

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
JAN. 14, 2025

January 15, 2025  
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/eXz32pYnX3Q>

## Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened the meeting by welcoming all students, staff, and families back as they embark on this new year and acknowledged the recent passing of two individuals who had a profound impact on the school district and the community: Dot Andrews and Ted Foster.

Dot Andrews served as a school trustee from 1973 to 1984, and her dedication and commitment to the schools and students of Campbell River have left a lasting legacy. Ted Foster, another former trustee, left an enduring mark within the city of Campbell River through his lifetime of service and community involvement.

She continued by extending congratulations to Trustee Joyce McMann, who was absent from the meeting because she was being honoured at Government House for her over 40 years of work in the early years' community. On behalf of all Campbell River families, Chairperson Eddy thanked Trustee McMann for her invaluable contributions.

Enthusiastic about the work ahead, it was also shared that the Board of Education will showcase the district's achievements and the community of Campbell River when they host the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association meetings this fall.

Ahead of the evening's presentation on the district's new 10-year facility plan for 2025 to 2035, Chairperson Eddy spoke to the plan's importance in outlining and raising government awareness about the district's infrastructure needs, like the rebuilding of Cedar Elementary. She emphasized the ongoing challenge of aging infrastructure in the region and the board's ongoing commitment to advocating for the necessary funding to ensure students have safe, modern learning environments.

In closing, Chairperson Eddy also shared that Family Literacy Week will kick off on January 26. All events are free to the community, and this year's theme is "Learn to be Green Together." The events are organized, sponsored, and hosted by the Campbell River Literacy Association, in partnership with the Greenways Lands Trust and the Tidemark Theatre. Families can find more information about the free events on the Campbell River Literacy Association's social media channels.

Watch this segment: [0:00:05](#)

## Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning started his remarks reflecting on the challenges faced at the end of 2024 and looking forward to the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

One such opportunity is this Friday's Pro-D Day, which will feature workshops for staff led by two renowned experts whose work aligns with the district's strategic plan – Shelley Moore, an expert on inclusion and diversity and Carole Fullerton, an expert on numeracy. Superintendent Manning highlighted that numeracy is a key area targeted in the district's strategic plan, as there is a need for improvement based on Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) numeracy results and other assessment data from the district's Framework for Enhanced Student Learning (FESL) report.

Addressing recent challenges, Superintendent Manning spoke about the fire at Carihi Secondary at the end of November and he commended the remediation crews for their hard work over the break, sharing that B-wing classrooms at Carihi are expected to be back in operation within the next month and a half.



Looking ahead, Superintendent Manning also mentioned his upcoming visit to Cortes Island and the Cortes Island Academy (CIA) for their "Time Travel to a Vision of 2040" art show next Thursday night, which will offer a visionary experience of life in the future.

To end his remarks, Superintendent Manning shared a letter he received from an elementary student. The well-written and researched letter advocated for the addition of nap time in the school day, bringing a smile to everyone's face.

Watch this segment: [0:04:22](#)

## Words on the Water: Inspiring Students with Award-Winning Authors

Richard Franklin and JoAnn Multinovic, board members of the not-for-profit society Words on the Water, shared exciting news about the upcoming Words on Water Festival 2025. Scheduled for March 7 and 8, the festival will feature eight award-winning Canadian authors who will engage audiences with readings and discussions.

The festival is a celebration of literacy and Canadian arts, and the school district has played a significant role in its success over the years. Franklin and Multinovic expressed their gratitude for the district's ongoing support and highlighted the importance of the student outreach program, which has been a cornerstone of the festival for the past 20 years.

The student outreach program brings award-winning authors into schools, offering students the opportunity to take part in readings, spoken word and slam poetry performances, and author-led workshops. This initiative aims to inspire a love of reading and writing among students and to provide them with unique educational experiences.

For schools interested in taking part in the Words on Water Festival, registration is available online through the festival's website. This event promises to be a valuable experience for students, fostering a deeper appreciation for literacy and the arts.

Watch: [0:10:35](#)

## Board Changes Governance Policy on Meetings

The Board of Education has adopted changes to its board 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.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the board's December 17 public meeting. The board's governance committee received no comments or concerns on the policy changes.

The revised policy is posted on the district's website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws.

Watch this segment: [0:24:15](#)

## School District Adopts New 10-Year Facility Plan

The Board of Education has adopted a new 10-year facility plan, extending from 2025 to 2035, as presented by Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick. This plan, mandated by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is crucial for addressing school enrolment capacity, surplus space, catchment boundaries, expansions, closures, new schools, and strategic investments in facility upgrades.

The district contracted studioHub in December 2023 to help with the engagement, research, and development of recommendations. Known for their student-focused approach, studioHub has previously developed facility plans for other districts, including Sea-to-Sky, Sooke, and Saanich.

Long-range facility plans (LRFPs) are to ensure that the ministry does not invest in projects that may close within a few years. Notably, there are no school closure recommendations within the SD72 2025-2035 LRFP.

The development process included workshops with the district's LRFP planning committee (made up of school principals, senior management and operations staff), school visits, meetings with city officials and local First Nations rightsholders, a review of Baragar forecasting, and an assessment of each school's facility condition index.



The LRFP aligns with the board's strategic priorities. While enrolment growth in Campbell River is expected to be flat or slightly decline over the next eight years, the north side of Campbell River has a 98% use rate, supporting the request for a new Cedar Elementary. The south side has a lower use rate of 87%.

Key recommendations include monitoring enrolment projections, assessing other potential school replacements, updating the project request fact sheet for Cedar Elementary, improving washroom safety, creating breakout spaces for collaboration, and reviewing district-owned vacant sites. The plan also emphasizes the importance of cultural spaces and workspaces not generally supported by the Ministry.

The board commended the maintenance staff for their proactive approach in maintaining the district's buildings, noting an improvement in the overall facility condition index since the last LRFP. This long-range facility plan sets a clear path forward, to ensure that students have safe, modern learning environments that support their educational journey.

The long-range facility plan can be found on the district website at [www.sd72.bc.ca](http://www.sd72.bc.ca) under What's Happening/Reports & Publications.

Watch: [0:27:15](#)

## Final Funding Announcement Delayed

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick informed the board that the final funding announcement from the Ministry of Education and Child Care has been delayed. The district normally receives this information from the Ministry by the middle of December but has been informed that this year it will be delayed until January 27.

The district needs this final funding update for the district's final amended annual budget which is required by the end of February.

Watch this segment: [0:56:05](#)

