

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JUNE 20, 2023

June 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.

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/ls7h-Uu2zts>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by acknowledging that National Indigenous Peoples Day is on June 21 and sharing some information on the many community events that start at 10 a.m. at the Big House. She encouraged the community to participate in the events and celebrate alongside the Indigenous community.

She also shared that on the weekend she attended the Carihi grad class celebrations at Robert Ostler Park and how she found herself reflecting on what an honour it is to be gifted the opportunity to walk alongside children in their educational journey for 13 years. She said that educators play such an important role providing learning opportunities and as professional, safe adults.

In closing, as the last board meeting for the 2022-2023 school year she acknowledged parents, caregivers, community rightsholders, staff and board for their commitment to the children of School District 72 and their support for the K-12 public education system.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow shared that this June marks the last of his children graduating from an SD72 school and that as a parent and superintendent he strongly believes in the quality of education provided by our schools.

He celebrated the growth of students and their successes, as well as the dedication and commitment of staff. Superintendent Morrow said that the greatest privilege of his role is to be able to bear witness to the miracles that happen in our schools every day.

To end his remarks, he stated that while this is a time of year where we acknowledge the accomplishments of our grade 12s and celebrate their milestone, we are also supporting our grade 5s and grade 8s with their transitions to the next level of schooling and we look forward to welcoming our new kindergarten students and their families. He encouraged families to connect with their child's school if they feel that their child may need additional support with these transitions.

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Indigenous Education Department Creating More Hands-On Cultural Opportunities

Indigenous education department career transition teacher Kash Ward and cultural resource teacher Gillian Kirke gave the board an overview on their roles in the district and the many hands-on cultural opportunities that they have brought into district classrooms this school year.

Thanks to a series of grants and a partnership with Indigenous Skills, Ward and Kirke were able to work collaboratively with classroom teachers to provide paddle pendant, cedar rattle pendant, cedar rattles, bentwood boxes, and copper bracelet workshops.

Kirke worked with teachers on creating lessons for before and after a knowledge keeper was brought into the classroom for the project and Ward's efforts were focused on creating awareness for hands-on skills and trades from a cultural perspective.

For example, if a class was learning about bending wood, the bentwood box workshop was offered as part of a series of lessons to teach that skill. Squamish artist Peter Wayne Gong was brought in to work with local teachers and artists to learn how to bring these workshops into classrooms.



Other lessons beyond the bentwood box workshop included watching a documentary on traditional ways of creating a bentwood box, a timelapse video about creating a bentwood box using modern methods, discussions about different types of wood and their malleability, learning about Cedar and the significance of Cedar for local cultures, a math lesson on creating bentwood boxes using cardboard and the different types of cuts that will allow wood bending, and a visit from a local Elder or knowledge keeper about the significance of bentwood boxes in local culture.

The bentwood box workshop is now being regularly offered in classrooms, supported by local artist Will Henderson, and facilitated by Breanne Gale.

Stories and photos on the bentwood box, cedar rattle pendant and copper bracelet workshops are posted in the 'News' section of the district website at www.sd72.bc.ca.

The Indigenous education department is comprised of 41 staff members and includes education youth workers, educational assistants, language and culture teachers, resource teachers, English language teachers, an administrative assistant, and a district principal, as well as the career transition and cultural resource and programming teachers.

The Indigenous education department oversees Indigenous education and English language learning targeted funding and provides services and tracks progress of those who self-identify as having Indigenous ancestry. The department also works to increase knowledge and awareness of staff to fully implement equity in action commitments, truth and reconciliation calls to action, and meet student needs through an engagement, and equity lens, as well as strengthen relationships and connections with the local Indigenous communities.

Framed through the four pillars of the equity in action commitment, the Indigenous education department supports district staff in identifying the bias or privilege that might not afford an Indigenous student their equitable access and ensuring that we have Indigenous worldviews and perspectives incorporated in classroom lessons and activities every day.

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Trustee Remuneration Increased

Trustees voted to increase their compensation following the annual trustee remuneration formula. Based on current information on other Vancouver Island school districts and student funding, the formula recommended an annual increase of \$1,593 for the chairperson, \$1,612 for the vice-chairperson and \$1,460 for trustees.

The new annual compensation amounts will be \$18,190 for the chairperson, \$16,742 for the vice-chairperson, and \$15,557 for trustees.

The trustee remuneration formula was set by a community representative committee in 2005 and the board reviews the compensation levels for district trustees each year.

After Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick confirmed for the board that the remuneration formula had not be reviewed again since 2005, the board passed a motion asking for a broader comparative analysis of trustee remuneration rates and calculation methods from around the province before next year's budget process.

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District Capital Priorities Submitted to the Ministry Remain Unchanged for Second Year

The school district is once again submitting the following projects as its top priorities for 2024-2025 capital plan requests to the Ministry of Education: a full replacement of Cedar Elementary (\$38 million); two-classroom expansions at Ocean Grove and Ripple Rock Elementary Schools (\$8 million); and seismic upgrades at Cedar, École des Deux Mondes, Penfield, Robron and Oyster River (\$25.5 million). These projects were identified and submitted for the 2023-2024 school year as well.

A new school for Cedar Elementary has been a top priority for the board for the last five years to improve the learning conditions for students at that school. However, until such a time as a new school is approved and built, seismic upgrading is necessary for the existing building.

The former Oyster River School building is also included for seismic upgrade as part of ongoing maintenance since the



building is currently leased and in case it ever needs to be used again by the district.

School districts must identify and submit a list of required capital projects two years out to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Board of Education is usually informed of any approved project requests by the Ministry the following spring.

As part of this year's capital submission process, school districts are also required to apply for project funds for the Feeding Futures program. School District 72 is submitting an initial request under this first application cycle for \$100,000 for kitchen upgrades and the purchase of a delivery vehicle.

It was announced in April that School District 72 will receive \$709,927 from Feeding Futures funding to purchase food and hire dedicated staff to coordinate providing meals and snacks to students.

[Watch this segment: 0:37:38](#)

District Student Leadership Group Continues to Share Valuable Insights

Trustee Shannon Briggs shared that the last superintendent student leadership committee meeting had 13 students in attendance and the student representatives were asked their opinion about the installation of a rainbow piece on the front of the board office. The meeting also included discussion on future topics with students requesting conversations related to safety and belonging, communication, standardization of grading, education versus banning, neurodiversity, connecting schools instead of rivalries, accommodations, how to get strategic plan feedback from students, and more education surrounding mental illness.

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