School District No.59 (Peace River South)

November 27, 2024

Board of Education

RE: Budget 2025-2026 - Student Symposium 2024 Report

On October 30, a student symposium for the 2025-2026 budget was held at the McLeod Community Hall as part of the Board's budget engagement process. The student symposium is an opportunity to hear directly from students about their learning. Topics are broad and are intended to draw out themes for decision-makers to consider when making human and financial resource allocations for the 2025-2026 budget.

60 students from the three secondary schools were invited and selected by their principals. 40 students and 7 adults attended as follows:

Students
Chetwynd Secondary School	20
Tumbler Ridge Secondary School	16
Dawson Creek Secondary, South Peace Campus	4

Adults
Trustees	3
Administration	1
School Staff	2
Board Office Staff	1

The day began at 9:45 am with a budget presentation (Appendix A) and then students participated in the following four discussion topic sessions for about 15-20 minutes each:

1. Technology (Facilitator: L. Norbury, Teacher, Tumbler Ridge Secondary)
2. Cultural Responsiveness (Facilitator: P. David, Vice-Principal, Chetwynd Secondary)
3. Advocacy (Facilitator: Trustee and Chair Anderson)
4. Engagement (Facilitator: D. Walsh, Education Assistant, Tumbler Ridge Secondary)

Facilitators were provided at each grouping to draw out quiet voices to ensure everyone was heard, and to provide guiding prompts to focus the conversation. Following each session presentation, the students were given an opportunity to provide feedback which

was collected with stickie notes. Raw stickie note data, prompts and hints/definitions provided to facilitators and the top five themes for each topic (generated by AI based on the raw data) are included in Appendix B.

Trustees in attendance participated and listened to students. Arrival snacks and lunch, prepared by the McLeod Elementary School PAC, were provided.

After lunch, students gathered at tables and were given a budget simulation with set revenues and expense attached in Appendix C. With $996k leftover as discretionary, students were asked to consider the conversations they had had in the morning and decide how to spend their budget. They needed to prioritize where they would spend their money.

During the completion of this activity while working toward a balanced budget, the students were informed that some unexcepted costs had come up, a school roof fell in, an international field trip opportunity presented itself but not all students could afford to go, and unexpected students registered for school after he funding deadline requiring an additional teacher. The students then needed to re-evaluate original decisions and re-calculate their budgets to balance to zero by the end. Artifacts of student budgets are included as Appendix D.

Students used a number of approaches and strategies to balance their budgets and determine priorities: needs vs. wants, voting democracy, equality – something for everyone and more. Team members had to collaborate with colleagues with competing priorities or disengagement.

The end of the day wrapped up at 1:30 pm with students sharing "One Thing" they wanted to make sure that Trustees and district staff were aware of (if you wanted the Board to hear one thing from you today, what would it be?). This feedback is also included in Appendix A of this report.

Thank you to the trustees and school staff who were able to attend for part or all day. Thank you to Principals that sent students. The biggest thank you is to the students. Students took time out of high-pressure, busy schedules, were honest and open about their opinions, articulated what they need for their learning, and added student voice to the 2025-2026 budget process.

Kim Morris
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Cultural Responsiveness

<u>Facilitator Prompts</u>

What does it mean to be culturally responsive?

What is personal bias?

How is school helping you to become culturally responsive?

<u>Hints & Definitions:</u>

What is cultural responsiveness?

being open to new ideas that may conflict with the ideas, beliefs and values of your own culture, and being able to see these differences as equal.

It means being respectful of everyone's backgrounds, beliefs, values, customs, knowledge, lifestyle and social behaviours. It helps you provide culturally appropriate care and support, so people are empowered to meet their potential through education.

Cultural responsiveness is important for all social and cultural groups, including:

- Indigenous peoples
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- refugees or displaced migrants
- people at all life stages, including end of life
- people with different abilities, including intellectual and cognitive disabilities
- LGBTQ people
- people from priority populations and sub-cultures, such as the deaf and vision-impaired community.

Cultural responsiveness involves continuous learning, self-exploration and reflection. It draws on a number of concepts, including cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural safety and cultural competence.

How to be culturally responsive

It is important to remember that becoming culturally responsive is an ongoing reflective practice

Over time, you should aim to develop the following skills and knowledge.

- An awareness and understanding of different cultures, with the ability to accept differences without judgements about right and wrong.
- The ability to identify unique qualities among specific groups without stereotyping people.
- The ability to identify risks contributing to increased vulnerability in specific groups and take action to improve their outcomes.
- An awareness of your own culture and understanding your inherent biases towards your own cultural values and behaviours.

- The ability to work with people from different cultures in a way that is safe and supportive and is not discriminatory or harmful.
- The ability to respond appropriately to attitudes, feelings and circumstances of different people.
- An understanding of the structures and services that are necessary to deliver cultural support and bring about systemic change.

Top Five Themes (AI generated from students' stickies raw data below)

1. **Inclusion of Diverse Cultures and Histories**: Students want schools to celebrate and acknowledge multiple cultures through holidays, traditions, and historical narratives, beyond just one dominant culture (e.g., Western holidays).
2. **Language and Communication**: There is a strong desire for learning opportunities in diverse languages, hiring translators, and fostering easier communication among students who speak different languages.
3. **Combatting Racism and Bias**: Many students highlighted racism as a significant issue, suggesting harsher punishments for discriminatory behavior and more efforts to address peer pressure and unconscious biases.
4. **Representation and Safe Spaces**: Students emphasized the need for cultural representation in the curriculum and spaces where they feel safe to express their cultural identities or learn about others.
5. **Practical Learning Approaches**: Suggestions included incorporating cultural foods into cooking classes, teaching world religions, and hosting multicultural events or themed weeks to promote deeper cultural understanding and engagement.

Student Stickies Raw Data

1. Bring in expert speakers to talk about their culture
2. Build school community that connects students culturally
3. If there's a large group of one specific culture/language, have optional classes to increase awareness for others
4. Offering other languages for longer
5. More inclusivity between race and culture
6. Celebrate different holidays for different cultures/religions
7. It teaches you things like Orange Shirt Day of the 14 of July for France of 4th of July for the America. School just teaches the past and to be aware of religion
8. Have cultural foods in foods class (i.e. kosher)
9. Everything should be equal for kids and not think of people differently
10. Are welcome rooms a place for everybody?
11. Hire a translator or give them more opportunities to learn your language
12. More cultures shared. First Nations culture is required learning, but no other cultures
13. Have classes to learn about different cultures
14. Better, on the side talking, goal setting, educational help
15. A huge issue in classes is racism from students. I can't think of ways to fix it, but I see it everyday
16. Represent more cultures

