

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
MAY 28 2024

May 30, 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).*

*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/cWm5ytyJ8TI>

## Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the board meeting by highlighting two recent events: the play potlatch held at Cedar Elementary School and the retirement evening honouring those who are finishing their careers with SD72 this year.

The Cedar play potlatch was a significant milestone as it marked the first time such an event was held in district schools. The potlatch was conducted in the Nuu-Chah-Nulth tradition, hosted by Qwaya Sam, a knowledge keeper at Cedar Elementary. Gratitude was expressed to Hereditary Chief Henderson for welcoming the potlatch on Liḡwít̓daḡw territory. The event was praised for building cultural connections for students who may not have such experiences due to living far from their home territories on the west coast. The beautiful day saw participation from Cedar Elementary and Penfield Elementary, with the school field filled with respectful, engaged children, making it a truly memorable event.

The retirement celebration honoured numerous employees from both unions who are retiring from SD72. The evening was filled with heartfelt sharing about the impact these employees have had on the lives of children, even those not directly working in classrooms. The celebration highlighted the importance of the relationships and connections we make to create welcoming spaces for students to learn. Congratulations were extended to all retirees for their dedicated service and contributions to the district.

Chairperson Eddy concluded by acknowledging the significant contributions of all those involved in these events, emphasizing the importance of community and cultural connections within the school district.

Watch this segment: 0:00:49

## Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning provided a preview of upcoming events and activities as we approach June. Here's a highlight of the events scheduled for the secondary schools between now and the next board meeting on June 18:

Timberline Secondary School:

- Grad Bursary Evening: May 28
- Sports Banquet: May 30
- Prom: June 1
- Parent Appreciation Open House: June 4

Carihi Secondary School:

- Choir Year-End Concert: June 3
- Bursary Evening: June 4
- Jazz Band Performance at Spirit Square: June 5
- Prom: June 8
- Year-End Band Concert: June 12

In addition, Robron Centre will host a Métis sashing ceremony on June 1, and the Indigenous graduation ceremony will take place at the Kwanwatsi Big House on June 6. These events are not only exciting but also significant in celebrating the achievements and cultural heritage of our students.

For more details, please visit the respective school websites.

Superintendent Manning concluded by expressing enthusiasm for these upcoming events, noting they lead up to the formal graduation ceremonies at the end of June. The diverse array of activities showcases the vibrant school communities and the many opportunities for students, parents, and staff to come together in celebration and appreciation.

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## \$1.6 Million Annual Facilities Grant Plan for 2024-2025

At the board meeting, Jason Decksheimer, director of operations, presented the annual facilities grant (AFG) to the board. This grant, provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is a crucial lump sum for upgrading or replacing facility components, addressing health and safety concerns, enhancing service potential, or reducing operating costs. The funding year for the AFG runs from April 1 to March 31, and the upcoming year's (2024-2025) funding levels for the district are set at \$1.6 million.

Decksheimer detailed that the projects planned through the AFG fall under nine different categories: asbestos abatement, accessibility, electrical, exterior wall, HVAC, interior construction, plumbing, roofing, and site upgrades. However, he clarified that certain expenditures are ineligible, including building expansions or acquisitions, sites/land, equipment, furnishings, computers, and vehicles.

The planning for AFG spans a five-year cycle, although funding is set annually. The district's AFG plan is developed through consultations with school principals, maintenance site walkthroughs, and consideration of regulatory requirements, district priorities, and historical requests. The planning process involves sessions through leadhand meetings, review by the senior leadership team, and submissions for Ministry feedback.

For the 2024-2025 funding year, the district plans to allocate about half of the AFG budget, approximately \$800,000, to school and district priorities, with the remainder directed towards asset renewal activities. Major themes for AFG projects in the upcoming year include washroom safety improvements, window coverings, and space modernization. An architecture firm has been engaged to develop guidelines and design standards for washrooms, focusing on partition improvements, enhanced sightlines into common areas for improved supervision, and vape detection. This initiative hopes to begin to address some washroom safety improvements over the summer.

Window coverings are another priority, particularly important for emergency protocols like hold and secure and lockdowns. Funding will be allocated to this at the elementary level, as middle and secondary schools were addressed last year.

With the average age of district facilities being 50 years old, there is a significant need for modernizing spaces to meet current educational needs. Projects that consider modernization through such items as breakout rooms, spaces for teacher preparation, and areas for learning support and inclusive education, are another priority.

Decksheimer shared that of the 50 projects identified for next year, 12 are prioritized school requests totaling \$500,000. This comprehensive approach to using the AFG ensures that the district's facilities are continually upgraded and maintained to provide as safe and functional learning environments as possible for all students and staff.

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## Board Sets 2024-2025 Annual Operating Budget

After three readings, the Board of Education voted to adopt the proposed preliminary annual operating budget of \$91,524,470 for the 2024-2025 school year.

The budget includes \$495,000 in added services from available surplus. Budget additions for next year include: \$20,000 towards a 1.0 mechanic, \$25,000 towards a .2 FTE outdoor education coordinator, \$25,000 to change the payroll supervisor position to a manager position, \$30,000 to add additional Indigenous Knowledge Keeper support, \$70,145 for the addition of a vice-principal position at either École Phoenix Middle School or Carihi Secondary, \$100,000 to restore school allocations (formerly school supplies) funding, \$100,000 towards a new enterprise resource planning system (ERP) as replacement for the CIMS business system, and \$125,000 for the addition of a 1.0 FTE numeracy coordinator position.

The budget is based on an estimated student enrolment of 5,829 students for September 2024 and forecasts total revenues of \$90.4 million and total costs of \$91 million. While the district has a capital deficit of \$651,671 there is no structural deficit, and the district is not making an additional draw on surplus to deliver a balanced budget.

The preliminary budget can be viewed at [2024-2025 Preliminary Annual Budget](#).

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## Public Board Meeting Schedule Set for Next Year

The Board of Education set their public board meeting schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. Meetings will be held:

September 3, 2024	February 25, 2025
September 24, 2024	March 11, 2025
October 15, 2024	April 8, 2025
November 5, 2024	April 29, 2025
November 26, 2024	May 13, 2025
December 17, 2024	May 27, 2025
January 14, 2025	June 17, 2025
February 4, 2025	

Public board meetings are held at the school board office at 425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River and begin at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet in person and the public have the option to attend in person or online through livestream. Meetings are also recorded and posted on the district's YouTube channel (@SchoolDistrict72) within 24 hours of the meeting.

The meeting agendas and attendance information is posted on the district website ([www.sd72.bc.ca](http://www.sd72.bc.ca)) under 'Upcoming Events' the Friday ahead of each scheduled meeting.

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## District Approved for Second Electric School Bus

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has approved \$247,000 towards the district's purchase of second electric school bus. The total cost of an electric school bus is approximately \$400,000 and the difference will be achieved through existing grant funding.

Due to backorder the district is still waiting on delivery of the first electric bus and so both may arrive at approximately the same time early next school year.

The Board of Education held all three required readings to allow the district to receive the funds and proceed with ordering the second electric bus.

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