

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 23 2025

September 24, 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/Vf645Gtrgws>

Chairperson Remarks

In her opening remarks, Chairperson Kat Eddy noted that the board would be receiving the auditor's report and the audited financial statements for the past fiscal year. She emphasized that these documents reflect more than numbers on a page – they capture the revenues, expenditures, and overall financial position of the district and are essential in guiding trustees' fiduciary responsibilities under the School Act. While trustees are not expected to be accountants, she stressed the importance of understanding the financial information to make informed, transparent decisions on behalf of students, staff, and the wider community.

Chairperson Eddy acknowledged the work of the Audit and Risk Committee, thanking trustees for the diligence they brought to reviewing the financial statements in advance of the presentation. She also highlighted that the statements are available on the district website, underscoring transparency as a cornerstone of public accountability.

Turning to the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, Chairperson Eddy reminded the public that schools and many businesses will be closed in recognition of the ongoing impact of residential schools and to honour survivors, their families, and their communities. She encouraged community members to attend the local event at Spirit Square at 11 a.m.

She also spoke to the importance of reconciliation beyond September 30. True reconciliation, she noted, is an ongoing personal commitment – one that calls on all of us to

deepen our understanding of colonial history and the cultures, languages, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. Chairperson Eddy stressed that sharing this learning with children, colleagues, and communities fosters dialogue and builds relationships grounded in truth, respect, and understanding. She closed by reminding the community that our shared humanity and connection to these lands unites us.

Watch this segment: [0:01:07](#)

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning noted that although the school year only began a few weeks ago, the district is already in full swing with a wide range of activities. He shared positive news that preliminary enrolment information is showing a slight increase this year.

He highlighted several upcoming events, including Orange Shirt Day and other activities planned ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Schools are marking the occasion with events such as pancake breakfasts and commemorative gatherings, with more planned for Monday, September 29.

The superintendent also drew attention to the Terry Fox runs taking place throughout the district and the excitement generated by the Tour de Rock visit, which included stops at Sayward, Ripple Rock, Penfield, and École des Deux Mondes schools.

Looking ahead, he noted the district cross country meet scheduled for October 7 at Southgate Middle School and World Teachers' Day coming up in less than two weeks.



School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 23 2025

In closing, Superintendent Manning expressed appreciation for the district's teachers and staff, acknowledging their contributions not only in classrooms but also in coaching, leading extracurricular activities, and supporting students in many ways.

Watch this segment: [0:04:18](#)

Board Reviews 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements

Trustees received the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025 from Graham Roberts of MNP LLP.

The audit showed that the district had a cash balance of nearly \$16 million. This was lower than last year because of timing on capital project funding. The district ended the year with an accumulated surplus of \$6.5 million.

For the year, the district had \$94 million in revenue and \$96 million in expenses. This created a deficit of \$1.9 million. Most of the district's costs continue to be salaries and benefits, which make up about 85 percent of all expenses. These costs rose due to wage increases but remained close to budget. Instruction was again the largest area of spending.

The operating fund ended the year with an accumulated surplus of \$1.26 million, which is a drop from \$2.6 million the year before. During the year, \$329,000 from the operating fund was used to purchase capital assets and \$204,000 was transferred to local capital for future projects. The local capital reserve grew to more than \$800,000. The unrestricted surplus, which is money available for unexpected costs, declined to \$832,000. This is less than half of last year's \$1.8 million.

Roberts told trustees that the district remains in a positive financial position. However, the unrestricted surplus is below the district's own policy of holding about two percent of revenues, or \$1.5 million, as a contingency. Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick explained that while keeping too much in surplus means resources are not being

used for students, it is still important for the district to keep a healthy buffer to cover unexpected costs.

Watch this segment: [0:07:10](#) and [0:50:10](#)

District Introduces New Numeracy Framework and Assessment

Director of Instruction Stephen Hawkins-Bogle and district numeracy coordinator Jessica McConnell introduced the district's new numeracy framework. This framework will guide how math is taught and assessed in kindergarten to grade 9 classrooms across School District 72.

The work of building the framework began last year through a district committee made up of teachers and administrators, in partnership with the Campbell River District Teachers' Association and the Campbell River Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association. Interest in joining the committee was high, showing a strong desire across the district for more direction and consistency in teaching math.

This priority was also driven by data. Recently, Campbell River students have scored below the provincial average on the grade 4 and 7 Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs) in numeracy. Teachers had also asked for consistent tools and strategies to support instruction, especially in classrooms with diverse learners.

The committee shaped the framework around a simple but important belief: all students can learn math. There is no such thing as a "math person." Numeracy is a developmental process, much like learning to read, where students build understanding step by step.

The framework also reflects the district's strategic plan and its commitment to "Evolving for Tomorrow." It weaves in the First Peoples' Principles of Learning, emphasizes play-based and experiential learning, and supports classrooms where math is meaningful, connected, and accessible.