17. More supports for everybody in the school (money gets spread to everyone)
18. Classes that give more education of a specific career for people who are deeply dedicated to their future career
19. Multi-cultural goal setting with all students
20. Being myself
21. Being aware of people's perspectives and future careers can help give them more acknowledgement for them to thrive in their careers
22. More description and acknowledgement of the chosen topic/career
23. Have a Romanian learning class
24. Ask kids what language they want to learn
25. Have more language learning opportunities
26. Have access to learning websites
27. Learn about different foods in cooking classes
28. Helping out people who have disorders
29. Supports for students that leave school for cultural purposes (ceremonies, holidays etc.) and miss assignments
30. Give everyone the freedom to speak
31. Teaching about all cultures throughout present day and history (Christianity beliefs, Indigenous beliefs) and how it affects us now
32. Supporting people who are different
33. Talk more about other cultures and talk about traditions
34. Learning more diverse languages
35. Learn about people's histories and backgrounds
36. Listening is good cultural responsiveness
37. Indigenous peoples are wondering if they are good enough to its our job to listen to them
38. Learn more about life in other cultures such as life in Romania and Germany, not just cultures around you
39. Giving students the chance to share ideas
40. Respect people's space, opinion, needs and wants, and appearance
41. We can't take the human factor out of a human. Bias is there and always will be. Don't stress it, manage it.
42. Get taught about more languages and cultures
43. A very big cause of racism is peer pressure. Address peer pressure somehow. Maybe punish or a fine or something. Peer pressure is bad!
44. More informative of all countries
45. Easier to speak with student who speak other languages; inclusivity
46. To be aware and accept; we use culture and religion in our learning lots
47. A week of school with each day centred around a different culture
48. World religion classes actually offered
49. Including holidays and celebrations from other cultures in the school calendar
50. Be aware of everyone's culture and getting their input on different things; understand different cultures
51. Schools should be more involved in cultural events
52. Make sure we communicate with one another

53. The welcome room is where everybody is welcome
54. Make sure everyone is involved in their education and what's going on in school
55. Safe spaces for cultural learning
56. Focus on more than one culture; not just one
57. Make the punishment harsher for racism, sexism etc. like we did with phones
58. Cultural history classes
59. More language learner apps
60. Hire translators maybe? Provide help to those who don't know English
61. Giving everyone the same treatment, and the same respect; just because you're special doesn't mean treat you like you're five.
62. It's helping us listen and learn about culture and Indigenous peoples

Advocacy and Agency

When you think of having agency in your learning - taking ownership and control – where have you had a choice or a decision to make about your education along the way (graduation path; giving up one thing to focus on another; student council etc.)

What choices could have made your experience more meaningful and successful?

Students can advocate in many ways:

- To your teacher
- To your principal
- To the Superintendent
- To the Board (board meetings – upcoming budget processes)
- To the Municipality (attend a council meeting)
- To the premier
- To the Prime Minister
- To the UN and other worldwide agencies

When you have fought for something, you believe in, how did you go about it?

If you have concerns about school, your community, the climate, government etc., what are some strategies you can use to advance your cause?

Hints and Definitions

What does agency mean to you?

Learner agency refers to the feeling of ownership and sense of control that students have over their learning.

Agentive learners have a growth mindset

Agentive learners are also lifelong learners

What does advocacy mean to you?

Advocacy is an activity by an individual or group that aims

to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions.

includes activities and publications to influence public policy, laws and budgets by using facts, their relationships, the media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public

can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes, including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research.

Lobbying (often by lobby groups) is a form of advocacy where a direct approach is made to legislators on a specific issue or specific piece of legislation

Top five themes (AI generated from students' stickies raw data below)

1. **Desire for Greater Autonomy in Learning**:
   Students want more choices in their education, such as selecting classes, creating or joining clubs, and deciding how they learn (e.g., incorporating interactive classes, study blocks, or plant-based studies).
2. **Equitable and Responsible Use of Technology**:
   Many students advocate for balanced policies on technology use, emphasizing its value for research and learning when used responsibly while opposing blanket bans.
3. **Improving Student Engagement and Teacher Support**:
   There is a call for teachers to better adapt to different learning styles and increase engagement during class. Students also highlighted the need for more interactive and relevant classes.
4. **Community and Environmental Initiatives**:
   Suggestions included planting trees, improving infrastructure (e.g., roads and sidewalks), and organizing events for cross-school interaction to enhance community spirit.
5. **Reforming School Policies**:
   Students expressed concerns about punishment policies (e.g., phone confiscation), advocating for reduced punitive measures and policies that consider their needs and responsibilities, such as healthier lunch options and shorter school days

Student Stickies Raw Data

6. No matter what we say phones are the future and that won't change ever. If its being misused take it but let us use it to be helpful.
7. Stop spending money on shows and tourists, instead give it back to the community
8. Student council in all schools
9. Students shouldn't be allowed on phones because it messes with student education and behaviour
10. Our mindset holds us back. We think phones are bad, addicting and sometimes that's true. But phones are also helpful and like an assistant
11. I think something that would be good to change is teachers working with the way students work, we all have different learning ways and the ways teachers teach make it difficult for some
12. More interactive classes
13. I also think we need longer lunch. I always seem to be rushed when trying to get lunch. I think we should get at least 50 min max
14. More skiing trips for schools
15. Education has changed a lot in the past couple of years. A class needs tech. We spent years perfecting a portable computer only to ban it.
16. I feel like students should be in class more and not in the hallways

17. Teachers should be a little bit more engaged more in class time
18. Need a school generator
19. Sports and busses: for when we travel or its cold outside
20. Shorter days
21. Shorter classes
22. School start
23. Don't suspend us when the phone gets taken away
24. Start welding lanterns to the bridge
25. More events for cross-school mingling and comradery
26. Add more clubs. Make them and let students make them. Chess or DnD or something
27. A cell phone is arguably in our top 5 inventions of all time, near fire, wheels etc.
    Classrooms are evolving so should we
28. Plant new tress
29. Allow phones for research stuff
30. Better care for roads, sidewalks
31. Give students more choices in what they learn. Some students have choice is where they
    sit but troublemakers have a seating plan.
32. Get to pick what classes I have
33. Reduce punishment , allow phone usage in the right time. This might help us. We can
    control our urges, and us it wisely and responsibly
34. Healthier or different lunch options for once
35. No punishment for phones being taken away
36. Change the way we are allowed to sit and have study blocks
37. School district bus!
38. Classrooms are evolving, so should we
39. More greenery; maybe a class for plants and their uses (medicinal etc.))
40. Classes I really need
41. More fundraising for sports trips
42. There is a lack of specialized classes
43. 50-minute classes
44. Bus
45. Tech is the future if we like it or not. Suppressing it won't help. Sure, if it is distracting, take
    it but don't ban it from all.

Technology

<u>Prompt</u>

IBM Student Survey attached

Personal Digital Devices – how has the ban impacted you? Your learning? Your mental health?

When you think about technology in your learning – what could schools do to help you ?

<u>Top five themes (AI generated from students' stickies raw data below)</u>

1. **Improvement in Technological Infrastructure**:
   Students frequently mentioned the need for faster Wi-Fi, better laptops, updated computers, and more reliable hardware to support their learning.
2. **Rules and Restrictions on Device Use**:
   Opinions varied, with some students opposing strict bans on personal devices like phones, citing their utility for learning and focus (e.g., taking notes, checking time, or listening to music). Others acknowledged that restrictions helped improve classroom focus.
3. **Inadequate Resources and Accessibility**:
   There were complaints about limited availability of devices (e.g., laptops, iPads) and issues accessing necessary tools, which affected productivity and research capabilities.
4. **Equity and Proper Use**:
   Students highlighted the need for fair access to technology, emphasizing that some teachers monopolized tech labs or that device bans penalized those who could use them responsibly.
5. **Role of Technology in Learning and Personal Growth**:
   Technology was seen as essential for enhancing research, career preparation, and personal experiences, such as making memories with friends or using music for focus.

