

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 24, 2024

September 25, 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/6_fvIUY4dZg

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by thanking the City of Campbell River for installing sidewalks along Cheviot Road, making a safer traffic corridor for Ripple Rock students to get to and from school. This has been one of the top items that the Board of Education and school district had lobbied the city to address through their regular liaison meetings.

Ahead of the evening's presentation of the district's audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2023 from Graham Roberts of MNP LLP, Chair Eddy thanked the audit team, Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Renée MacNeil and the audit risk committee members for the completion of another successful audit.

Chairperson Eddy then continued her remarks by sharing a reminder that all letters sent to individual trustees are sent to the board chair, if found to be related to governance, the governing relationship or district policies it will be discussed and responded to by the Board of Education. As a governance board, the board is not involved in operational matters. Where correspondence is received by the board that pertains to an operational concern it will be sent to the proper district staff member for response. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to address concerns first with their child's teacher or the staff member closest to the situation, and to follow the district's process for addressing concerns which can be found on the district website at: [How to Get Help with a Concern \(sd72.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd72.bc.ca)

She continued her remarks with a reminder that September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. The Laichwiltach Family Life Society is again hosting a community walk and gathering with Elders and residential school survivors. The walk starts at 11 a.m. at Spirit Square, followed by the gathering at the

Tidemark at 2:30 p.m. She also shared that the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is hosting online lunch and learn sessions all this week. These discussions are also available on the National Centre's YouTube channel afterwards for those unable to attend.

Chair Eddy ended her remarks with a personal call to action for everyone to learn about and understand Indigenous experiences before and after first contact. She encouraged us all to share our learnings from a strength-based perspective, highlighting those that have and continue to fight for equality, truth, and the rights of their communities, so that Indigenous students can witness their own potential to make the world a better place for the generations to follow.

Watch this segment: [0:00:07](#)

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning shared that it has been a smooth start-up across the district and that the implementation of the new cell phone restrictions have gone relatively smoothly. He shared with the board that the district is experiencing small enrollment growth and that we are close to our projections but will know definitively after the September 30 enrollment count.

He continued with an update on the district's vision, mission and values process, which was started last spring with a survey that collected over 700 responses from parents, staff, students and community. The results of that first survey were reviewed by the board who decided to issue a second survey based on themes heard from the first survey. The district received 944 responses to this second survey and an analysis of the responses from the second survey will be brought to the board at their October 15 meeting. Once the board decides on the new



vision, mission and values for the district these will be incorporated into the strategic plan.

Ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, Superintendent Manning shared that there are a lot of events and learning taking place in schools all this week, ahead of the community events. Several schools are hosting pancake breakfasts, walks, taking part in cultural drumming, and showcasing their learning through art projects, displays and other presentations.

Watch this segment: [0:05:46](#)

Board Reviewed Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2024

Graham Roberts from accounting firm MNP LLP gave an audited financial statement presentation stating that SD72 has an accumulated surplus of \$8.4 million which includes operations and capital. Total revenues have come in slightly lower than budget at \$87 million but expenses are also down from budget for a combined deficit of \$141,646.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick as part of his financial analysis highlighted that the district's combined operating surplus increased by \$386,019 for a total of \$2,622,431 (\$789,553 of which is internally restricted for specific purposes, \$832,878 is available for emergencies, and \$1 million is unrestricted).

Patrick also highlighted that the district's special purpose fund (monies provided by third parties with directive on how the funds are to be used) increased overall by \$307,343, for a total of \$9.2 million. Included in the district's special purpose fund is \$709,927 for the government's Feeding Futures program, which is focused on improving food programs in schools. Last year, only \$429,541 was spent on food program operations and so the remaining \$283,068 will be carried into this year to supplement the 2024-2025 funding.

The Student and Family Affordability grant also continued in 2023-2024 with an increase of \$100,000. The remaining \$200,773 will also be carried forward this year to continue to help offset cost pressures for families over the next two years.

Touching on capital, Patrick mentioned that the district received \$8.1 million for the construction of the seven

childcare centres, with construction expected to be complete by December 2024, and that child care operations have covered its costs for a successful first fiscal year. The district's annual facilities grant program spending also stayed the same at \$1.1 million.

The auditors have directed the district to make a procedural change for recording GST through the district's purchase card program to ensure that the district is receiving all the GST rebates that it is eligible for.

The audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024 and the recommended reserve transfers by the audit committee were approved by trustees.

The audited financial statements will be available on the district website at www.sd72.bc.ca under 'What's Happening', 'Reports & Publications'.

