

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
FEB. 24 2026

February 25, 2026  
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](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) under @CRSD72.*

You can watch a recording of this meeting on the district's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/JVHG5mzV0ec>

## Chairperson Remarks

In his opening remarks, Chair Gillis shared highlights from a recent board chairs meeting with the Minister of Education and Child Care and Minister of Infrastructure. The discussion focused on school safety, budget pressures and the province's capital plan.

The Minister commended districts, including Tumbler Ridge, for their work to keep schools safe. Chair Gillis noted that every district has a safety coordinator, a safety team, scheduled drills and a safety plan in place. He reflected on his own experience years ago while supervising a teacher practicum in a neighbouring district. During a lockdown that lasted two hours, he saw first-hand how calmly students responded because they knew the protocols.

He said safety planning has become part of school culture. Students and staff understand the need to be prepared. At the same time, he called on everyone to hold on to their shared humanity. In challenging times, he said, reaching out and acknowledging one another matters.

The Minister also spoke about the need to find efficiencies in school budgets as districts enter a new planning cycle. Currently, there are no new proposed capital investments, but the province remains committed to completing projects already underway.

Chair Gillis noted that budget planning always brings competing interests. He said the district's strategic plan will continue to guide decisions as trustees work through what he described will be very challenging deliberations.

Watch this segment: [0:22:37](#)

## Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning began by recognizing students who represented the district at the recent Skills Canada regional competition. Several students placed in their events, reflecting the strong hands-on learning taking place in our secondary schools. He congratulated each of them for their hard work.

He also celebrated recent athletic achievements. The Southgate Grade 8 girls basketball team captured the North Island championship title. In the fall, the Southgate girls volleyball team also claimed a North Island championship title. He noted that these accomplishments reflect teamwork, dedication and strong coaching.

Kindergarten registration continues to move forward. As of this week, 263 students have registered for September. Families with children entering kindergarten are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Superintendent Manning highlighted an upcoming musical showcase on March 5 at Timberline Secondary School, as well as this year's Timberline and Carihi musical theatre productions. He encouraged families and community members to attend and support the arts in our schools.

He closed by noting Pink Shirt Day takes place on February 25. Schools across the district will mark the day in different ways to stand in solidarity with those who experience bullying. The day reinforces that bullying will not be tolerated and that schools remain committed to safe, caring and inclusive learning environments for all students.

Watch this segment: [0:27:13](#)



## Music Educators and Students Share How Programs Shape Belonging and Future Paths

District music educators and the Carihi Secondary choir presented to the board. Teacher Jennifer Abbott thanked the board for ongoing support of music education. She described learning opportunities across schools, including early music programs, choir, band, guitar, drum circles and musical theatre.

Two Grade 12 students shared how school music programs supported their confidence, belonging and future goals. One student spoke about pursuing music therapy. Another shared plans to study music and education, with a goal to become an elementary music teacher.

The choir then gave a powerful and moving performance for trustees and those in attendance.

Watch this segment: [0:04:56](#)

## Board Changes Meetings Policy and Adds New Child Care Policy

The Board of Education has adopted changes to its board governance policy on meetings, as well as approved a new policy on childcare. The meetings policy is being revised to remove the requirement that the board meet on the first Tuesday in September after Labour Day and the new childcare policy is to meet the requirements of Ministerial Child Care Order M326.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the board's February 3 public meeting, and the revised bylaw and policy are posted on the district's website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws.

Watch this segment: [0:33:50](#)

## District Reviews Student Achievement in How Are We Doing Report

Superintendent Geoff Manning presented the district's 2024-2025 How Are We Doing Report at the recent board meeting.

The annual report measures student outcomes across the district and is usually released in November. This year's report was delayed and now includes added information on student attendance. The full report is 63 pages.

The report tracks Foundation Skills Assessment results in Grades 4 and 7, literacy and numeracy assessments in Grades 10 and 12, five- and six-year completion rates, and results from the Student Learning Survey in Grades 4, 7, 10, 11 and 12.

Between 23 and 25 percent of students in the district self-identify as Indigenous. That rate has remained steady and is more than double the provincial average of 11 percent. The district has also seen a slight increase in students living on reserve.