<u>Student Stickies Raw Data</u>

1. Better quality of Wi-Fi and a more intelligent filter
2. Some needed websites are banned
3. We should be able to use personal devices when teachers say
4. On ipads people could airdrop inappropriate photos to every ipad or people setting timers on ipads
5. I liked having phones. Personally, I made lots of memories with my friends and we also used them for learning
6. More people not using technology properly so people who need it for work can't use it
7. School internet could be better
8. Faster Wi-Fi
9. It's gotten louder since the cell phone rule
10. New computers and chargers for ipads
11. These punishments for having phones are ridiculous. It's honestly stupid. We don't need harsh punishments
12. With budget get more technology such as laptops and better ipads; can't sign into peace.net and tech issues

13. Harder to find information in/for class
14. Class without cell phones is better because everyone is working on school work
15. Computers are slow. Update them every 5-6 years. It takes 30 minutes for the computers to start
16. All schools should have the proper amount of technology
17. Phones have useful uses! Check time/date, photos of school work, take notes
18. Get better laptops
19. Not able to access personal devices for school work is difficult
20. The ban has ??? medical device
21. Sometimes the home folder doesn't open
22. With limited access to technology, it can be difficult to do the needed research
23. We spend years perfecting a portable computer, only to ban it. Phones are addicting when wrong, but really helpful when right. We should allot class time to use phones
24. New laptops for teachers. New computers and keypads for students
25. Some teachers monopolize tech labs meaning some teachers can't get labs
26. Better hardware – its not a Wi-Fi problem
27. Personal digital device ban is positive for in class learning. I feel as if there is lower attendance in class because of it though
28. Better apps and faster speed for projects/work
29. The computers may be slow in some classes. Faster Wi-Fi. More laptops
30. In class we can't use phones, even for reference or research. The only solution right now is ipads which are only in one class and bad computers
31. The ban has made it hard to get devices because we don't have enough and don't work very well. More apple laptops would really help. Or better computers
32. Device exemptions for students who prove they can use devices responsibly
33. Less restrictive rules for tech in class
34. Reduce phone punishments. You're on your phone missing school, only to get suspended for 2 days missing school. Do a phone call home.
35. Tech is a good thing to have during school because we can search up stuff
36. One laptop, one ipad, one lab, one library
37. Tech is good because music helps me calm down and do more work
38. Music devices allowed for student who need it for focus/calming down
39. WorkBC can give you more of an idea of the chosen career and more description for the job
40. The use of head phones helped me with concentration and blocked out noise
41. Outdated technology; very slow
42. School has 5 laptop carts. We just got a couple of ipads and have no laptops
43. Need tech problems dealt with
44. Replace/fix the computers that don't work
45. Fix all the computers because something is always broken
46. No access mostly because only maybe 20 computers , 10-ish laptops and ipads; internet barely works; printer doesn't work sometimes
47. Technology for careers can help make more knowledge of job descriptions
48. Should be allowed to listen to music at specific times

Engagement

Engagement comes in many forms:

- Participation / non-participation
- Taking initiative
- Being inclusive
- Providing opportunities
- Taking action
- Passion or expertise in a discipline
- Wanting to make things better

What makes you feel like coming to school each day and how could that be enhanced?

The attendance slide showed that on any given day of the week 24% to 29% students are absent.

- Why do you think that could be?

What ways have you been engaged in your school and community and what was there a result you can articulate?

Student SOAR mentioned students having more say – what could that look like?

Top five themes (AI generated from students' stickies raw data below)

1. **Class Structure and Timing**
   - Shorter or more flexible class durations (e.g., shorter blocks, alternating fun and challenging classes).
   - Later school start times to accommodate student sleep cycles.
   - Longer breaks, especially lunch.
2. **Teacher Quality and Support**
   - Teachers better suited to their subjects and more consistent staffing (less teacher turnover).
   - Teachers listening to student feedback and understanding student needs.
3. **Diverse and Relevant Opportunities**
   - More extracurriculars and clubs, including cheerleading, drama, music, and diverse sports.
   - Additional and varied class offerings (e.g., advanced courses like calculus or science electives).
   - Learning practical life skills relevant to future careers.
4. **Student-Centric Policies**
   - Addressing issues like overly rushed schedules (e.g., bathroom breaks or lunch).
   - Better support for academically struggling students or those with challenging home lives.
   - Flexibility around personal digital device use.

5. **School Environment and Culture**
   - Improvements to facilities (e.g., removing hazards like mold and asbestos).
   - More inclusive activities and fostering a holistic student community.
   - Open discussions on issues like drug use or mental health.

Student Stickie Notes Raw Data

1. Longer breaks
2. Talk to students that aren't showing up every day
3. Start school later
4. Have less work all at once; slow down work
5. I like 80 min classes because lots of learning time
6. More inclusivity in class
7. More diverse classes
8. More extra-curricular
9. Less teacher talking
10. Teachers listening to student feedback
11. More braille
12. Longer lunch break
13. Longer breaks; maybe 15 minutes
14. Some of my teachers don't fully understand course content
15. School band!
16. Student should try to engage more
17. Some years a teacher would keep quitting and we had to go through many and I would just like to have a steady teacher with more EA's
18. Gardening class
19. You can't take the human factor out of a human
20. With teachers changing constantly for some classes it's difficult to learn
21. Holistic student community; develop an interconnected network of student groups to build buy in
22. 80 minutes is too long for certain classes
23. Music class
24. Hearing more of the students' opinions
25. A little more no school days
26. More fun classes
27. Have a fun class in the morning then a boring class and alternate
28. Teachers leaving so, kids year kids are frustrated because they didn't get info year before, so they don't show up
29. More available sports teams
30. Better sports programs
31. Mornings are too early; school starts too early
32. Better teachers suited to teach the subjects they teach
33. I sometimes feel tired when going to school
34. We need more basketball practices
35. Schools need to stop rushing when we are using the bathroom

36. When personal digital devices were allowed, I could at least play on my phone when I wasn't doing anything else
37. Additional resources for students' learning
38. The reason I don't show up is because there is nothing I am learning. I won't go if there is nothing to do.
39. More help for those that are less academically inclined
40. Some classes are too long that we lose interest so we will skip because we don't learn anything and are bored. Or we are half asleep in the morning.
41. More full school activities
42. Have more qualified teachers
43. Have more academic help
44. Shorter blocks
45. The educational system is very useful for future workers. I'd be able to have my future career if the school system gives me the knowledge
46. Students don't attend because they might have a bad home life or have a hard time getting transportation
47. Cheerleading squad
48. Teacher who knows what they're doing
49. More sports timeframes
50. Longer breaks between classes
51. Volleyball. Everyone else has their hockey and basketball. Where's volleyball?
52. Provide resources for more scientific, extra-curricular and electives
53. School is early and tiring. Sometimes it's either super boring and not doing anything or it's stressful or I have to miss hockey, or I'm not engaged because of tired from hockey
54. Better screening for subs
55. Places for students to do other work if they're uncomfortable with the subject matter
56. I enjoy being alone so I can get more work done
57. Be human . You can't stop that. Be yourself
58. Lunch is very rushed; only have 35 minutes; needs to be longer
59. Student council
60. Shorter blocks
61. Open education about drug abuse to break drug seeking behaviour
62. Make practice for sports later in the day
63. Better jerseys for sports
64. Better opportunities for sports and sports teams
65. Stop vaping
66. Shorter classes
67. Sports; assemblies; new sports equipment
68. Sports bus
69. More class offerings (calculus 12, more chemistry/physics)
70. Make days longer so every second Friday off
71. All extra-curriculars should have acceptance based on attendance
72. Easier to find supervisors
73. Make shorter classes

