

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAY 26 2026

May 27, 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. 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/rth-btiWnoQ>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Craig Gillis highlighted recent examples of student voice, beginning with students advocating for the Carihi Secondary rebuild. He noted that student advocacy related to the school was recently featured by Chek TV and praised students for speaking publicly in a thoughtful, respectful and confident way. He emphasized that students clearly articulated the importance of restoring key learning spaces, including the gym and classrooms, to support academic programming, extracurricular activities and cultural programs that are central to school life.

He also highlighted leadership and civic engagement at Timberline Secondary School. Chair Gillis noted that the Timberline Interact Club was hosting the Rotary Club the following morning at Timberline Secondary. As part of that visit, students were sharing feedback and recommendations related to student transportation. The group was preparing a presentation for a June 9 meeting of city council's committee of the whole, where students would present ideas focused on safety and efficiency in public transportation. Chair Gillis noted that the leadership group includes several international students and highlighted the value of students sharing perspectives and ideas drawn from different countries and experiences.

Looking ahead, Chair Gillis also outlined upcoming graduation ceremonies that trustees would be attending in June. He noted that the Indigenous student graduation would take place at the Kwanwatsi Big House on June 11. Secondary school commencements were scheduled for Robron Centre on June 19, Timberline Secondary on June 23 and Carihi Secondary on June 24. He described graduation season as an opportunity for the district to

celebrate student diligence and achievement, and as a time of optimism as students prepare for the next chapters of their lives.

Chair Gillis concluded his opening remarks by acknowledging employees who are retiring from the district this year. He thanked retiring staff from across employee groups for their service and for the lasting impact they have had on students and school communities. He noted that retirement marks the beginning of a new chapter and expressed appreciation for the relationships and memories created through years of service to School District 72.

Watch this segment: [0:00:34](#)

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Geoff Manning highlighted recent student learning experiences, celebrations and operational updates from across the district.

He spoke about a recent visit to Cortes Island, where students from across the province took part in the Culture, Arts, Science and Experiential Education (CASE) fair. The event brought together about 30 students and focused on connection, confidence and relationship building. Superintendent Manning shared a student story that underscored the importance of in-person learning, friendship and belonging.

He also noted the many Indigenous Students' Making a Difference celebrations taking place at schools throughout the district, describing them as meaningful and deeply personal events for students and families. A recent



ceremony at Penfield Elementary was highlighted for the pride shown by students, families and staff. More celebrations are scheduled in the coming weeks. Superintendent Manning also thanked parents and students at Carihi Secondary for their continued advocacy following the school fire and encouraged trustees and community members to attend Caripalooza, a student-led music festival taking place on the school grounds.

Accessibility work across the district was also recognized. Superintendent Manning reported that earlier that day the accessibility committee had its final meeting of the year and shared updates on playground improvements, including recent funding for Pinecrest Elementary and a planned full playground renovation at Ocean Grove next year. He noted the district typically has received funding approval to replace one playground every two years.

Looking ahead, he also acknowledged the upcoming district retirement celebration and thanked retiring staff for their years of service and lasting impact on students.

In closing, Superintendent Manning shared early enrolment information, reporting that kindergarten registrations to date are 346, only nine under district projections, and reminded families that kindergarten registration remains open.

Watch this segment: [0:06:46](#)

Board Delays Budget Approval as Labour Settlement Funding Gap Emerges

School District 72 has delayed approval of its 2026-2027 operating budget after learning it may face a significant funding shortfall tied to the recent provincial labour settlement with the BCTF.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick reported that while the province had previously indicated that recent teacher benefit cost increases would be fully funded, new information shared late last week suggests the funding may be allocated on a per-student basis. That approach would leave SD72 with an estimated annual shortfall of about \$400,000.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick reported that Campbell River is one of only three suspected school districts in BC that previously shared employee benefit costs on a 50-50 basis, meaning that the employer paid 50 percent and employees paid 50 percent. As part of the settlement, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) agreed to increase all school districts' employer contribution level to 85 percent.

