

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 5, 2023

September 6, 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/6xSddolcbBc>

Chairperson Remarks

Opening the first public board meeting for the 2023-2024 school year, Board Chair Kat Eddy welcomed students, staff, and families back to school and said that we are looking forward to working together to provide SD72 students with an amazing educational experience.

She continued her comments by introducing and welcoming the district's new superintendent, Geoff Manning. Geoff comes to our district with over 20 years of experience in senior level education. He began his career as a teacher at the elementary and middle school levels before moving into school-based management, followed by senior leadership roles as director of instruction, deputy superintendent and acting superintendent in the Comox Valley.

She shared that Geoff's beliefs in holding the child at the centre of every decision and in supporting improved student outcomes through collaboration, active listening, and relationship building aligns with the board's values and the 2024-2029 strategic plan which will be rolled-out in January.

Board Chair Eddy continued by acknowledging the work of Dr. Jeremy Morrow who, at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, accepted the position of superintendent and CEO for the Comox Valley School District. She expressed how Jeremy's dynamic leadership and professional humility helped to open communication channels and prime our educational community for the systemic changes needed to meet the evolving needs of students. On behalf of the board, she thanked Jeremy and wished him the best as he continues his professional journey.

Chairperson Eddy closed her remarks by thanking members of the senior management team, and particularly Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmick who served as the interim

superintendent over the summer, for allowing SD72 to move into this year with little interruption.

Watch this segment: 0:00:18

Superintendent Remarks

In his first superintendent's remarks, Superintendent Manning shared that he had a wonderful experience travelling to all the local area schools to meet with principals and see excited children and parents on the first day of school and his first official day in the district. He said that he is excited to be part of this team and district and is looking forward to serving staff and families as the superintendent of schools.

Watch: 0:03:51

Board to Use 2022-2023 Surplus to Rebuild Contingency Funds and for a Few New Initiatives

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick presented the board with the schedule of reserves as the financial statement audit and reporting for the 2022-2023 school year is nearing completion. The district had a surplus of \$50,655 (or 0.5 percent of the district's budget) and an increase in operating surplus of \$474,427 for the past year end which increased the district reserves from \$2,185,757 to \$2,236,412.

After a challenging 2021-2022 school year due to increased sick replacement costs following the COVID pandemic and inflation, the district delivered a balanced budget for 2022-2023 through \$2 million in reductions and a draw on the district's emergency contingency funds.



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To help rebuild the district's emergency contingency, the board agreed to leave \$1 million in unrestricted reserves and direct \$244,418 of the operational surplus to the emergency contingency.

The board then agreed to use the remaining \$230,000 of operational surplus for proposed initiatives which included \$30,000 to hire consulting services to assist with improving health and safety compliance, \$100,000 to restore previously cut funds for strategic priorities, \$50,000 to renovate the highly used Robron meeting room, and \$50,000 to start saving towards the replacement of CIMS (the district's financial, HR, and payroll software system that is nearing end of life).

Watch this segment: [0:06:15](#)