74. Get involved in activities
75. Learn things that will be very important when we're older instead of learning random things
76. More EA's can keep the students in focus of their education and learning
77. Basketball tournaments; make practice not right after school
78. Have music and drama classes; more clubs
79. Slightly shorter classes
80. Longer lunch
81. Volleyball in PE
82. Need actual teachers
83. Sometimes not having enough time to do something because of school
84. Vending machine in the cafeteria please
85. School should end at 1:30 pm on Thursdays
86. Knowing that our school has black mould and asbestos makes me not want to come ; we need a new school
87. Some teachers are just placeholders who don't teach the subject, and they don't give us work for that subject or the work is below grade level
88. 15 minutes longer lunch and school day from 8:30 to 3:00
89. After school clubs
90. No big classes in the morning
91. Teams: lacrosse, football, baseball
92. Understanding going to school give you your education and knowledge of your future and chosen career
93. Start school at 10:30 and end at 3:30
94. School start should be 10 am
95. Half day Fridays
96. Code of conduct getting phones taken away. There are 4 stages: first 2 are taken for the day; 3rd is in school suspension; 4th is 2 days out of school suspension. I think that making us miss school just because we were on our phones isn't good.
97. We would rather go to school and hand our phones in or have our phone in our locker
98. 5 classes a day, not 4. Shorter classes
99. Stress or fidget toys
100.   Cheer club
101.   More clubs after school

The ONE Thing

1. More laptops or computers that work well. Because of the no phone rule, we never have any technology available.
2. Vending machine
3. More acknowledgement of courses for medical programs
4. Laptops
5. Shorter days
6. New school with no asbestos or black mould
7. Coming from a Christian family, I feel that sex, politics and religion have no place in schools. If we truly want to be inclusive the way towards that is being neutral in all those areas to avoid conflict and teaching tolerance.
8. New floors
9. Sports bus
10. New school; roof is drooping and there's water stains on the roof of the computer lab
11. More money needs to be put towards sports, bussing and practices
12. Students have a little more of a discussion on what they want to learn based on their culture and beliefs
13. Increase challenge for students (AP classes etc.)
14. Lift the phone ban
15. More money towards sports, sports equipment and jerseys
16. More technology. Very little tech in our school; lost personal tech access and media lab was removed
17. Generators
18. More help for some students
19. Student leadership programs focus
20. Art, drama music classes
21. New school
22. Music class
23. Plant trees around the school
24. Better lunch options
25. More safe spaces
26. New jerseys
27. Music classes like instrument lessons and maybe singing lessons for people who want to be musicians
28. Shorter school day
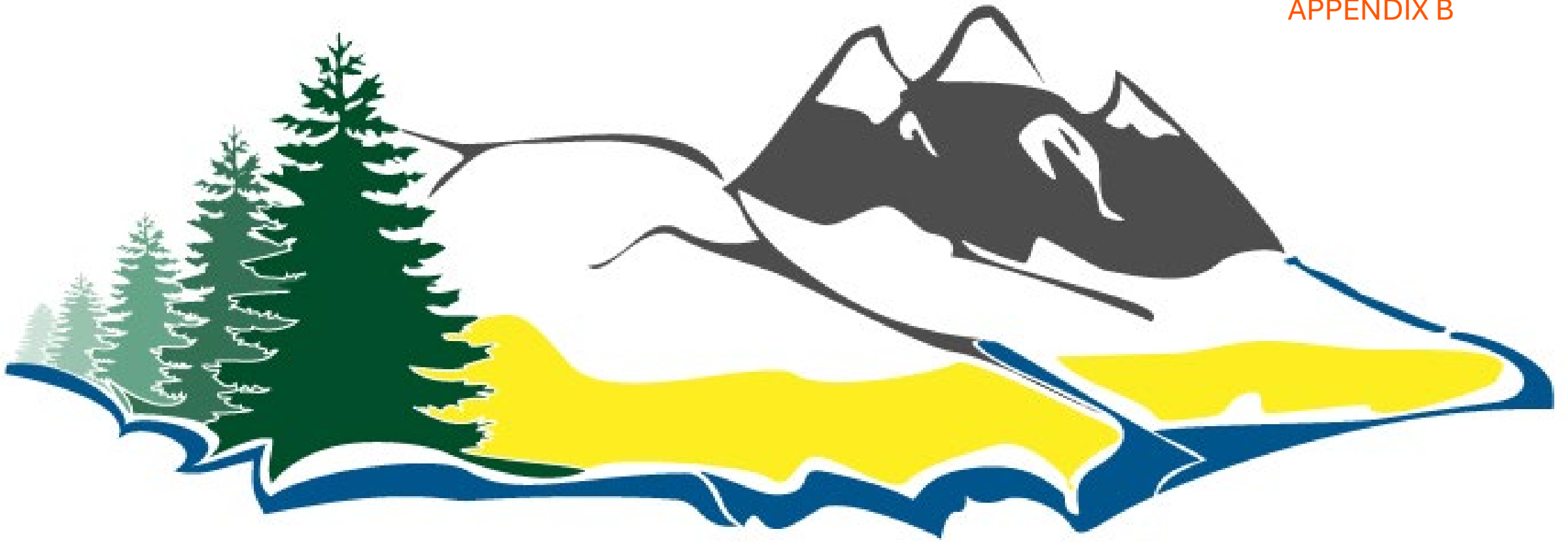
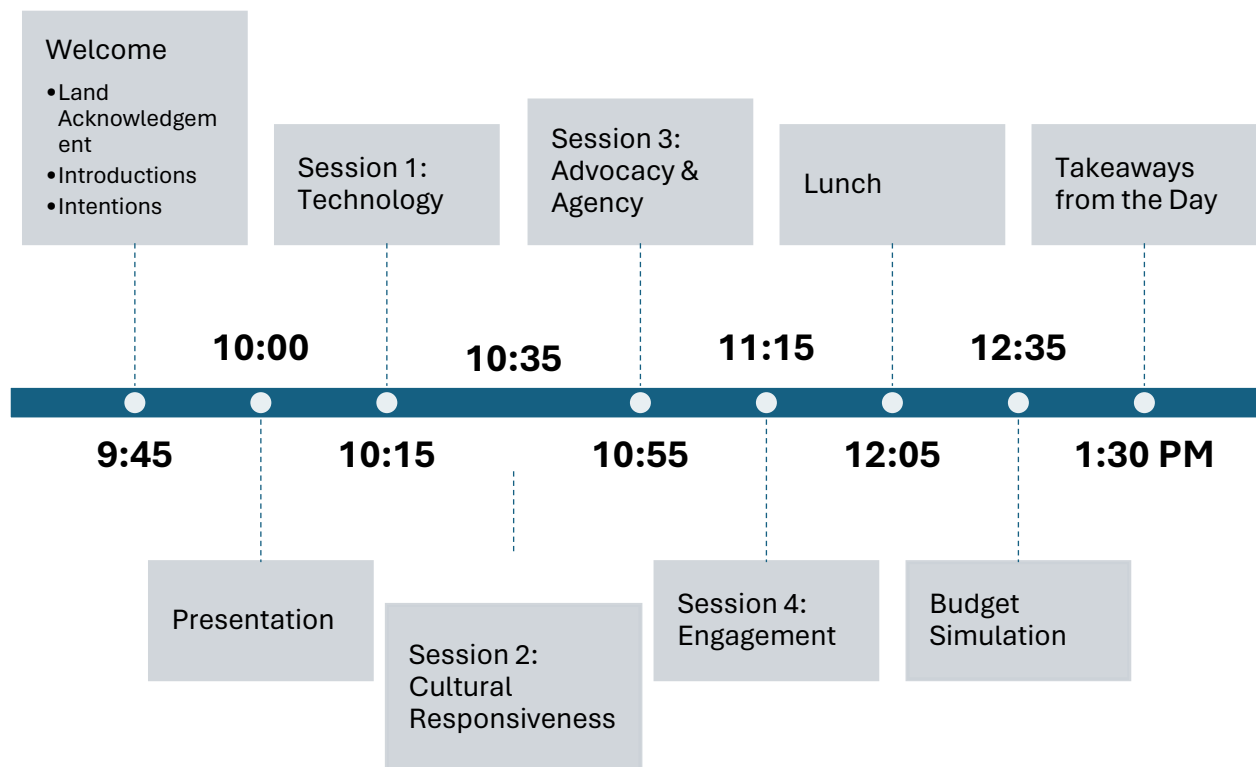School District No. 59 Peace River South

