

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 3, 2024

September 5, 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/ND0q4BmxObY>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy welcomed trustees, table officers and gallery members back for the first board meeting of the 2024-2025 school year. She thanked custodial and maintenance employees, as well as Summer School and child care staff, those working to get their classrooms ready or on school success plans, training for new positions, and supporting IT and administrative needs through the summer to get SD72 schools ready for the year.

Chair Eddy also continued her remarks by congratulating Stephen Hawkins-Bogle on his new role as director of instruction, curriculum and assessment for K-12 and spoke to how this position will provide a district lens for learning supports, curriculum, resources, and development.

She went on to share that the construction work at Strathcona Gardens started earlier in the day and that it would alter traffic patterns around the school board office as access for the pool and arena will now be off the driveway on Pinecrest Road, beside the school board office's west parking lot. As this will increase traffic along the Pinecrest Road and S. Birch Street corridor, she encouraged everyone to be particularly mindful of school zone traffic laws and to drive with extra care in this area while construction is underway for the next two years.

Chairperson Eddy ended her remarks by sharing how much the board was looking forward to another great year of working together for the best interests of students and families and welcoming everyone back to school.

Watch this segment: 0:00:06

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning started his remarks by sharing that he had the opportunity to visit eight school

sites earlier in the day, as part of the first day of school activities welcoming new kindergarteners, elementary, grade 6, and grade 9 students.

He spoke to how much work gets done over the summer months and how the pride our custodial, maintenance and grounds staff take in their jobs is evident this first week of school with how wonderful the schools look.

Superintendent Manning shared that it has now been one year since he joined SD72 and that as he has gotten to know members of the district's leadership team, trustees, teachers and other district staff he is inspired by what a strong school district this is and excited about the future in SD72.

Over the last year, the district has built seven and started running six new childcare centres with district staff, providing a much-needed service to the community. Over 900 students participated in the district's Summer School program which continues to grow year-over-year, and the district saw its highest graduation completion rate over the last five years. Superintendent Manning spoke of how the district has completed a comprehensive literacy framework and hired a new director of instruction whose main task this year will be to create a numeracy framework to improve our numeracy rates.

In closing, he shared that the district had projected an enrollment of 355 kindergarten students for this year and that as of earlier that day, we had hit that projection. District-wide enrollment numbers will be finalized after the September 30 enrollment count.

Watch this segment: 0:03:52



Unexpected Surplus Allows for Rebuilding of Contingency Funds and New Initiatives

The school district ended the 2023-2024 school year in a better financial position than expected, according to Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick. He shared that while the final budget had forecasted a surplus of \$39,796 the district ended the year with a surplus of \$386,019. This end-of-year surplus increased district reserves from \$2,236,412 to \$2,622,431.

This past year the district continued to increase budgets after reductions during the COVID pandemic and costs associated with employee benefits and sick replacement are closer to budgeted forecasts.

On top of the year-end surplus, the preliminary 2023-2024 budget had called for the use of \$100,000 from the international student program surplus, but the district didn't end up needing those funds to balance the budget.

The board decided to follow the recommendations of the senior leadership team to leave \$1 million in unrestricted reserves and split the operational surplus, distributing \$138,813 to the district's emergency contingency funds and using \$231,000 to support other proposed initiatives that weren't previously able to be added to the 2024-2025 budget.

These new initiatives include setting aside \$87,699 towards IT equipment replacement for an annual total of \$205,353, \$12,000 to purchase and implement new safety tracking and support software, increasing the strategic priorities budget by another \$120,000, and \$65,000 for the replacement of a paint department van.

The board's accumulated operating surplus policy requires that the emergency contingency shall be kept at two percent of the prior year's revenues and any use of the contingency can only be rebuilt through surplus.

Watch: 0:09:58

Board Updates its Trustee Code of Conduct Policy

The Board of Education has adopted changes to its Trustee Code of Conduct board governance policy.

These changes were made proactively, considering provincial direction from the BC School Trustees' Association and Ministry of Education and Child Care and not because of concerns within the Board of Education.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the board's June 18 public meeting. The board's governance policy committee received no comments or concerns on the policy.

The revised policy will be posted on the district website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws within the next couple of days.

Watch: 0:25:29

Board to Share New Options for District's Vision, Mission and Values with Community

Last May, the Board of Education surveyed families, staff, students and community members on the district's vision, mission and values statements. The survey received 713 responses showing that the board's intent to refresh these statements was called for.

These results were collated by the district's manager of communications and superintendent to identify themes and based on the feedback the district received, three new possible statements for each have been created.

The board will be circulating these possible statements by survey again to families, staff, students and community from September 9 to 18. Feedback from the survey will help the board make their final decision about which statements to adopt for the district.

Vision, mission, and values statements define an organization's long-term goals, core purpose, and guiding principles, serving as a foundation for decision-making and fostering a shared sense of direction.

Watch: 0:27:19

District Sets Operational Procedure for Cell Phone Restrictions in Schools



School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 3, 2024

Superintendent Geoff Manning shared the district's new operational procedure on personal digital devices at school with the board. Starting this September, students in School District 72 schools are restricted as to when they can use cell phones and other personal digital devices during the school day.

The new restrictions follow the provincial government's directive that all school districts had to have cell phone restrictions in place by July 1. Personal digital devices include but are not limited to smartphones, tablet computers, laptops/netbooks, and gaming devices brought from home.

At elementary schools, students are restricted from using personal digital devices at school at any time and the expectation is that personal digital devices, if brought to school, will remain in the student's backpack or bag.

Middle school students are allowed to bring phones and use them before and after school but not during instructional times or breaks. Secondary students are allowed to use cell phones only at break times but not during class time.

This tiered approach is to help ensure an age-appropriate use that is reflective of the students' developmental age, promote online safety and support focused learning environments. Accessibility and legitimate learning or medical accommodations will be provided for students who need them.

Schools will include these personal digital device restrictions in their school code of conduct and, like other items within their code of conduct, will monitor and enforce these expectations.

Since announcing these requirements, the district has received many positive comments from parents and caregivers, as well as students who sit on the superintendent's student leadership council.

[Operational Procedure 359 Personal Digital Devices at School](#) can be viewed on the district website.

Watch: 0:35:39

Literacy Framework Documents Officially Rolled Out

Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle presented the board

with copies of the district's literacy framework and literacy resource binder. The written literacy framework and resource binder was developed concurrently over the last three years as its methodology was being implemented in schools across the district.

Identified as a goal in the 2019-2023 strategic plan, the literacy framework captures best instructional practice based on current research in literacy instruction and was developed by a Campbell River working team comprised of: retired principal Kim Paddington; Quadra principal Lorill Vining; learning support teacher and vice-principal of French Immersion, and now vice-principal of Pinecrest Elementary Rachel Black; Director of Inclusive Education Brenna Ewing; school psychologist and now District Principal of Inclusive Education Alyssa Bollans; and district literacy teacher coordinators Christine Fraser and Audra Schroeder.

Every teacher for kindergarten to grade five now has their own copy of these resources.

Under the literacy framework the district established DIBELS as the district screener which has provided robust district data that has allowed us to identify where we need to provide added support and targeted interventions. Over the last three years, this has already shown a marked improvement in district literacy results.

Watch: 0:38:29



CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72