



## *School District 59 (Peace River South)*

11600 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4R8

Phone: 250-782-8571 Fax: 250-782-3204

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### **Board Meeting Highlights for February 24, 2010**

#### *Dawson Creek*

- **Trustee By-election** – School District #59 is having a by-election to fill the seat vacated by Christabelle Kux-Kardos. Voting day is February 27, to select for one of the 3 candidates in the race. Tammy Schock, Lorrie Flaherty and Tamara Ziemer have put their names forward to carry on this important work on behalf of our students. All voters are encouraged to complete their ballot at Central Middle School between 8:00am and 8:00pm on the 27th.
- **Parkhill Transition** – On February 10th, Parkhill parents were invited to participate in a tour of the four elementary schools in Dawson Creek. Each school was able to showcase their unique character and programs for the Parkhill parents, helping them to decide which school they will enrol their child (ren) in for September. Tremblay hosted lunch at mid-day where soup and sandwiches filled the gap. The Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent were present for lunch greeting the parents and answering concerns and questions. The transition plan for students will begin soon, with teachers and principals coordinating events for students to begin spending time together. Also, rumour is that Tremblay Elementary will be receiving a new look for the Fall.
- **South Peace Secondary and Central Middle School Review-Update** – A working group consisting of teachers, a parent, support staff, and administrative staff has been researching the idea of a 2-school 1-campus middle/senior school. The working group's findings were reported to the Board of Education. The basics of the plan are as follows:
  - Amalgamation of the 2 campuses appears to be the best option for the future;
  - Some grades stay static;
  - Grade 8 core stays;
  - Retain campus names;The full report is available on the District website.
- **Full Day Kindergarten**- The Ministry of Education has approved funding for 194 full day kindergarten students beginning in September 2010. The Board approved allocating these seats to the schools in Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd and our rural schools (including Pouce Coupe). The Board expects that full day kindergarten for all eligible students in the District will be in place for September 2011.
- **New Calendar Developed** - The Superintendent has developed 2 (proposed) draft calendars for school year 2010/2011. The calendars will circulate over the next few weeks, and staff can provide feedback to their supervisor. Supervisors will forward the feedback to the Superintendent. Once the feedback date is passed, Kathy will develop a proposed, final copy and it will be presented to the Board for ratification.

- **Catchment Areas Revisited** – The introduction of full day kindergarten will require that Catchment Areas are updated and reinstated in each of our communities. A Catchment Area identifies the school a child is expected to attend based on their home address. The School Act sets out priorities for how students may “get into” a school. As a result, the District will be going back to using identified Catchment Areas to manage the distribution of new students in the schools. The numbers have been crunched and research on boundaries is completed. A full map of where kindergarten students are assigned to attend will be published in future once the Board approves the proposed boundaries.
- **Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training** - The District now has 5 trainers available to teach staff how to manage student events using non-violent crisis intervention strategies. This training provides staff with the ability to resolve potentially violent circumstances, and handle crisis situations with a minimum of stress, and maximum safety. Participants in the training will learn how to maximize the safety of both the students and themselves when dealing with a crisis or hostile individuals. To date, 70 staff have participated in the 1st level of training with 23 of those going on to complete the 2nd level of the program.
- **Tremblay Principalship Posted** – The Superintendent has invited applications for the assignment of Principal at Tremblay Elementary School. Tremblay will receive many students from the closure of Parkhill, so the additional classes will provide real opportunities to rethink the way students receive their education in that building. With the District’s support, the new leader will have the opportunity to create exciting new initiatives, and redesign school culture and vision, with 1/3 more students to enrich the environment. The new principal will be selected by mid-April.
- **School-based Budgets** – For the 2010/11 school year, the District will be undertaking a zero-based budgeting exercise with each school. This process would entail starting from a "zero base", and then analyzing every program within the school for its needs and costs. Budgets would then be built around what is needed for the year, regardless of whether the budget is higher or lower than the previous one. This review would then be used to develop an ongoing funding formula for the schools.
- **Important Dates** –  
 Feb.27<sup>th</sup> – Trustee By-election – Central Middle School  
 Mar.5<sup>th</sup> - Last day of classes prior to Spring Break  
 Mar.22<sup>nd</sup> - Classes will resume  
 Apr.2<sup>nd</sup> - Good Friday - classes resume on April 6th.

**Next Regular Meeting – March 24, 2010 at 1:00pm  
 Dawson Creek Board Office**