



## *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 June 16, 2010**

#### *Dawson Creek*

- **Rural Catchment Areas** – The boundaries for rural school catchment areas have been reviewed and will now be enforced after a number of years of permitting students to enroll where they wish. In most cases the catchment areas remain unchanged however they will now be enforced. This change includes the establishment of rural catchment areas for students that are near Dawson Creek and attend an in-town school. Maps with these boundaries will be available in District schools by the end of the school year. The rules for rural-student catchments will be the same as in-town catchments.
- **Tate Creek/Pouce Coupe Catchment Areas** – The Trustees approved a change to the catchment area boundaries for the Tate Creek and Pouce Coupe Schools. Students residing on the Arndt Road or Simmons Road will now have a choice as to which school they can attend.
- **Admin Announcements** – the following Administrative changes were announced:
  - Retiring - Bev Saunders – Principal of Moberly Lake Elementary School
  - Departing – Cheryl Dyer – Principal of Chetwynd Secondary School
  - Cindy Linklater – new Principal of Moberly Lake Elementary School
- **Ecole Don Titus** - Don Titus parents invited trustees and their Superintendent (Kathy) and Assistant Superintendent (Rob) to the June 1<sup>st</sup> PAC meeting. The topic Kathy and Rob were there to talk about was the future of the French Immersion program, including high school level immersion. The parents were presented with the current school budget, and shown all the revenue sources that provide the services to both language tracks at DT.

During the meeting, parents brought to the attention of the district, that there was Ministry policy that informs districts of their responsibility to support both the sustainability and development of French Immersion programs.

That information has prompted an adjustment from the old/original regulations regarding French Immersion, to include responsibilities for recruitment of students and assisting the school to grow its' enrolment.

The District was both encouraged and impressed by the clear commitment of parents to the French Immersion program in Chetwynd. They are well informed about the benefits of French Immersion, and want to share this information with all parents.

Preschoolers and their parents can expect to see presentations from school staff about these advantages. If you would like more information please contact Lauri Mason at Don Titus

- **McLeod Elementary (Reconfiguration) Meeting** - A recent meeting of community members, Trustees and staff at McLeod Elementary was very well attended. Last year in their final reconfiguration report, the Board of Education had directed that any school with less than

40 students enrolled, would undergo a review. Consequently, the main topic of the meeting was the expected enrolment for next year, and the resources allocated to the school based on the projected enrolment.

A detailed review of how funding is allocated to all schools in the District was just completed. That resulted in an increase of \$250,000, in revenue to rural schools. This was achieved by reallocating resources from the larger schools into the smaller ones.

All revenue sources were described, as were the enrolment trends, catchment areas, and the additional cost per student that are involved in operating rural schools. The staffing formula was also presented, so the community could understand about how important the ratio is between staff and students when it comes to keeping a school operating in a rural community.

The District was impressed by the community's interest and the turnout. The feedback provided to us during the meeting and afterward, affirmed the value of rural schools to the area

- **StrongStart Program Moves** - With the closure of Parkhill Elementary on June 30, their StrongStart program will be relocated to a new home. Ecole Frank Ross will be the new host school for StrongStart, and will welcome all the parents from the Parkhill and EFR areas to attend beginning in September.
- **Annual Budget 2010-2011** – The Board approved the Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2010-11 school year with a budget amount of \$45,993,128. This is a preliminary budget and will be amended once September enrolment and final funding is known.
- **Board Meeting Schedule** – The meeting schedule for 2010/11 was approved and will be published on the District website.
- **Regulation #4190: French Immersion** – The Board approved revisions to regulation #4190 French Immersion.
- **Important Dates** –  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Regular Board Meeting  
September 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

**Next Regular Meeting – September 15, 2010 at 1:00pm  
Dawson Creek**