Student Symposium

Informing Budget 2025-2026

October 30, 2024

Budget 2025-2026 Student Symposium

Agenda

Welcome
- Land Acknowledgement
- Introductions
- Intentions

Session 1: Technology

Session 3: Advocacy & Agency

Lunch

Takeaways from the Day

Presentation

Session 2: Cultural Responsiveness

Session 4: Engagement

Budget Simulation

9:45 **10:00** **10:15** **10:35** **10:55** **11:15** **12:05** **12:35** **1:30 PM**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

School District No. 59 (Peace River South) is located on Treaty 8 territory in northeastern British Columbia. The District works closely with Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, our strong Metis community, Inuit families and students, and First Nations students and families from across Canada. We are grateful to do our work on this land and acknowledge the Indigenous footsteps that have marked this land for centuries.

What Guides Our Work?
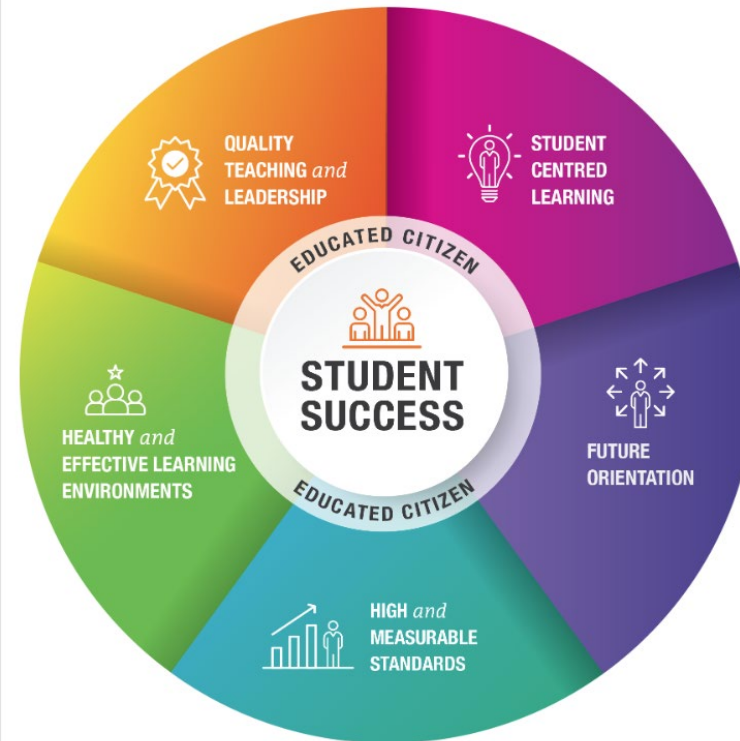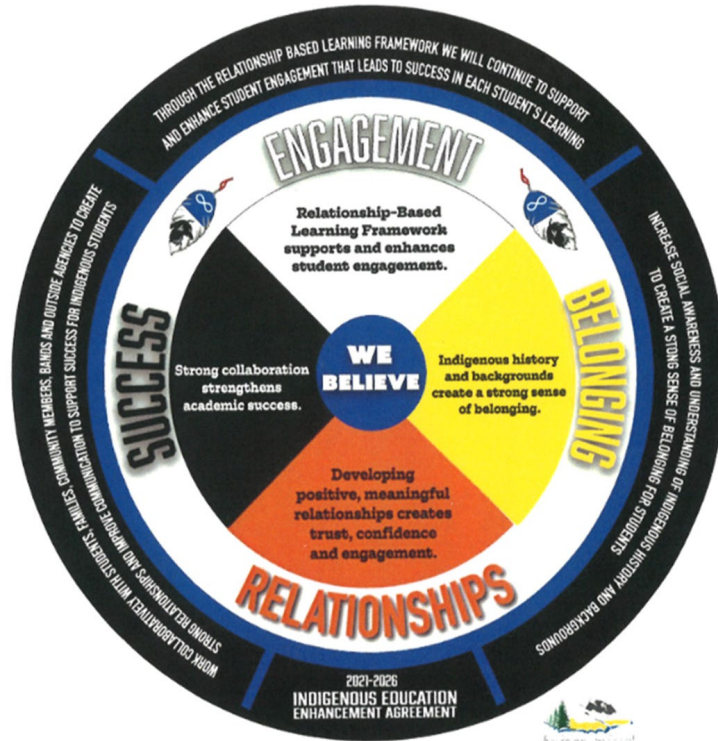
Locally & Provincially

Strategic Plan 2024-2028

School District No. 59

Our Context

Local Government

- Dawson Creek
- Chetwynd
- Tumbler Ridge
- Pouce Coupe
- Peace River Regional District

Rural areas from the BC/Alberta border north to the Peace River and west to the Pine Pass
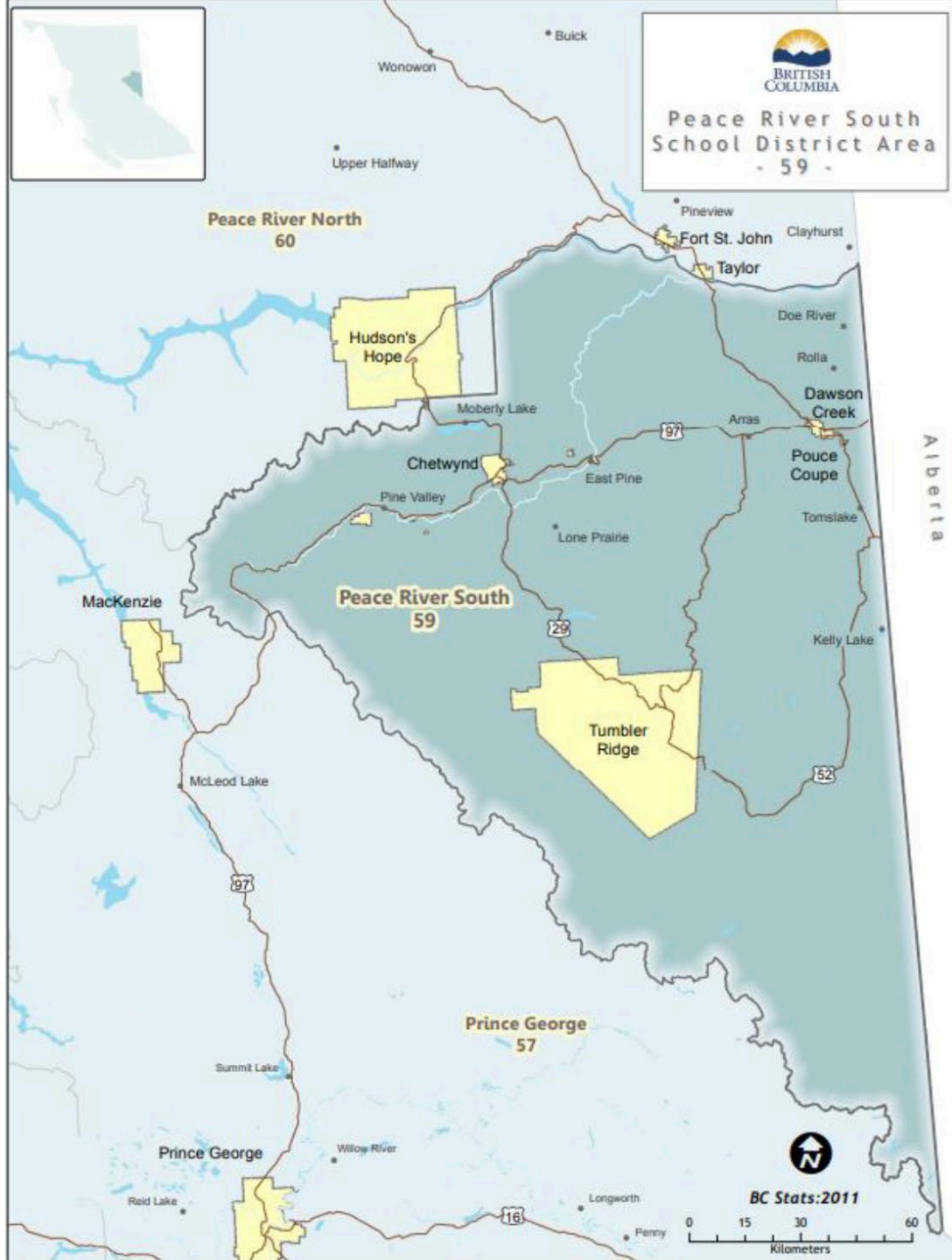
Saulteau First Nations

