

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
NOV. 7, 2023

November 8, 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/FjrHhSRCfE>

Eddy and Gillis Re-Elected as Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Trustees Kat Eddy and Craig Gillis retain their positions as board chairperson and vice-chair. Both were re-elected by acclamation from their fellow trustees at the November 7 public board meeting.

After reclaiming the role of meeting chairperson, Chair Eddy said, "I would like to thank you for re-electing me as chair of the Board of Education. I am honoured."

Watch this segment: 0:00:04

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning opened his remarks by congratulating Chair Eddy and Vice-Chair Gillis on their re-election and stating how he was looking forward to continuing to work with them both and was grateful for their service as the chair and vice-chair of the board.

He expressed his appreciation for the beauty of the area that our school district encompasses and shared how a recent photo of a herd of elk on the Sayward School field was used by a presenter at a conference in Vancouver to highlight how amazing the schools in British Columbia are.

Superintendent Manning continued by also sharing some special ministry announcements that were made recently.

The first announcement was for an increased wage of approximately \$28/hour for early childhood educators (ECEs) to try to address the provincial shortage of qualified early childhood educators. He shared that the district and North Island College are considering possibly creating a joint program for SD72 students who may be interested in a career as an ECE.

The ministry has also announced that the holocaust will now be a mandatory component of the grade 10 social studies curriculum starting in the 2025-2026 school year. This is in response to rising incidents of antisemitism and as part of the education sector's ongoing work regarding diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

And the most recent announcement, continuing to work towards improved outcomes for Indigenous students, was that all school districts will now be required to have local education agreements and Indigenous Education Councils in place, and that Indigenous students will have the right to attend the school of their choice. School District 72 has had an Indigenous Education Advisory Council for over 25 years and was one of the first school districts within the province to have local education agreements with each of the local First Nations.

To close his remarks, Superintendent Manning shared that he has also had the recent opportunity to go to Pinecrest Elementary and read to a grade 2/3 and 3/4 class, and he is resuming meetings with the superintendent student leadership district council that was originally started by former superintendent, Jeremy Morrow.

Watch: 0:04:50

Advocacy Day Used to Draw Attention to Local and Provincial Issues

Chairperson Eddy shared that on October 19 she, along with 57 other board chairs and vice-chairs from BC's 60 school districts, attended an advocacy day hosted by the BC School Trustees' Association with MLAs at the BC Legislature.



The event was attended by approximately 35 MLAs from both sides of the house and key themes were student outcomes, recruitment and retention issues, capital deferred maintenance, and the need for increased provincial budgets.

Chairperson Eddy also shared that she was able to spend time with local MLA Michele Babchuk discussing local issues relevant to Campbell River and School District 72 schools.

[Watch this segment: 0:12:10](#)

District and We Wai Kai Sign New Local Education Agreement

On October 30, the district and We Wai Kai Nation signed their second local education agreement (LEA).

An LEA is an agreement co-created to increase accountability and to promote effective working partnerships and strengthen collaboration between local First Nations and the Board of Education to support First Nations students.

Chairperson Eddy thanked Pam Lewis who recently retired from her role as We Wai Kai education director and had served as the We Wai Kai representative on the Indigenous Education Advisory Council for her long, dedicated commitment to improving student outcomes for the We Wai Kai Nation.

[Watch: 0:13:57](#)

Trustees Attend Numerous Conferences and Committee Meetings in October

Trustee committee representatives provided reports on the recent BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council meeting, BC Public Sector Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Fall Symposium, and SD72 and City of Campbell River liaison committee meeting.

Motions passed at the BCSTA Provincial Council included:

- That the BCSTA request the government supports the creation of a working group consisting of BCSTA, ministry, rightsholders and partner groups to prepare a recommendation to the Ministry of Finance that will provide incentives for child and youth mental health clinicians as well as Indigenous

practitioners to relocate to rural and isolated communities to meet the needs of children and youth in these communities;

- That the BCSTA request the government to provide equivalent pay equity grants to the four school districts that were proactive in addressing gender equality prior to the government's requirement; and
- The BCSTA urge the Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care to write a letter and release a statement committing to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion in the BC school system including the human rights of transgender and other two-spirit LGBTQ+ students and staff, as well as addressing the misinformation being disseminated publicly about SOGI 123 resources.

These motions will now go to the BCSTA annual general meeting for voting by all members.

Key themes at the BCPSEA Fall Symposium included supporting employee health and wellness, building HR policies, supporting psychological health and safety, and upcoming contract negotiations.

[Watch: 0:17:40](#)