One of the most important parts of the framework is a new common numeracy assessment. This was one of the



biggest requests from teachers, who wanted a consistent tool across the district.

The committee reviewed assessment models from across Canada and beyond before selecting a format from Saskatchewan and adapting it to align with BC's curriculum. The result is a streamlined assessment that is manageable for teachers and provides useful data on student learning.

Teachers will use the assessment to identify strengths and areas for growth in their classrooms. Results are linked to grade-level concepts and come with suggested strategies and resources to help teachers target specific areas of need. The assessment is also supported by instructional videos to guide teachers in giving the assessment, entering results, and interpreting the data.

Principals will also be able to use the data to view patterns across classes and grades. This will help schools see where students may need more support and where successful strategies are working. French Immersion versions of the assessment are also available.

Each school will have time this year with numeracy coordinator Jessica McConnell to learn how to use the framework and the assessment effectively. Principals are already working with staff to prepare for implementation, and professional development sessions will continue throughout the year.

The full numeracy framework is now available online through the district's 72 Learning Hub. It includes sections on classroom culture, conceptual understanding, mental math, computational fluency, reasoning and logic, and competency-based assessment, each with clear explanations, examples, and linked resources.

By introducing a shared framework and a common assessment tool, the district is taking an important step to strengthen student learning in math. This work responds directly to the strategic plan, addresses areas where improvement is needed, and gives teachers consistent, practical tools to support all students.

As Hawkins-Bogle and McConnell emphasized, numeracy is a fundamental skill for life. With this new framework, the district is ensuring that every student has the opportunity to see themselves as a math learner and to succeed in building their skills for the future.

Watch this segment: [0:19:28](#)

International Trips Planned for Students in 2025-2026

Superintendent Geoff Manning updated trustees on plans for several cross-border and international student trips this year.

Carihi Secondary has submitted two trip proposals for late spring. One trip would take students to Costa Rica for a cultural enrichment experience, while another would bring a soccer team to England.

Timberline Secondary has also submitted a request for an international trip. In March, their musical theatre program plans to travel to London, England. The group had originally been considering New York but shifted to England because of the political climate in the United States.

In addition, the district's long-standing Ishikari student exchange is set to return this year. Four students will travel to Campbell River's sister city in Japan at the end of June.

All trips are still in the approval stage as initial paperwork has just been submitted.

Superintendent Manning noted that these opportunities give students valuable cultural, athletic, and artistic experiences that expand their learning beyond the classroom.

Watch this segment: [1:06:36](#)

Board Approves Minor Capital Plan Submission for 2026-2027

The Board of Education passed a motion to support the district's minor capital plan application. The project requests total \$5,394,970 and these projects are being



School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 23 2025

submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for funding consideration in the 2026-2027 school year.

The district is requesting Ministry support for heating and ventilation upgrades at Southgate Middle School and Cortes Island School, a boiler replacement at Timberline Secondary, playground replacements at Ocean Grove and Ripple Rock Elementary Schools, roofing upgrades at Robron Centre and Southgate Middle School, the replacement of a dust extraction system in the Carihi Secondary woodshop, electrical replacement at Robron Centre, and the conversion of a set of washrooms to universal design at Carihi Secondary.

Watch this segment: [1:08:10](#)

VISTA Planning Committee Report

On October 3 and 4, School District 72 will welcome about 70 school trustees from across Vancouver Island to the Robron Centre for the fall Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA) conference.

The planning committee, made up of Trustee Jan Gladish, Trustee Joyce McMann, and Vice-Chair Craig Gillis, has built a program around the theme Journeys to Success. The conference will open Friday afternoon with a welcome to the territory from Will Henderson, remarks from Superintendent Geoff Manning, and an introduction from incoming Robron Centre principal Rachel Nelson, who will share her personal journey and highlight programs offered at Robron.

Featured speakers include Natalie Raedwulf Pogue, a learning support teacher from Carihi Secondary, who will speak on neurodiversity, and Stephen Joyce from Timberline Secondary, who will share his work connecting students with nature through outdoor education. Students from Robron Centre will also contribute by preparing snacks for attendees.

Friday evening will feature a dinner and panel hosted by Director of Indigenous Education Anne Tenning. Panelists will include Trustee Jan Gladish, Chief Chris Roberts of the Wei Wai Kum Nation, and Shawn Decaire of the We Wai Kai Nation. Together, they will share stories of their

personal journeys and reflect on how education and community ties inspire possibilities for students.

On Saturday, trustees will take part in branch activities designed by newly elected VISTA chair and SD72 Board Chair Kat Eddy. The program will also include a session with Gordon Li of the BC School Trustees Association, focused on board evaluation and governance. Trustees will also debate and develop motions for the upcoming BCSTA annual general meeting. Topics are expected to include local issues such as ferry transportation and other matters important to Island communities.

Hosting the VISTA conference is an opportunity for Campbell River to showcase local programs and perspectives while strengthening collaboration with school districts across Vancouver Island.

Watch this segment: [1:11:21](#)



CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72