West Moberly First Nations

Strong Métis community

Urban Indigenous population from First Nations and Inuit across Canada

19 Schools Covering Peace River South
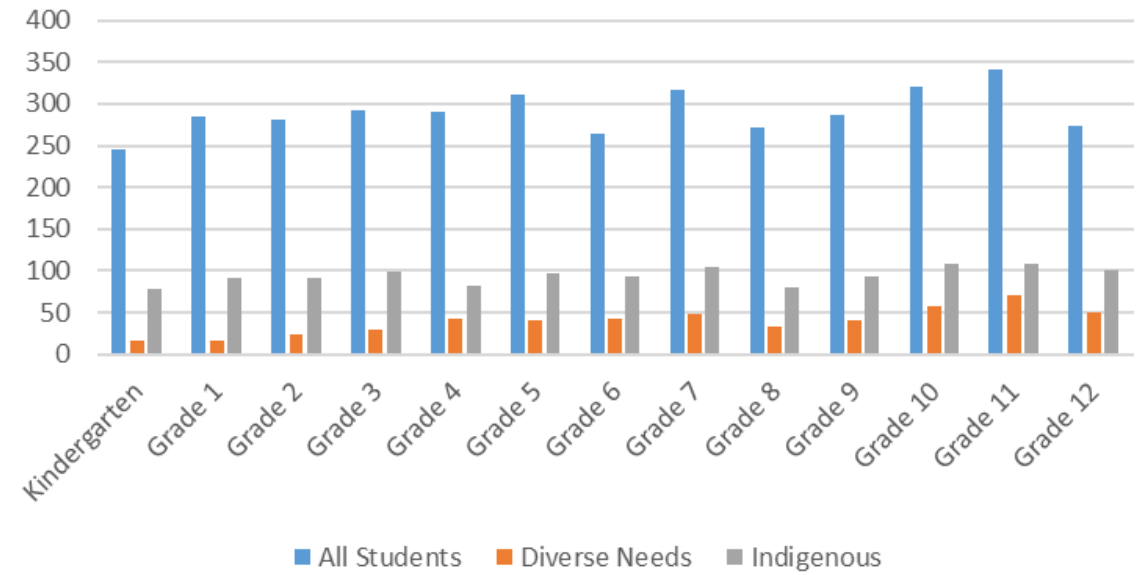
- Chetwynd:
  - Chetwynd Secondary
  - Don Titus Montessori
  - Little Prairie Elementary
  - Moberly Lake Elementary
  - Windrem Elementary

- Dawson Creek:
  - Canalta Elementary
  - Crescent Park Elementary
  - Dawson Creek Secondary School (Central Campus and South Peace Campus)
  - Ecole Frank Ross
  - South Peace Distributed Learning
  - Tremblay Elementary

- Dawson Creek Rural:
  - Devereaux Elementary
  - McLeod Elementary
  - Parkland Elementary
  - Peace View Elementary
  - South Peace Elementary

- Pouce Coupe
  - Pouce Coupe Elementary

- Tumbler Ridge:
  - Tumbler Ridge Elementary
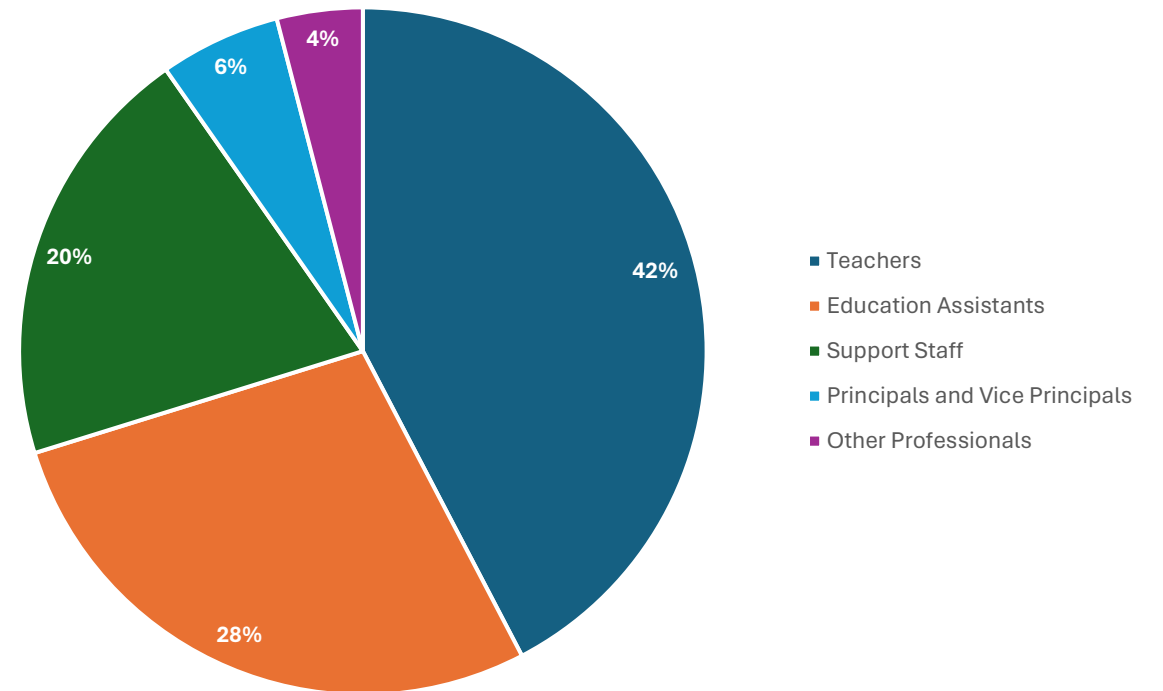 - Tumbler Ridge Secondary

