was defeated.

The recommendations for the 2023-2024 operating budget currently under development include the draw of \$100,000 from the international program surplus to help deliver a balanced budget. Should the board accept the recommendations and pass the proposed budget at the May 30 public meeting this will be the second time that the district has used surplus funds from the international program.

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Recommendations Deliver a Balanced Budget with Few Additions

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick presented the board with a list of recommendations from senior management regarding the 2023-2024 operating budget. The recommendations were based on feedback from rightsholders and partner groups.

The district is facing a \$288,000 deficit heading into next year's budget but is proposing delivering a balanced budget



through the use of a one-time benefit holiday of \$200,000, increased revenues from rent and leases of \$25,000, and the use of a combined \$145,000 in surplus from the international student program and summer school.

The recommended additions include: \$22,000 for a .25 HR assistant, \$5,000 to offset additional funding sources for a 1.0 FTE career education district support, \$25,000 to increase the education centre support back to five days a week, and \$30,000 for childcare and early learning.

The addition of a .4 French coordinator, a .6 FTE focused on French literacy, and a .5 French learning support teacher at the middle school level will be offset by \$180,000 in federal French immersion funding.

The list of recommendations is posted on the district website at: [2023-2024 Budget Development Process \(sd72.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd72.bc.ca/2023-2024-Budget-Development-Process)

The board will review and possibly approve the budget at the May 30 public board meeting.

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Quarterly Financial Report Shows Budgets on Track

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick presented the board with a quarterly financial report as of March 31, 2023. Year-to-date revenues are higher than expected currently but will match up by the end of the year. The district is also forecasted to be overspent in supplies but that is also expected to be on track by the end of the year or even possibly have a slight surplus.

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Trustees Attend Provincial BC School Trustees' Annual General Meeting

Chairperson Kat Eddy shared that several trustees recently attended the BC School Trustees' annual general meeting. The theme was Level Up: Improving Student Achievement Through Equity and Inclusion. Trustees attended session on anti-racism, student achievement, board governance and had opportunity to learn more about topics from around the province, including student agency and voice, honouring Indigenous worldviews around board governance, recruitment and retention of teachers and specialists,

inflationary cost pressures, affordability concerns for families, and the need for new facilities in rural, as well as growing communities.

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