

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAY 27 2025

May 28, 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.
Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) under @CRSD72.*

You can watch a recording of this meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
<https://youtu.be/XCplCBRkyng>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kat Eddy opened with reflections on the energy and effort seen across the district as students and staff approach the year's end, highlighting the resilience and dedication that fuels public education in our district.

As she continued her remarks, she shared that the main focus of the evening was the annual operating budget. Chairperson Eddy then walked attendees through the formal reading process required under Robert's Rules of Order and emphasized the board's legal obligation to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by June 30.

She spoke about her personal reflections on the proposed prep changes for the role of teacher librarians, sharing a personal story of how a public librarian, Miss Debbie, helped shape her own lifelong love of learning. She stressed that the changes proposed in the budget represents a shift in how these professionals would support literacy—not a reduction in their value – and affirmed the district's commitment to respectful, open communication through the transition should the budget pass.

Continuing her comments about the impact of education professionals, Eddy also recognized a recent student award ceremony at Robron Centre, which houses the district's alternate programs, as a powerful example of relationship-driven, flexible education and the positive impact it can have on students. She also acknowledged the many educational assistants in attendance and praised their work, noting their essential role in supporting students as individuals.

She concluded by acknowledging the fiscal pressures facing the district due to declining enrollment and static funding, stating firmly, "We (BC school districts) cannot cut our way to excellence." The board remains committed to transparency, collaboration, and advocating for the core funding that public education needs. The evening's budget decisions, she said, reflect both the challenges ahead and the district's unwavering purpose to sustain and strengthen a public education system that meets every learner where they are.

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

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning opened his remarks with an update on the district's Summer School program. Registration opened on Monday, May 26 and the district saw over 300 students register within the first three minutes. The program continues to be strong, with more than 900 students participating last year and similar numbers anticipated this year. Session one will run July 7-18 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), session two from July 21-31 (8:30 a.m. to 12:55 p.m.), and high school courses will run July 7-31 (8:30 a.m. to 12:42 p.m.).

Superintendent Manning then highlighted several school events since the last board meeting. He attended Southgate Middle School for the unveiling of their wetland project, developed with Indigenous consultation and support from a Project WILD facilitator. With this initiative, the district now has three wetland projects—at Southgate, Quadra Elementary, and Cortes Island School—offering



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rich, hands-on learning opportunities for students and staff.

He also acknowledged recent Indigenous celebrations held across the district ahead of National Indigenous Peoples Day coming up on June 21. Cedar Elementary hosted their annual salmon festival, and Georgia Park Elementary held a day of learning with several rotating stations featuring cultural teachings and activities. Superintendent Manning praised the schools for creating meaningful experiences for students.

He also congratulated Timberline students receiving awards during their awards ceremony, which was taking place during the board meeting, and noted that Carihi's awards ceremony is scheduled for June 4.

In closing, Superintendent Manning acknowledged that preparations are also underway for the upcoming school year, which will be largely informed by the district's operating budget that the board was considering.

Watch this segment: [0:08:09](#)

Public Board Meeting Schedule Set for Next Year

The Board of Education set their public board meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year. Meetings will be held:

September 2, 2025
September 23, 2025
October 21, 2025
November 4, 2025
November 25, 2025
December 16, 2025
January 13, 2026
February 3, 2026
February 24, 2026
March 17, 2026
April 14, 2026
May 5, 2026
May 26, 2026
June 16, 2026

Public board meetings are held at the school board office at 425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River and begin at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet in person and the public have the option to attend in person or online through livestream. Meetings are also recorded and posted on the district's YouTube channel (@SchoolDistrict72) usually within 24 hours of the meeting.

The meeting agendas and attendance information is posted on the district website (sd72.bc.ca) under 'Upcoming Events' the Friday before each scheduled meeting.

Watch this segment: [0:13:22](#)

Planning Continues for Island-Wide School Trustees Gathering this Fall

Campbell River School District will proudly welcome trustees from across Vancouver Island this October for a two-day gathering focused on student success and collaborative advocacy. Vice-Chair Craig Gillis provided the board with an update on the planning efforts on behalf of fellow organizers Trustee Jan Gladish and Trustee Joyce McMann.

The Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) fall meeting will take place October 3 and 4 at Robron Centre. The event, tentatively titled "Pathways to Success," will highlight student-centered learning and innovative programs offered within the district.

The gathering will include speaker sessions, breakout workshops, and a shared meal that will allow trustees to connect, share ideas, and build stronger relationships. One highlight that organizers are still working to finalize is a presentation by individuals raised in Campbell River who have gone on to become community leaders where they will share their personal education journeys and reflect on what helped—and what needs attention—within the public school system.

The second day of the event will focus on advocacy—a top priority for trustees across the region. This dedicated session will be intended to explore how districts can build a



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more unified and collaborative voice when calling for provincial support and funding.

The Board of Education looks forward to welcoming colleagues from across the Island and sharing Campbell River's unique approaches to learning.

Watch this segment: [0:14:21](#)

Trustees Take Additional Time to Consider 2025-2026 Operating Budget

The Board of Education did not unanimously agree to proceed with all three required readings for the 2025-2026 annual operating budget. As a result, trustees will take additional time to consider the proposed budget and the recommendations to address the district's projected \$949,000 operating deficit.

The board held the first two readings of the budget, which were passed by the board. The third and final reading of the budget will now come back for board vote at the June 17, 2025 public meeting.

Budget planning began in early February, with the senior leadership team engaging in consultation to shape the draft budget. Input received during this process led to several adjustments based on concerns and priorities raised by staff and stakeholders.

Under the School Act, all BC boards of education are required to submit a balanced budget by the end of June each year. While all three readings of a budget bylaw can take place at a single meeting with unanimous consent, only a majority vote is required for final budget approval.

The list of recommendations is posted on the district website at: [2025-2026 Budget Development Process \(sd72.bc.ca\)](#) and was reported on in the [May 13 Board News](#). Additional feedback on the proposals can be submitted by email to [the secretary-treasurer's office](#) until June 11 at 4 p.m.

Watch this segment: [0:19:24](#)

Trustees Begin Work on Funding Advocacy Framework

Campbell River School District trustees have taken the first step toward developing a more coordinated approach to education advocacy, with a goal of strengthening relationships and amplifying the community's voice on school funding.

As part of the budget conversations, trustees have acknowledged the urgency of creating a shared action plan that brings together trustees, parents, employee groups, and community partners to advocate for adequate and sustainable funding from the provincial government.

Trustees noted that parents are becoming increasingly aware of the financial challenges facing public education and are eager to get involved. Recent conversations at the district parent advisory council (DPAC) table made it clear that families want to understand the issues and be part of a coordinated response.

In response, trustees passed a motion requesting the superintendent to bring back a draft advocacy framework for discussion at their next meeting. The goal is to have a foundational plan in place by fall, ready to be shared and refined during the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) fall meeting, which SD72 is hosting this October.

A regional VISTA advocacy committee is also already in place, and the Board of Education will be exploring how best to align local efforts with the broader provincial push.

Watch this segment: [0:48:48](#)



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