Student Enrolment

Student Enrolment by Grade - 2023-2024

- All Students
- Diverse Needs
- Indigenous

Employee Demographics

2023/24 Operating Staffing FTE

- 42% Teachers
- 28% Education Assistants
- 20% Support Staff
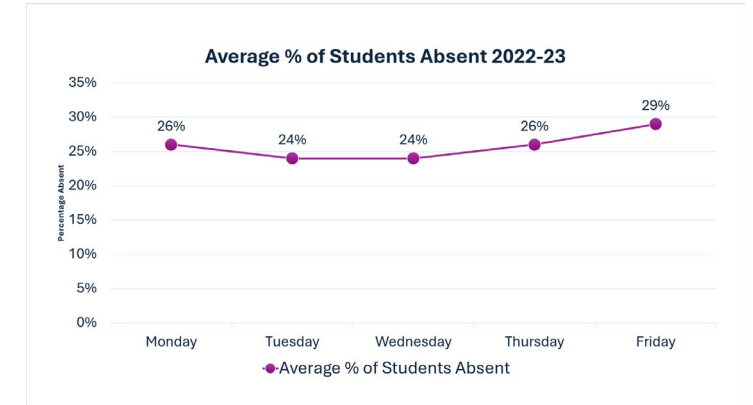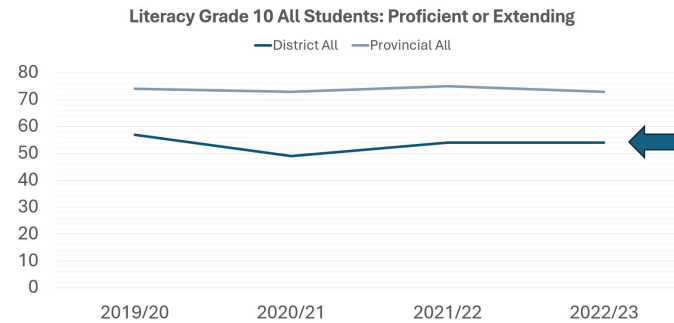- 6% Principals and Vice Principals
- 4% Other Professionals

The Strategic Plan

Three Specific Priorities defined within the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

Priority 1: Student Success

Provincial Literacy Data

Literacy Grade 10 All Students: Proficient or Extending

— District All — Provincial All

Average % of Students Absent 2022-23

— Average % of Students Absent

Typical range across B.C. (middle 50% of school districts)

Selected school district's most recent results (2022/2023)

Range of school district's results over time (2018/2019 - 2022/2023)

Completion Rates
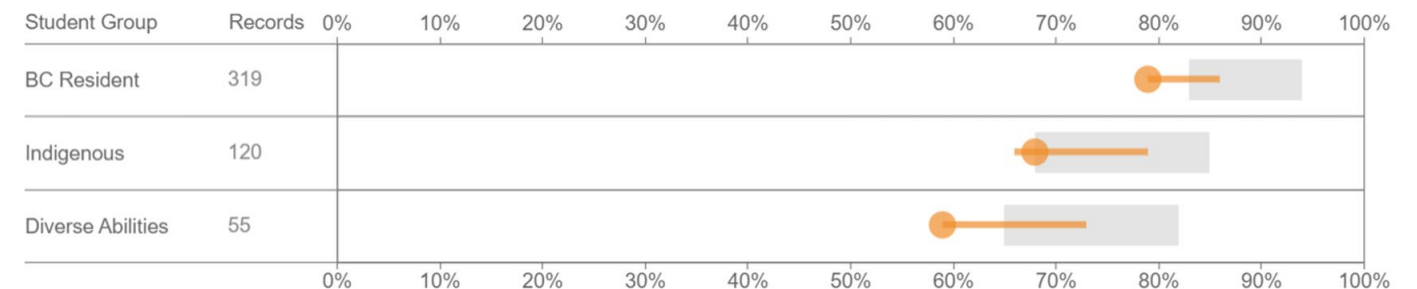
Priority 1: Student Success

Through an equity lens, each student has access to rich learning opportunities and supports that connect them to their passions and aspirations.

Student belonging, wellness, and mental health are key components of the success of our learners.

GOAL 1:

- Schools will build foundational numeracy and literacy skills in all learners and provide supports and interventions to allow for success.

GOAL 2:

- Each school will create and implement its plan for students' sense of belonging and wellness by explicitly teaching social-emotional learning at all levels.

GOAL 3:

- Through Applied Design Skills Technology (ADST) and career education, School District No. 59 will provide opportunities for students to connect and develop skills to successfully transition into their future.

Priority 2: Building Capacity

Priority 2: Building Capacity

In an ever-changing world, students and staff need to be provided with new learning based on research and best practice and have access to resources and supports that enhance their rich, learning experience.

GOAL 1:

- School District No. 59 will integrate differentiated instruction and practices, and visible learning to meet students where they are at and move them forward in their individual success.

GOAL 2:

- School District No. 59 will resource our schools and departments to meet the needs of students and staff. This will include recruitment and retention, training, policy development, inclusion and diversity, anti-racism, truth and reconciliation, technology, and implementation of the Accessibility Act.

Priority 3: Communication

Priority 3: Communication

Consistent and clear communication impacts the culture of a school district at all levels. Through an equity lens, communication needs to be accessible for everyone, in different forms. Positive communication will further increase our connectedness and strong relationships.

GOAL 1:

- Improve collaborative partnerships with families to strengthen academic success, relationships, and connectedness to school. School District No. 59 will provide timely information to students and families to allow for informed decision-making.

GOAL 2:

- School District No. 59 will showcase and celebrate student learning and initiatives.

GOAL 3:

- School District No. 59 will engage with all rightsholders, stakeholders, and community partners to facilitate collaborative communication.

The Board of Education values:

- *The dedication and willingness to learn, listen, and make changes where needed.*
- *Support from top to bottom of staff/students, a good working environment, and the work that is invested to understand what is needed to improve student success.*
- *The caring of our staff and the ideals they hold and share throughout the district, and their commitment to learning and equity.*
- *That what is best for students guides our work.*
- *Innovation, community, communication, and a variety of experiences.*
- *That we are inclusive in our schools.*
- *Our curiosity to learn and do better.*
- *Our leadership team, staff and students.*
- *The knowledge that each individual is valued in the district.*

Students' Opinions Matter

Student Voice SOAR

SOAR: Strengths Opportunities ASPIRATIONS RESULTS

Aspirations

Environment

More inclusivity

Less bullying/kinder kids

Less vandalism

More space

Bigger parking lots

More outdoor activities (gardens, etc.)

Better layout for school

Less boring halls (colour, art)

