

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
DEC. 17, 2024

December 18, 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/usla6fd1pYA>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting extending warmest wishes to everyone in the Campbell River School District community as we approach the holidays. On behalf of the Board of Education she wished everyone the happiest and safest holiday season filled with laughter, love and joy of family.

She also acknowledged the service and upcoming retirement of Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle, who joined the district approximately five years ago at the recommendation of former superintendent, Jeremy Morrow. Chairperson Eddy spoke highly of how Morgan has guided the district through several large events, helped support school-based leadership on parental concerns, and of her leadership in guiding a team on the development of the district literacy framework and on the Safer Schools portfolio.

She spoke of Morgan's unwavering focus on seeing the potential in every student and how her work will continue to shape the district for years to come, ensuring future students have a safe and supportive environment in which to learn and grow. Chairperson Eddy closed her remarks by wishing Morgan all the best in her retirement.

Watch this segment: [0:00:02](#)

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning began his holiday message by reflecting on how quickly time has passed and extending warm holiday wishes to everyone in the Campbell River School District community. He wished staff, students, and families a season filled with peace, joy, and opportunities to recharge.

He highlighted the past few weeks as being filled with the joy of holiday concerts and festivities. Superintendent

Manning shared his enjoyment of attending Pinecrest Elementary's concert last week and his excitement for the upcoming concert at École des Deux Mondes. He also noted the many festive gatherings, including an outstanding maintenance department luncheon, as wonderful opportunities to connect and celebrate the season together.

Superintendent Manning took a moment to acknowledge the challenges the district has faced this year, particularly the significant fire at Carihi Secondary, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to staff, students, and families for their hard work, resilience, and dedication.

He spoke directly to staff, thanking them for their unwavering commitment to inspiring and guiding students, recognizing their passion and effort as the heart of the school community. To students, he expressed admiration for their curiosity, creativity, and resilience, which continue to inspire all who work with them. Finally, he thanked families for their partnership and support, emphasizing how their involvement strengthens the district's sense of community.

Superintendent Manning concluded his remarks by reflecting on the opportunity this time of year provides to appreciate accomplishments and the special sense of community within the district. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season and shared his enthusiasm for continuing the district's important work in the new year.

Watch this segment: [0:02:46](#)



Board Considers Changes to Governance Policy on Meetings

Vice-Chairperson Craig Gillis presented the board with a notice of motion for changes to the board's governance policy on meetings. The changes include how questions on agenda items can be submitted to the Board of Education to reflect the online livestream attendance option, as well as in-person attendance.

Feedback on these proposed changes are invited before January 9 as the board will be considering the possible motion at their January 14, 2025 public board meeting.

The draft policy, along with information on how to give feedback, is posted on the district website under 'News & Announcements'.

Watch: [0:06:08](#)

Board Motions to Be Brought Forward at BCSTA AGM

The Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA) have agreed to bring forward two motions proposed by the Campbell River Board of Education for provincial consideration at the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting.

The motions are for BCSTA to advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for a coordinated and funded provincial approach to addressing cyber security on behalf of school districts and to create an additional and new funding stream aligned with the annual facilities grant to properly fund and support student and instructional technology in a modern learning environment.

The BCSTA annual general meeting will be held in April in Vancouver.

Watch this segment: [0:07:18](#)

Carihi Fire Update: Remediation Work Begins on Carihi B-Wing

Superintendent Manning provided the board with an update on the ongoing recovery efforts following the fire at Carihi Secondary. The fire occurred on November 21, shortly after 11 p.m., originating in the A-wing teaching kitchen. A total of

13 teaching spaces were directly affected, with smoke and water damage also impacting B-wing.

In just six days after the fire, the district relocated eight classrooms to the former Oyster River school, transporting students between Carihi and Oyster River twice a day. To minimize lost instructional time, an extended block two-day rotational schedule was implemented. Another class was moved to École des Deux Mondes, some classrooms were shuffled in Carihi to accommodate resource needs, Robron's gym was enlisted to support Carihi's physical education classes and École Phoenix and Southgate middle schools were called upon to support sports teams and extracurricular activities. Thanks to these efforts, Carihi students were able to return to in-person learning by December 2.

Remediation work on B-wing began this week, and the fire-damaged area of A-wing has been secured while the district works with structural engineers to salvage as much as possible. The goal is to have B-wing classrooms ready for use as soon as possible, but it may take until the start of the school's second semester.

The district is committed to keeping the community informed and providing regular progress updates to the Board of Education. A dedicated FAQ section has been created on the district and Carihi websites under 'What's Happening', 'Carihi Fire'. Questions not yet addressed are those that the district is currently unable to answer, but this section will be updated as more information becomes available.

An official statement has also been released on the results of the fire investigation, which determined the cause to be spontaneous combustion due to a reaction between cooking oils on fabrics, heat after laundering, and inadequate ventilation.

Superintendent Manning expressed gratitude to the school district's and Carihi Secondary's leadership team for their extraordinary efforts during this challenging time, as well as to parents, teachers, and the entire school community for their patience and support.

The district remains committed to restoring Carihi Secondary as quickly and safely as possible and will continue to provide updates as work progresses.

Watch: [0:08:24](#)

