

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JAN. 16 2024

January 18, 2024
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/P9FSvn0L37o>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first public board meeting of the 2024 calendar year. She said that she hoped that the winter break provided time for fun and family for staff, students, and caregivers.

Returning from break on January 8, all district staff participated in Indigenous focused professional development at Timberline Secondary School. This Indigenous day of learning showcased local knowledge keepers and helped our educational community better understand the experiences of Indigenous learners and local history to build inclusive practices for all our students. On behalf of the board, Chairperson Eddy acknowledged the work of the Pro-D committee, led by Erin Pickering and assisted by Gillian Kirke, in building such an impactful day.

Continuing her remarks, Chairperson Eddy took a moment to acknowledge the pressure on families who use public transit to commute to and from school. She shared that the district recognizes that the transit strike is likely having an impact on attendance, but unfortunately the district doesn't have capacity to add additional school bus routes. The board and district leadership are encouraged to hear that both sides have agreed to mediation dates on January 24 and 25 and hope that this dispute can be resolved as soon as possible.

She went on to highlight that this Sunday is the launch of Family Literacy Week 2024. Families are invited to participate in a week's worth of free fun activities throughout the community. This year's community performance at the Tidemark Theatre is Mi'kmaq fiddler, Morgan Toney, from Cape Breton. Information is available on the Campbell River Literacy Association's social media accounts.

In closing, Chairperson Eddy reminded all parents of children turning five in 2024 that kindergarten registration begins the week of January 29. Information is on the district website or available from our elementary school offices.

Watch this segment: 0:00:07

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning also spoke about the value of the January 8 Indigenous focused professional development day in his opening remarks, sharing that 20 of the 28 presentations were by local knowledge keepers and Elders, and that approximately 800 people attended the speaker panel.

Also speaking about kindergarten registration, Superintendent Manning shared that the district is introducing an online registration option through MyEd BC. Information and instruction videos are available from the district's website and the online registration system will open on January 29. He shared that the district is hoping to move all registrations and program applications online in the coming years.

Ahead of the forecasted Environment Canada snowfall warning, Superintendent Manning also reminded everyone of the district's snow day communication protocols posted on the school district website. Parents and community can find out when schools are closed through the district and school websites, social media accounts, cell phone notification through the parent portal app, and the local radio stations. Notification is generally posted by 6:30 a.m. but will always be posted by 7 a.m. at the latest. No notice posted by 7 a.m. means that schools are open as usual.

Watch this segment: 0:04:02



Teachers Continue to Work to Refine Elementary Literacy Instruction

Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle introduced a presentation from Christine Fraser and Audra Schroeder, the district's elementary literacy teacher coordinators, on the work that they have been doing in the district to support teachers in their literacy instruction practices.

For the last three years Christine and Audra, who have post-graduate work specific to literacy, have been working with teachers and administrators to support the implementation of the district's literacy framework. A team of district educators developed the literacy framework towards the strategic plan's mandate of ensuring students have strong foundational skills and core competencies in literacy. The main focus of their work has been on resource development and in supporting teachers as they work to further refine their literacy instruction.

Much of the work they do is in providing opportunities for continuous ongoing professional development on how to identify and combine teachers' existing literacy instruction best practices with resources and scope and sequence on how to add phonics instruction. They have also worked closely with teachers on conducting DIBELS screeners and how to strategically use information from the screener to further inform their instruction and support for individual students who may be struggling.

According to Associate Superintendent Kyle, district literacy scores are incrementally improving with thanks to the efforts of the district elementary literacy teacher coordinators, the work of those who developed the district's literacy framework, and the openness and willingness of teachers and administrators to reflect on their practice and consider new approaches.

At the request of middle and secondary school teachers, Christine and Audra are sharing the work that is being done at the elementary level and helping these middle and secondary teachers further support students who may be behind in their foundational literacy skills.

In closing, Associate Superintendent Kyle shared that SD72's literacy work has garnered attention from six other school districts who are looking to learn from the practices that we are putting in place.

Watch: 0:08:46

New Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 Released

Superintendent Geoff Manning, on behalf of the board, unveiled the district's new strategic plan for 2024-2028. The board developed the new strategic plan over the summer of 2023 following extensive consultation during the 2022-2023 school year, and is based on feedback heard from district staff, principals, parents, and greater community.

He highlighted that this plan builds on elements of the last strategic plan including expanding on the important priority of honouring Indigenous world views and perspectives, focusing on basic foundational skills especially literacy, and the continued importance of mental health education and supports.

New to this plan is a greater recognition of the evolving culture of education and increased focus on numeracy, social emotional learning, and agency of students in their learning. Superintendent Manning also highlighted that this plan contains more specific goals and measures than previous plans.

The plan contains three strategic priorities – honouring Indigenous world views and perspectives, student-centered learning environments, and evolving for tomorrow – that contribute to our central purpose of student achievement and encircled by our district's commitment to equity.

The board's new strategic plan clearly defines equity as "meeting every student with what they need to develop their full academic and social potential, removing barriers and adapting to their individual needs and circumstances." It goes on to state that "equity is paramount in improving student achievement as it is central to student's experiences and engagement" and conveys the district's commitment to principles of equity being reflected in programs, curriculum, services, and operations.

The strategic plan is the roadmap that guides the district's work and decisions.

Printed booklets will be available soon and copies will be sent to all school and district sites, including copies for each school office. Posters throughout the district will be replaced over the coming month, and the new plan will be shared with



the community through the district's social media and all district and school websites.

Watch this segment: 0:27:42

New Policy on Public Interest Disclosure

The Board of Education has adopted a new policy on public interest disclosure (otherwise known as whistleblower/safe reporting).

Legislation introduced December 1 requires all public bodies to have whistleblower policies and procedures in place. The intent of the legislation is to encourage employees to report unlawful or unethical conduct with assurance that they will be protected from reprisal protect employees without fear of reprisal.

The new policy was prepared based on guidance from the BC Public School Employers' Association.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the board's December 19 public meeting. The board's governance policy committee received no comments or concerns on the policy.

The new policy can be viewed on the district website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws.

Watch: 0:46:45

District Sees an Increase in Operating Grant for 2023-2024

A slight increase in final student numbers and designated special needs students has the district seeing a \$1.2 million increase in the operating grant fund for this school year from the Ministry of Education.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick expects that the district will finish the year with a slight surplus because while the operating grant has increased this has been offset with increased approved spending for health and safety and the inclusive education department. Also, general inflation is expected to continue, impacting district operating costs.

The district builds its preliminary budget for the upcoming year each February and that preliminary budget and the

district's staffing levels are built off an estimated number of students. The Ministry of Education provides final funding based on the actual number of students in classrooms as of September 30.

The year's final budget will be presented at the February 27 public board meeting.

Watch: 0:46:11

Board Approves a Minor Capital Plan Amendment for 2023-2024

The Board of Education approved a minor amendment to the district's capital plan submission to the Ministry of Education for 2023-2024. The change is to support a shared equipment cost for a heating and ventilation upgrade at Timberline Secondary and North Island College's Campbell River campus.

The district has been approved to receive \$233,108 under the Ministry's school enhancement program for this heating and ventilation upgrade.

Watch: 0:56:28