While \$1.1 million has been allocated provincially for this settlement item, Secretary-Treasurer Patrick explained that if the funding is distributed using the per-pupil model, SD72 would receive about one per cent, or roughly \$11,000. That would leave the district with an annual unfunded gap of \$385,000.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick and Superintendent Geoff Manning have already contacted Ministry of Education and Child Care officials to share detailed information outlining the impact on SD72 and how the settlement will affect districts disproportionately. Ministry staff have told Secretary-Treasurer Patrick that they will review the funding allocation plans and provide more information to the district by the middle of June.

Trustees expressed grave concern that the district has already made deep reductions and has no remaining reserves to absorb further costs without affecting programs and services.

The board directed Secretary-Treasurer Patrick to continue discussions with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and in the meantime identify a potential \$400,000 in additional reductions should the Ministry not change the funding allocation and the district has no choice but to absorb the funding shortfall. The board also approved a motion directing the board chair to immediately write to the Minister of Education and Child Care outlining the impact on SD72 students and schools. The letter will also be copied to BCPSEA and the BC School Trustees Association.

The board must pass a balanced budget by June 30 or face potential dismissal. Trustees were advised that a special

meeting may be required later in June once funding clarity is received.

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District Advances Child Care Project and Submits Major Capital Priorities to Province

The Board of Education approved its 2026-2027 major capital plan submission to the province and passed a resolution to advance a classroom conversion at Georgia Park Elementary that will expand before- and after-school care at the school for September 2026.

The approved resolution allows the board to receive the funds so that the district can proceed with construction.

The major capital plan outlines the district's priorities for school replacements, seismic work and facility improvements. The submission continues to include two classroom additions at both Ripple Rock Elementary and Ocean Grove Elementary, as well as the demolition of the Cedar Annex following the July 2024 fire and the full replacement of Cedar Elementary. The replacement of Cedar Elementary has been identified as a district capital priority for more than 10 years.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick noted that the Carihi Secondary rebuild does not appear on the major capital submission because the project has already been approved in principle but is awaiting final construction funding approval.

Watch this segment: [0:37:26](#) and [0:48:20](#)

Board Adopts Updated Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Policy

The Board of Education has adopted an updated governance policy on inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (policy 5).

The changes expand and modernize the policy language based on recommendations and feedback from the

district's Equity in Action Committee, school administrators, and members of the district's Accessibility Committee. The policy is intended to guide board decisions, district planning and school practices.

Trustees said the revisions clarify the board's commitment to equitable learning and working environments for students and staff.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the May 5 public meeting, and the revised policy is now posted on the district's website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws.

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Public Board Meeting Schedule Set for 2026-2027

The Board of Education set their public board meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. Meetings will be held:

September 15, 2026
October 6, 2026
November 3, 2026
November 24, 2026
December 15, 2026
January 12, 2027
February 9, 2027
March 9, 2027
April 6, 2027
May 4, 2027
May 25, 2027
June 15, 2027

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.

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Trustee Gives Notice of Motion on Possible Grade Configuration Review

A School District 72 trustee has given a notice of motion to potentially explore grade configuration changes across the district.

A notice of motion is a procedural step that lets trustees signal an item they may wish to discuss at a future meeting. It does not start a review, does not direct staff to take action, and does not represent a board decision.

Trustee Dave Harper's notice of motion will appear on the agenda for the June 16 public board meeting. If approved, the motion would ask staff to examine the educational and financial implications of moving from the district's current grade structure of K-5 elementary schools, grades 6-8 middle schools and grades 9-12 secondary schools to a K-7 elementary and 8-12 secondary school model.

At this stage, no analysis has been done, no direction has been given to staff, and no changes are being implemented.

The purpose of a notice of motion is to allow time for trustees, staff and the public to be aware of a potential discussion item before it comes to the board.

If the motion is introduced on June 16, trustees would then decide whether to ask staff to conduct a review and report back at a later date. Any future consideration of changes would involve further board discussion and community consultation.

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Board Continues Advocacy for Carihi Secondary Rebuild

Trustees renewed calls for provincial action on the delayed rebuild of Carihi Secondary School, citing ongoing impacts on students and programs.

Although the rebuild project has received approval in principle, the district is still waiting for construction funding. Without it, the project cannot proceed.

Trustees said the prolonged delay affects the full secondary student population and limits access to key learning spaces such as gyms, arts areas and specialty classrooms.

The board said it will continue pressing provincial ministries for a funding decision and updates on next steps.

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