

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAR. 12 2024

March 14, 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/JnTt4bDD01g>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by drawing attention to the recent release of the district's 2024-2028 strategic plan. She shared that the primary function of the Board of Education is to discuss strategic priorities, goals, and measurements and to build a plan that guides the district every four years. Trustees believe in a cycle of continuous improvement and hold student success at the centre of every decision that they make.

At the last board meeting, the board reviewed and shared the results of the How Are We Doing report, which tracks and compares the progress of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in literacy, numeracy, and completion rates. She highlighted that the priorities and goals of the district's strategic plan include equitable outcomes for Indigenous students across all educational measures and grade level proficiency in literacy and numeracy for all students.

She stressed that the Board of Education is committed to regularly reviewing data publicly to share achievements, address challenges, and guide budget decisions and that results are not a criticism but should be looked at as a catalyst for change as areas that require further attention to improve student outcomes.

The district's strategic plan is available at www.sd72.bc.ca

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Superintendent Remarks

In his remarks, Superintendent Geoff Manning shared some highlights of recent events that he has attended including the district's Battle of the Books, Phoenix Middle School's Indigenous student recognition lunch, the superintendent's student leadership council meeting, and Timberline's production of Guys and Dolls.

He reminded everyone that Carihi Secondary's musical theatre production of The SpongeBob Musical is coming up in April and that tickets are on sale now.

Superintendent Manning also spoke about the recent school visits by motivational speaker, Michael Bortolotto who spoke to students about how to be inclusive, caring and kind, sharing his own experiences as a person with cerebral palsy. He shared with the board that we received a wonderful message from a parent about how grateful she was for the message he shared and the impact it had on her daughter who has a disability.

He also shared that the Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle arranged for the district to host a behavioural digital threat assessment training for 100 staff from five public school districts and some independent school districts across the North Island.

In closing, he wished students, staff, and families a wonderful spring break.

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District Scholarship and Bursary Program Awards Up to \$90,000 Annually

The district has a long history of providing scholarships and bursaries to graduating students on behalf of generous businesses, local organizations, and individuals. Annually approximately \$90,000 is awarded to students who are graduating and pursuing post-secondary education at university, colleges, or trades programs. These local scholarships and bursaries are in addition to the annual scholarships awarded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.



Chair of the district scholarship committee and Timberline Secondary counselor, Derek Berg and committee member and executive assistant to the superintendent and secretary treasurer, Natalie Crawshaw provided the board with an overview of the scholarship and bursary program and the process of selecting student recipients.

Each secondary school has a counsellor attached to the scholarships and bursary program to help support students in learning about available funds and assist them in their application process. Through the district's centralized program students can complete one general application for consideration against upwards to 30 different scholarships and bursaries. Most applications are due at the end of April.

Once students are selected, the secondary schools host an awards night at the end of May or beginning of June at which donors come and present the scholarships and bursaries to the student recipients.

Bursaries are awarded generally based on financial need, whereas scholarships are awarded based on specific criteria, programs, academic standing, or other application decisions made by the donor.

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Elementary Vice-Principals to Get Increased Admin Time

Following a presentation from Superintendent Manning, the Board of Education voted to approve a change to the district's formula which determines the amount of administrative time for elementary school vice-principals.

The approved change allows for vice-principals at schools with 225 to 324 students to now have the equivalent of a full-day for administrative duties instead of the previous half-day allotment. This increase in administrative time does not affect admin salaries, but rather provides increased teaching time as the vice-principal's teaching duties need to be covered while they are working their administrative day.

This change is thought to help increase the number of applicants that the district will have of those willing to consider vice-principalships, and will help with succession planning as there will be greater in-school leadership opportunities for vice-principals to be able to participate in.

Based on the school size formula, Georgia Park, École Willow Point, Penfield and Pinecrest will all see increases to their administrative time.

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BC Adolescent Health Survey Reveals Insights into Student Well-Being

Superintendent Geoff Manning shared the results of the BC Adolescent Health Survey, shedding light on various aspects of student life beyond academic achievements within the Campbell River School District. Also known as the McCreary report, this comprehensive survey delves into the holistic well-being of students, encompassing factors such as demographics, home life, mental and physical health, substance use, relationships, and more.

The survey, which asks somewhat different questions each year, provides invaluable data on various facets of student life in our community. Among the key findings, it was revealed that most participating students (89%) were Canadian-born, with 87% identifying as White and 12% as Indigenous. Stable housing was reported by 77% of students, indicating minimal residential mobility over the past year.

74% of students felt monitored in their free time by their parents, yet only 40% feeling the same level of oversight regarding their online activities.

When asked about the school environment a significant portion (93%) felt that school staff generally expected them to do well academically. While most students felt safe at school and during their commute, there were disparities in perceived safety between supervised and unsupervised spaces.

Mental health is an area of concern, with a quarter of students reporting mental health conditions, primarily anxiety disorders and Attention Deficit Disorder. Despite the prevalence of mental health challenges, a significant portion of students (69%) did not feel the need for mental health services, with barriers such as confidentiality concerns and the desire to handle issues independently cited as reasons for not seeking help.

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Substance use also featured prominently in the survey results, with worrisome statistics regarding vaping, smoking, and alcohol consumption among students. Notably, 35% of students had vaped, with 47% of those who had trying it for the first time between the ages of 12 and 14; 19% said they first vaped between 9 and 11 years old. Tobacco use is lower with only 20% of students saying that they had smoked, with 79% of those that had first smoking between 12 and 16 years old.

Students were more likely to have tried alcohol than to have smoked or vaped with 49% of students saying that they had drunk alcohol beyond just trying a few sips, with 57% of those who had ever used alcohol first drinking between 13 and 15 years old.

33% of students said that they had used cannabis with 57% saying that they first used it between 13 and 15 years old.

When asked about safety, violence, harassment, and abuse, during the past 12 months 43% of students had experienced verbal sexual harassment and 30% had experienced physical sexual harassment.

Students said that they experienced discrimination at school as the highest location response at 29% and 43% of students said that they had been the victim of social exclusion and 36% said that they had been teased to the point of feeling extreme discomfort.

21% of students reported that they had been cyberbullied through texts and social media.

Comparisons between the 2018 and 2023 survey results which is the last time some of these exact same survey questions were administered revealed concerning trends, including declines in overall health ratings, mental health perceptions, and future aspirations for post-secondary education. Moreover, there was a notable increase in students reporting responsibilities such as caregiving and a decrease in healthy lifestyle behaviors such as adequate sleep and eating breakfast.

The BC Adolescent Health Survey offers valuable insights into the well-being of students within the district, highlighting both areas of strength and areas requiring attention.

Watch: 0:20:33