Watch: [0:13:52](#) and [0:56:32](#)

Board to Lend its Voice to the BC School Trustees' Association Advocacy Efforts Ahead of the Provincial Election

The board agreed to join the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) advocacy efforts in bringing forward educational issues as part of the provincial election campaigns.

They will be sharing letters with local candidates highlighting issues facing education and school districts around the province such as deferred maintenance costs, recruitment and retention challenges, inclusive education and student success. The board will also be expressing concerns that relate specifically to School District 72, including the need to replace Cedar Elementary School and funding sustainability for school food programs, amongst others.

Watch: [0:25:34](#)

District Expands School Food Programs through Feeding Futures

Director of Inclusive Education Brenna Ewing and Quadra Elementary Principal Lorill Vining provided the board with an



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update on the district's school food programs in support of the provincial Feeding Futures initiative.

School districts were tasked with addressing the immediate needs of feeding students to improve academic achievement and overall health either by expanding existing food programs or creating new programs. These programs must be sustainable long-term, build community connections and partnerships, and prioritize locally produced foods.

Programs must support a minimum of 20% more students, be delivered in a way that is stigma-free, flexible and respects student privacy, be more nutritional and, where possible, use BC Grown or processed food.

The district received \$780,000 in Feeding Futures funding and since last year, has concentrated on creating systems and infrastructure to support the food programs that were already happening to run more efficiently and expand the number of students that they serve. This included creating centralized ordering and delivery systems with Superstore and a centralized ordering system for Costco orders.

Community partnerships have also been set up with Greenways Land Trust as part of their fruit tree picking program, local bakeries for the provision of day-old bread and buns, and the Campbell River Food Bank for a community pantry program where Robron and Cedar students can pick-up non-perishable food items.

Food coordinators have been set up at every elementary school in conjunction with their student supervisor roles, and youth care workers are supporting food programs at the middle and secondary schools. These food coordinators take care of the ordering, receiving, storing, preparation, and food clean-up.

The district has also bought an electric van with a refrigeration unit to support food deliveries and infrastructure improvements (such as installing dishwashers, stoves, and upgrading electrical systems to accommodate these appliances) are also being made to schools to better support food services.

After spring break last year, the district piloted the centralized ordering with two elementary schools and by the end of June 2024 every elementary school was taking part with the district supporting approximately 800 meals per day.

The district has also continued its relationship with Backpack Buddies and Breakfast Club of Canada.

Backpack Buddies is a charity that provides children who rely on school meal programs Monday to Friday with food for over the weekend and on average this program supports 306 families. The Breakfast Club of Canada provides a financial grant to further support food programs offered to students.

In future, Lorill Vining and Georgina Knox, who is also organizing Feeding Futures initiatives in our district, are planning to meet with the Indigenous Education Council to investigate ways to enhance cultural food options.

Watch: [0:32:35](#)

District Introduces Parent Code of Conduct

Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle shared with the board that due to a rise in disrespectful, and at times, aggressive behaviour by parents and guests towards school staff the district has introduced a new parent/caregiver code of conduct and signage.

This is part of the district's ongoing commitment to creating a safe and respectful environment for everyone in our schools and the parent/caregiver code of conduct goes along with the codes of conduct that the district already has in place for students, staff and trustees.

The district's goal is always for respectful communication, to resolve concerns collaboratively, and to support a space where everyone feels safe and valued.

Anyone with a concern is asked to follow the district's established process for addressing concerns, which is designed to ensure clarity and fairness. A flow chart of this process can be found on the district website at www.sd72.bc.ca, under 'Students & Parents', 'Communicating with Our Schools & Staff', 'How to Get Help with a Concern'.

The new signage has been installed at the entrances and offices at every school and all parents/caregivers were emailed a copy of the parent/caregiver code of conduct and it is available on the district website under 'Students & Parents', 'Communicating with Our Schools & Staff'.



Watch: [1:14:32](#)

Board Approves Minor Capital Plan Submission for 2024-2025

The Board of Education passed a motion to support the district's minor capital plan application. The project requests total \$4,980,403 and these projects are being submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for funding consideration in the 2025-2026 school year.

The district is requesting Ministry support for a new electric accessible school bus, heating and ventilation upgrades at Cortes Island School and Southgate Middle School, a boiler replacement at Timberline Secondary, playground replacements at Ocean Grove and Ripple Rock Elementary Schools, roofing upgrades at Ocean Grove Elementary, Cortes Island School, École Phoenix Middle School and Robron Centre, and an upgrade to the food preparation kitchens at Southgate and École Phoenix Middle Schools.

Watch: [1:19:44](#)

