

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
NOV. 4, 2025

November 5, 2025
INFORMATION RELEASE

*Please note these are not official minutes of the Campbell River Board of Education.
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You can watch a recording of this meeting on the district's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/-1Yk7Fs6n6E>

Board Elects New Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board of Education has elected Trustee Craig Gillis as chairperson and Trustee Joyce McMann as vice-chairperson for the 2025-2026 term. Both were acclaimed to their positions during the board's annual leadership election, as required under Governance Policy 15.

In accepting the role, Chair Gillis thanked trustees for their confidence and expressed appreciation to outgoing chair Kat Eddy, who has led the board for the past three years.

"I certainly want to acknowledge the support of previous chair Kat Eddy, who will continue to be a wonderful mentor," said Chair Gillis. "She's left an incredible imprint, and we look forward to continuing to share in her expertise and guidance."

This transition marks the end of Trustee Eddy's three-year tenure as chair, during which the board adopted a new strategic plan, updated its mission, vision, and values, conducted long-range facility planning, and continued advocacy for a new Cedar Elementary School and adequate education funding.

Trustee Eddy has decided to step back from the additional responsibilities of the chairperson role for personal reasons but will continue to serve as a trustee on the board.

Watch this segment: [0:00:03](#)

Chairperson Remarks

Board Chair Craig Gillis reflected on the significance of Remembrance Day, emphasizing the privilege of living in a peaceful country with access to education, health care,

clean water, and opportunity. He noted that these freedoms exist because of the sacrifices made by those who served in times of war and encouraged continued appreciation and remembrance of their contributions.

Chair Gillis also acknowledged two members of the district who were recently recognized by the Daybreak Rotary Club with Service Above Self awards. Dana Roberts, a language and culture teacher who supports the K'wak'wala and Lik'wala Language Program, was honoured for her dedication to Indigenous language revitalization and Trustee Joyce McMann was celebrated for more than fifty years of service in early childhood education.

He congratulated local student athletes and coaches for their strong performances in recent tournaments, including the senior boys' soccer team, which placed third at the Vancouver Island Championships and advanced to provincials, and the junior girls' volleyball teams, which both qualified for the North Islands. He expressed appreciation for the many hours coaches dedicate to supporting students and building their character through sport.

Chair Gillis concluded by highlighting the upcoming Long Service Recognition Evening on November 18, which will honour district employees who have dedicated their careers to supporting Campbell River students in every role across the district.

Watch this segment: [0:05:16](#)



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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning began his remarks by expressing appreciation to outgoing Board Chair Kat Eddy and Vice-Chair Craig Gillis for their leadership over the past two years and his time as superintendent. He noted that both had provided tremendous support and extended congratulations to Chair Gillis and newly elected Vice-Chair Joyce McMann as they begin their new roles.

He then reflected on the significance of Remembrance Day and its importance within schools. Manning shared that school ceremonies are among the most solemn and meaningful events of the year, noting the deep respect and care shown by students and staff. He recalled attending Remembrance Day assemblies at Timberline Secondary and Carihi Secondary in previous years, describing them as powerful and moving experiences.

Manning encouraged trustees and senior staff to attend a local school assembly on Monday, November 10 emphasizing that these ceremonies are special occasions to honour those who served and to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy today. Most assemblies will take place around 10 a.m., with elementary events lasting about half an hour and secondary and middle school ceremonies running slightly longer.

Watch this segment: [0:09:46](#)

District Finances On Track Despite Timing Differences in First Quarter

The Campbell River School District reviewed its first quarterly financial report of the 2025-2026 school year, showing that overall spending and revenues are close to expectations despite some timing differences in funding and expenses.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick explained that the first quarter, which runs to September 30, is always difficult to interpret because most teaching and educational assistant salaries are not paid during the summer months. At the same time, maintenance and supply costs are higher during this period as many purchases are made before schools reopen.

On the revenue side, the Ministry of Education and Child Care now withholds some summer grant payments to better match the timing of salary costs. This can make the district's revenues appear lower than expected early in the year. Patrick said that funding and expenses should align more closely in the next quarterly report.

As of September 30, district revenues were slightly higher than projected, but this reflects the way payments are distributed through the year rather than an actual surplus. On the expense side, the district had budgeted to spend about \$7 million by this point and was slightly above that amount. This was mostly due to one-time costs such as annual software licenses and large school supply purchases made in the summer.

Teacher and educational assistant costs were also a little higher than expected, mainly due to summer school salaries and benefit expenses. These areas will continue to be closely monitored through the year, but no major issues have been identified so far.

Some departments, including district administration and maintenance, are currently underspent, while transportation costs are slightly above budget due to summer activities and supply purchases.

Overall, the district's financial position remains stable. However, benefit costs continue to rise faster than expected, and departments will need to remain cautious with new spending until budgets are adjusted to reflect those increases.

Patrick said that the overall financial picture remains positive and that the district will continue to monitor costs carefully to ensure spending stays in line with priorities for students.

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Trustees Receive Updates on Indigenous Education and Early Learning Trends

Trustees heard two provincial updates that connect closely



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to the district's focus on supporting student success and wellbeing.

Trustee Jan Gladish shared highlights from the BC School Trustees Association's Indigenous Education Advisory Council, where members discussed ongoing reconciliation work and how school districts can align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The group also explored themes such as land-based learning and accessibility in education.

The advisory council also reviewed a new toolkit developed by the First Nations Education Steering Committee to address student attendance and engagement, recognizing the strong link between regular attendance and academic achievement.

Vice-Chair Joyce McMann reported on a recent presentation from the University of British Columbia's Human Early Learning Partnership, which shared provincial data on child development and wellbeing. The partnership collects information through a series of surveys completed by teachers and families, providing insight into early learning trends across the province.

Provincial data show that early childhood vulnerability has increased over time, underscoring the importance of strong community collaboration to support children and families before they begin school. The district will review its own results when local data becomes available.

Watch this segment: [0:38:00](#)



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