

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
APR. 9 2024

April 11, 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/oyKl4uOT2bs>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by highlighting that trustees are beginning to gather feedback to guide budget development for next school year and will be attending the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting later next week.

At the annual general meeting trustees from around the province debate motions on such topics as BCSTA's bylaws or foundational statements, calls to collectively advocate for change within the education system, or to define long-term positions or beliefs of the association. Motions are brought forward by individual school districts or regional associations, like the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA).

Themes at this year's annual general meeting focus on funding for additional student supports, accessibility, employment recruitment and retention, student voice, childcare funding, supports for new Canadian students, environmental targets, and government funding for aging infrastructure.

Chair Eddy continued by sharing that she and Superintendent Geoff Manning were invited to a small gathering on April 5 with Premier David Eby. She said that they were able to share the district's success with the new before- and after-school childcare facilities and discuss the district's capital request for a rebuild of Cedar Elementary.

Speaking of the before- and after-school childcare program, she ended by announcing the grand opening of the Ripple Rock Child Care Centre on Friday, April 12 and that the district looks forward to completion on all the remaining centres by fall 2024. She thanked the construction contractors, operations department, EAs staffing the child

care program, and District Principal of Child Care and Early Years Melinda Gaberel.

Watch this segment: 0:00:31

Superintendent Remarks

At the start of his remarks, Superintendent Geoff Manning welcomed everyone back from spring break noting the passion, energy, and enthusiasm that everyone has seemed to return with. He highlighted that the last couple of months in the school year will be busy as district management works on staffing and developing the budget for next year.

He continued by also speaking about the grand opening of the Ripple Rock Child Care Centre highlighting that it is the grand opening of the first of the seven buildings to be completed and that the other buildings will be completed in quick succession leading to all seven being in operation for September.

Superintendent Manning then went on to share that Carihi Secondary's SpongeBob musical opens April 10 and tickets are still available, as well as two social media awareness evenings for parents, grandparents, and students 10+ that are being hosted online on April 10 and 16. Information on both the musical and the social media awareness sessions is available on the district website.

Watch this segment: 0:03:26

International Student Program Continues to Flourish

Mercedes Hayduk, the international student program manager, shared an exciting update on our thriving international student program. This year, the district welcomed 89 students from 14 countries, enriching the cultural fabric of our schools. Germany, Spain and Japan



were the leading countries of origin for these students, reflecting the program's global appeal.

Daily staff connection, monthly in-person check-ins and an annual online survey ensure that students receive ongoing support and guidance. Encouragingly, recent check-in results show that the majority of students are thriving in their new academic and social environments.

To foster camaraderie and integration, the program organizes a diverse array of activities, including pizza lunches, sports nights, beach fires, and golf outings. Recognizing the importance of adapting to students' evolving interests, the program is continually refreshing its activity roster to ensure maximum engagement and enjoyment.

Integral to the program's success are the homestay families who generously open their homes to international students. An overwhelming majority of students report feeling deeply connected to their host families, highlighting the warmth and hospitality of Campbell River.

Last year marked a significant milestone with the launch of the first summer exchange to France. Seven Campbell River students immersed themselves in French culture for a transformative experience, reciprocated by French students visiting our community.

Next year, the international student program expects similar enrollment numbers with students coming for the first time from Hungary and Thailand.

Further strengthening the district's international ties, four student teachers from Switzerland will again undertake a practicum in Campbell River schools this May. Discussions are also underway with the Ishikari group to revive the young ambassador program with Campbell River's sister city in Japan.

The France exchange program will continue this summer, with another five eager Campbell River students set to explore France. Thanks to a provincial grant, some costs for this exchange will be alleviated for families.

Arata Tsujimoto, an international student from Japan, epitomizes the program's success. Drawn to Campbell River by his passion for fishing and inspired by a Japanese comic book featuring our city's renowned fishing scene, Arata

embodies the spirit of adventure and exploration of the international students drawn to study here.

As the international student program continues to flourish, it reaffirms Campbell River's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive destination for global learners.

Watch: 0:08:34

Board Looks to Modernize Governance Policies

Chair Eddy shared that the board recently met with Scott Stinson, retired superintendent of the Sooke School District, to review the board's governance policies for how they could better support the strategic plan with modernized language and consideration through an EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) lens.

The board will be taking a balanced approach beginning with a couple of key policies, and then setting a yearly schedule for the board's governance committee to review other policies throughout the board's term.

Watch this segment: 0:20:33

District to See a \$3.3 Million Increase to Operating Grant for 2024-2025

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick shared with the board that the district is expecting an operating grant of \$72,472,825 from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for next school year.

The district's base student allocation is expected to increase by \$2 million between a per pupil funding increase and a forecast of 54 more full-time equivalent (FTE) students. There is also an expected increase of \$571,853 for students with unique needs.

The district will also receive \$552,990 more in consideration of unique geographic factors given our distance from a major centre and an added \$109,207 will be given in targeted funding for the Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

All combined this equals an increase of \$3.3 million for next year's operating grant, which includes funding for wage increases.



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The district is currently anticipating a \$500,000 surplus heading into development of next year's preliminary budget.

Watch: 0:32:12

