

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
APR. 8 2025

April 10, 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.
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You can watch a recording of this meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
<https://youtu.be/6JACzJ8KUOc?si=Y1K3Kpo4oRqEVMFb>

Chairperson Remarks

In her opening remarks, Chairperson Kat Eddy expressed regret that information about retired teacher Dan Staples' celebration of life was not shared by the school district, and she apologized for any harm that this may have caused. The district's operational procedure regarding the death of current and past employees will be reviewed.

Chairperson Eddy continued with reflection on the important role that public education plays in shaping the next generation of Canadians – especially during times of challenge and change.

She acknowledged the growing pressures facing our country, from economic uncertainty to deepening divisions in public discourse. In the face of these challenges, she shared the responsibility that she felt elected leaders and educators share in modeling empathy, integrity, and respectful dialogue. She noted that leadership often means navigating complex conversations, listening with openness, and ensuring that every voice can be heard with respect.

Looking ahead to the upcoming federal election, Chairperson Eddy encouraged all eligible voters to take part in the democratic process. General voting takes place on April 28.

To close, Chairperson Eddy reminded everyone that our children are watching us closely and that the values we uphold and the choices we make today will shape their future.

Watch this segment: [0:00:01](#)

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning started his comments with an update on the fire restoration efforts for Carihi Secondary, sharing that over spring break the demolition of

A-wing was completed and the majority of Carihi students are now back on campus. Site preparation will begin soon to support the installation of four portable classrooms over the summer break, ahead of the next school year.

He expressed gratitude to North Island College for giving the Carihi Secondary foods program a temporary home on their campus, École Phoenix Middle School for sharing space to support the Carihi guitar, jazz and concert bands, École des Deux Mondes Elementary for housing the francophone classes and Robron Centre for sharing their gym space. He also thanked all the crews involved in the restoration and repair work for their continued work.

Superintendent Manning continued by highlighting the upcoming Carihi musical showcase, *From the Smoke to the Spotlight*, which will be generously hosted by the Tidemark Theatre from April 15 to 17. Tickets are on sale now and all proceeds will go to support next year's Carihi Musical Theatre production and help to replace some of the costumes, sets, props, lighting and sound equipment lost in the fire.

He also shared with trustees that accessibility audits of all district schools and offices are nearing completion with only Sayward and Cortes Schools remaining. With the cooperation of the director of operations and district maintenance crews several accessibility concerns with accessible doors, parking spaces and other easy to address items have already been resolved. School principals have been asked to prioritize accessibility concerns as they submit their annual facility grant requests for their school.

In closing, Superintendent Manning spoke to the Indigenous-focused district-wide professional



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development day held on March 31, featuring The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould and Carolyn Roberts.

The Core Pro-D committee and Indigenous education department were thanked for their work in organizing this event and Timberline Secondary for hosting.

Watch this segment: [0:06:07](#)

Ministry Approves Funding for Capital Projects

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has officially approved funding for the repair of Carihi Secondary, along with \$1,378,966 in other projects from the district's capital plan request.

Approved projects include roofing, electrical and heating and ventilation upgrades, as well as kitchen and equipment upgrades as part of the food infrastructure program.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick highlighted for the board that the replacement of Cedar Elementary and the rebuild of the Cedar Annex had not been included in this capital plan correspondence from the Ministry, meaning that they have not been approved projects for next year.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick also highlighted for the board that the provincial government introduced legislation on country-of-origin requirements for all procurements, meaning that US bidders must be excluded, except in certain circumstances.

After sharing their upset that the provincial government is not honouring the campaign promise made by Premier Eby and vowing to continue their advocacy efforts for a replacement of Cedar Elementary, the Board of Education held all three required readings and unanimously passed the required capital plan bylaw to allow the district to receive the funds and proceed with those projects that have been approved.

Watch this segment: [0:17:28](#)

Operating Grant for 2025-2026 Doesn't Offset Increased Costs

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick informed the board that the district is expecting an operating grant of \$73,034,085 from the Ministry of Education and Child Care for next school year.

While the per pupil base student allocation appears to have increased slightly for next year, from \$8,915 to \$9,015, the Ministry has rolled the former labour settlement grant into the base student allocation. However, Secretary-Treasurer Patrick pointed out that this does not fully offset the district's actual labour settlement of \$688,000.

The district is also expecting the full-time equivalent student enrollment and Indigenous student population (which receives additional targeted funding) to decrease slightly next year. While there is an expected increase in the number of students with unique student needs resulting in a grant increase of \$807,536, there will also be associated support costs.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared that while the operating grant increase is approximately \$400,000, after the increased support costs for inclusive education and the increased costs in employee benefit usage, the district is currently in a \$989,000 deficit heading into development of next year's preliminary operating budget.

Watch this segment: [0:32:52](#)

Consultations Begin on Development of 2025-2026 Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick shared with the board that consultations with partner groups to support the development of the 2025-2026 annual operating budget have begun.

He reiterated for the board that, after reviewing the final grant confirmation and updating the staffing allocations related to enrolment projections, the district is facing a \$989,000 deficit heading into budget development. According to Secretary-Treasurer Patrick, bargained and settled labour



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contracts are not being adequately funded, and these cost increases are carrying into the operational budget. The cost of employee benefits also continues to rise.

Given the size of the deficit, he shared that the district has changed its consultation approach this year, sharing a list of proposed items and seeking feedback from partner groups on those proposed items. He stressed that proposals are not decisions; the senior leadership team will be considering all feedback before bringing a list of recommendations forward to the board.

Trustees discussed the difficult nature of budget years like this and how the board will do everything in its power to make sure the integrity of the classroom environment is maintained by following their guiding principles for decision-making in the budget process.

Watch this segment: [0:45:41](#)

