

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
APR. 30 2024

May 1, 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](http://www.sd72.bc.ca).*

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You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:  
<https://youtu.be/--qWvuu2qf4>

## Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by stating that on Friday, April 12 the district celebrated the grand opening of our first new childcare centre at Ripple Rock Elementary. On behalf of the board, she expressed gratitude to all who attended and the many staff who have worked to ensure the success of these facilities and this unique staffing model within the province.

She continued by sharing that several trustees recently attended the BC School Trustees' Association annual general meeting where trustees from around the province passed motions reflecting ongoing provincial concerns about deteriorating infrastructure, new spaces for student growth, climate change impacts on schools and school facilities, funding needs to support vulnerable students, the universal food program announced by the federal government, student voice, DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), anti-racism, anti-bullying, and child care. Approved motions have tasked provincial representatives to advocate and discuss these concerns with government and partner groups.

Chairperson Eddy highlighted May 5, Red Dress Day. Red Dress Day is a national recognized day to remember, honour, and show solidarity in support of action for missing, murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples across Canada. She encouraged everyone to reflect on how they could contribute towards this long ignored crisis.

In closing, she shared that prior to the board meeting she attended the City of Campbell River's Master Transportation Plan community session. She was happy to see that the master transportation plan has plans to resolve long standing safety concerns around several of our schools and school transportation corridors, including the planned installation of sidewalks along Cheviot Road.

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## Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning also spoke about the opening of the Ripple Rock Child Care Centre and shared that Monday, April 29 saw the opening of the childcare centre at Ocean Grove Elementary. Four more childcare centres at Pinecrest, Sandowne, Cedar and Georgia Park will open in the district before the end of the school year, and the childcare centre on Quadra Island will open for September 2024. He noted that the district has gotten positive attention from CUPE National who have expressed appreciation for our work with CUPE to provide additional work hours for educational assistants.

He highlighted that the district parent and student careers info night previously postponed will now be happening on May 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at North Island College's Campbell River campus. At the session, students can learn how they can get a head start on their career path or university/apprenticeship program for free.

Superintendent Manning also flagged that Monday, May 6 is a professional development day. Teachers, educational assistants, and principals will be taking part in professional learning on topics including numeracy, outdoor learning, Indigenous historical areas of interest, play-based learning, behaviour and inclusive education supports.

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## Innovative In-Reach/Out-Reach Supports for Diverse Learners

Following insights gained from last year's budget consultation, the district transformed what was previously known as learning support services into an inclusive



education framework and created the in-reach/out-reach team, which enhances the educational experience for students with complex learning and behavioral needs.

The in-reach/out-reach team initiative was outlined for the board in a presentation from Brenna Ewing, director of Inclusive Education, and team lead Erin Stephens.

Students with complex learning and behavioural needs are referred to the in-reach/out-reach team by the school team when school efforts have been fully tried and where school staff and the student need more support.

Students are initially provided with a six-week cycle of support, but the program meets the student where they are, meaning that some students may be referred for more than one cycle and others may be able to complete their support cycle sooner. Students may also receive in-reach or out-reach services – or sometimes both.

In-reach services are provided to identified elementary and middle school students directly within their schools. The in-reach team works closely with school staff to develop tailored programs that support both the students and the school team. These services range from direct service provision and capacity building to program development and family engagement.

Out-reach services are offered as a targeted intervention to help kindergarten to grade 5 students who may need to build their readiness to attend school. Out-reach is offered at Robron Centre, where students attend three days a week for two hours a day. An early primary group attends in the morning and an intermediate group attends in the afternoon. There are only four to six students in each group per cycle and these sessions focus on relationship building, self-regulation, and social skills, accommodating early primary and intermediate groups in a smaller, supportive environment with less distractions.

The program also provides youth care worker out-reach services for students who are not attending school at all or who have significant barriers to them being able to attend school full-time. This is highly individualized support with ongoing collaboration and case management by the school team. Also, for secondary students, an inclusion support teacher was added at each secondary school this year.

The in-reach/out-reach team provides ongoing capacity building and in-service training for case managers, learning support teachers, and school-based teams. The team, consisting of an inclusion support teacher, three inclusion support workers, and a youth care worker, devotes over half of their time to consultations and collaborative efforts with school teams.

At the date of the board meeting, 56 students have received in-reach support, 14 out-reach support, 35 youth care worker out-reach, and 22 have received both in-reach and out-reach support this school year.

The impact of the in-reach/out-reach team has been significantly positive. Feedback has underscored the program's effectiveness in creating a safe and supportive environment, personalized support, and new strategies and support for school staff.

The district is actively working with school teams and community partners to identify and remove barriers preventing non-attending students from attending school. Efforts are also underway to look to expand the youth care outreach team to better address challenges related to substance use and mental health, and this will be part of the work of a new district counselor.

Through initiatives like the in-reach/out-reach team, we continue to innovate and adapt in response to the needs of our students and families.

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## Quarterly Finance Report Shows District Ending the Year with Slightly Higher Surplus

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick presented the board with a quarterly financial report for the period ending as of March 31, 2024. The district had been projecting a deficit of \$605,000 by this point in the year, however the actual deficit reflected in this quarterly report is only \$75,000.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick pointed out to the board that salaries and benefits for CUPE positions are showing as underspent due in part to the district's inability to fill some positions, but largely because the EA staffing formula for one school had not been adjusted based on this year's



enrollment numbers within the budget. The staffing formula was correctly applied at the school and that is why the quarterly report shows such a spending discrepancy.

The district had already projected to end the year with an approximate surplus of \$200,000 which will help to rebuild the district's reserves which were significantly drawn down through the COVID pandemic. Secretary-Treasurer also spoke to the fact that heading into next year with a surplus puts us in a fortunate position compared to many other school districts around the province who are facing a deficit and having to consider cuts.

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## Ministry Approves Funding for Capital Projects

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has approved \$2,098,000 in projects from the district's capital plan request.

Approved projects include \$900,000 for a roofing upgrade to Sayward School, \$400,000 in fall protection roofing upgrades for staff safety, \$603,510 for a heating and ventilation upgrade at Sandowne Elementary, and \$195,000 for a new playground that cannot be announced yet under direction by the Ministry.

The Board of Education held all three required readings and unanimously passed the required capital plan bylaw to allow the district to receive the funds and proceed with these projects.

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