In Grade 4 literacy, 57 percent of Indigenous students were in the emerging category, compared to 52 percent provincially. Indigenous students in Campbell River were nearly 20 percent higher in the emerging category than non-Indigenous peers in the district. In Grade 4 numeracy, 64 percent of Indigenous students were emerging, and 36 percent were on track. The provincial average was 52 percent emerging and 46 percent on track.

In Grade 7 literacy, 54 percent of Indigenous students were emerging, compared to 51 percent provincially. In Grade 7 numeracy, 62 percent were emerging, compared to 65 percent provincially.

Results show improvement at the secondary level. In Grade 10 numeracy, 14 percent of students were emerging and 56 percent were developing, with an overall upward trend in recent years. In Grade 10 and 12 literacy results have remained steady, with 47 percent of Grade 12 students developing and 46 percent proficient. Overall, secondary results are at or above provincial averages.

Completion rates showed significant gains. The five-year completion rate for Indigenous students increased by 12 percent to 62 percent. The six-year completion rate reached an all-time high of 77 percent for Indigenous students and 98 percent for non-Indigenous students. The provincial six-year completion rate is 77 percent for



Indigenous students and 95 percent for non-Indigenous students.

Student Learning Survey results show most students feel welcome and safe at school. In Grade 4, 70 percent of Indigenous students said they feel welcome at school all or many times, compared to 73 percent of non-Indigenous students. About 78 percent reported feeling safe. In Grade 7, 70 percent of Indigenous students and 69 percent of non-Indigenous students reported feeling welcome, with 73 percent saying they feel safe. In Grade 10, 76 percent of Indigenous students and 71 percent of non-Indigenous students reported feeling welcome. Seventy-two percent reported feeling safe, compared to 77 percent provincially.

The report also includes new data on chronic absenteeism, which the district will continue to monitor as part of its student success work.

Superintendent Manning said the report highlights areas of progress, especially in completion rates, while also pointing to areas where focused effort is still needed, particularly in early literacy and numeracy.

Watch this segment: [0:38:25](#)

## Board Approves Amended Budget for 2025-2026

The Board of Education has approved an amended budget of \$95,588,062 for the 2025-2026 school year.

The budget reflects updated enrolment numbers, confirmed grant revenue and actual salary costs since the preliminary budget was passed in May.

Total budget revenue is \$94,164,752, with expenses of \$94,635,287. The district is reporting a consolidated deficit of \$106,980. On the operating side, the budget is balanced as planned. When reserves are factored in, the district is carrying an operating deficit of \$363,555, which was anticipated.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick said revenue increased in part due to labour settlement funding and a higher

operating grant. There were small declines in tuition revenue from School District 93 and in interest income.

On the expense side, total costs are about \$642,000 lower than last year. The district saw a slight reduction in teacher positions and a small drop in support staff and other professional roles. Some staff costs were charged to capital and maintenance projects where appropriate. That approach helped this year's budget but may not be available to the same extent next year.

Salaries and benefits account for \$68,552,255 of the total budget and the special purpose fund continues to grow each year. These are targeted funds that must be used for specific programs and cannot be redirected to general operations.

The final amended budget will be posted on the district website.

Watch this segment: [1:02:24](#)

## District Forecasts Enrolment Decline

The district is projecting a decline of about 105 full-time equivalent (FTE) students next school year, according to Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick.

The forecast follows a review of community trends and information gathered from schools. It will be used to build the district's preliminary operating budget for 2026-2027.

Looking further ahead, enrolment is expected to continue declining through 2027-2028 and 2028-2029. Lower birth rates are driving the trend. District data also shows a widening gap between graduating Grade 12 students and incoming kindergarten students. The true difference between those two groups is about 180 students.

The province is seeing similar patterns, with more students graduating than entering the system.

The projected enrolment decline comes as the district begins its next budget cycle. Early estimates suggest a deficit of about \$2 million. Secretary-Treasurer Patrick also



# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
FEB. 24 2026

noted significant decline in several special education categories, which affects overall funding.

The enrolment forecast will help guide staffing and spending decisions for next school year.

Watch this segment: [1:15:10](#)