Improvement bathroom

Bigger lockers

Cleaners – school smells bad

More welcoming and friendly

Student lounges

More kids taking responsibility

Independency

Teachers listening to students

Larger desks

More food

Results

More improved sports

Better attendance

Cleaner school

Better water access

More space

More emergency drills

Improved playgrounds

More storage

Larger learning spaces

More extra help

Less vandalism

School opportunity awareness

Less bullying

Improved sports and equipment

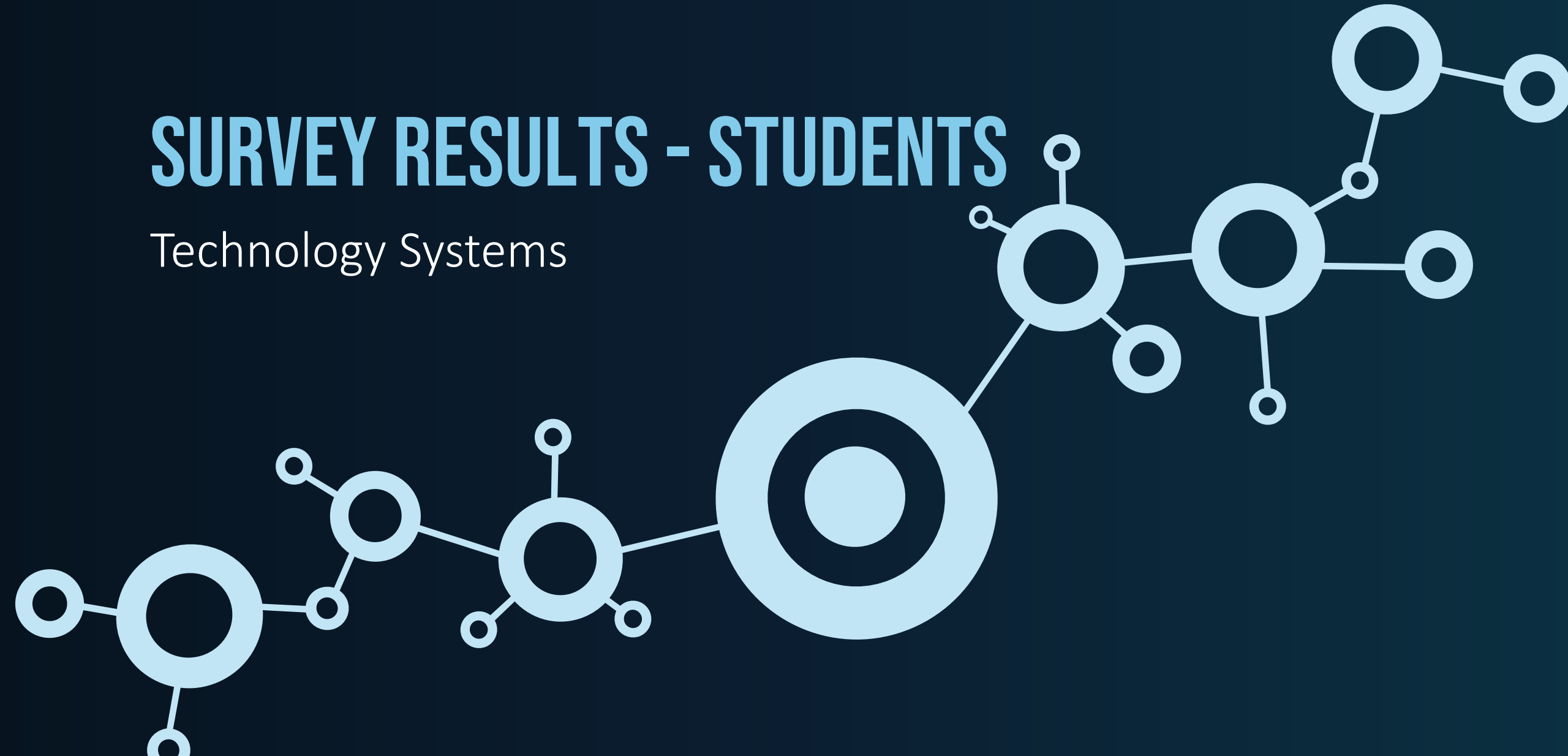More participation
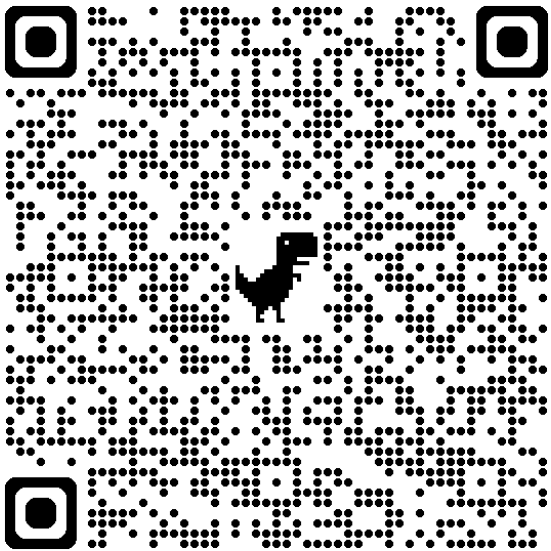
More after school activities

Bigger variety of food available

SURVEY RESULTS - STUDENTS

Technology Systems

Student Survey Results
Question 1

Link to Results Summary for Full Survey

1. What grade grouping are you in?

More Details

- 🔵 Grades 4 - 6   95
- 🟠 Grades 7 - 9   106
- 🟢 Grade 10 - 12   107

Student Survey Summary

Student Survey Results

Student Survey Results
Questions 3 and 4

3. How do digital learning tools (Office 365, other apps, etc.) help you learn better? (Choose all that apply)

More Details

- They make learning more fun a... 134
- They allow me to learn at my o... 154
- They help me work with my frie... 125
- They help me access more infor... 152
- They help me develop digital ski... 122
- They provide me with immediat... 82
- They do not help me learn better. 41
- Other 38
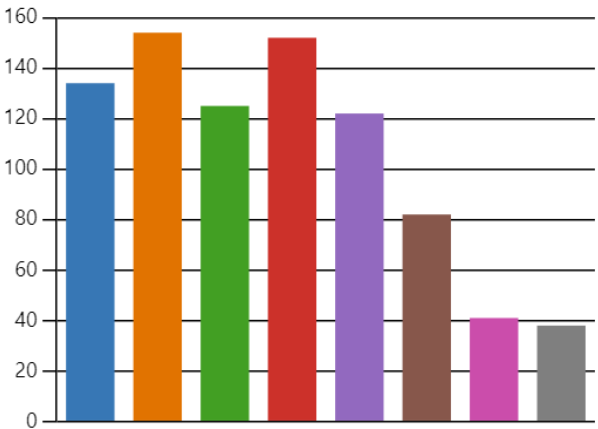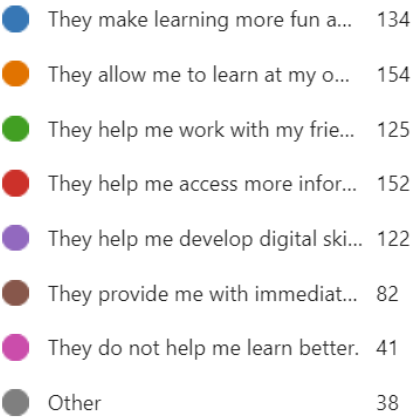
4. What are some challenges or difficulties you face when using digital learning tools (laptops, iPads) for learning? (Choose all that apply)

More Details

- There aren't enough devices. 72
- They are often broken. 78
- I don't have access to the apps ... 60
- I don't know how to use them w... 48
- They are distracting. 49
- I don't have any challenges usin... 104
- Other 54

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How do we show up? Do we?

Average % of Students Absent 2022-23

Line chart showing Percentage Absent by day of week: Monday 26%, Tuesday 24%, Wednesday 24%, Thursday 26%, Friday 29%.

Legend: Average % of Students Absent

Budget

	Basic Allocation	
75% allocated through the Basic Allocation	Common per student amount for every FTE student enrolled by school type.	
	Standard School	$8,915 per school age FTE
	Alternate School	$8,915 per school age FTE
	Continuing Education	$8,915 per school age FTE
	Online Learning	$7,200 per school age FTE

	Unique Student	
18% allocated to recognize unique student enrolment	Additional per student funding to address uniqueness of district enrolment and support additional programming. Includes Equity of Opportunity Supplement for children and youth in care and students with mental health challenges.	
	Level 1 Inclusive Education	$50,730 per student
	Level 2 Inclusive Education	$24,070 per student
	Level 3 Inclusive Education	$12,160 per student
	English/French Language Learning	$1,795 per student
	Indigenous Education	$1,770 per student
	Adult Education	$5,690 per FTE

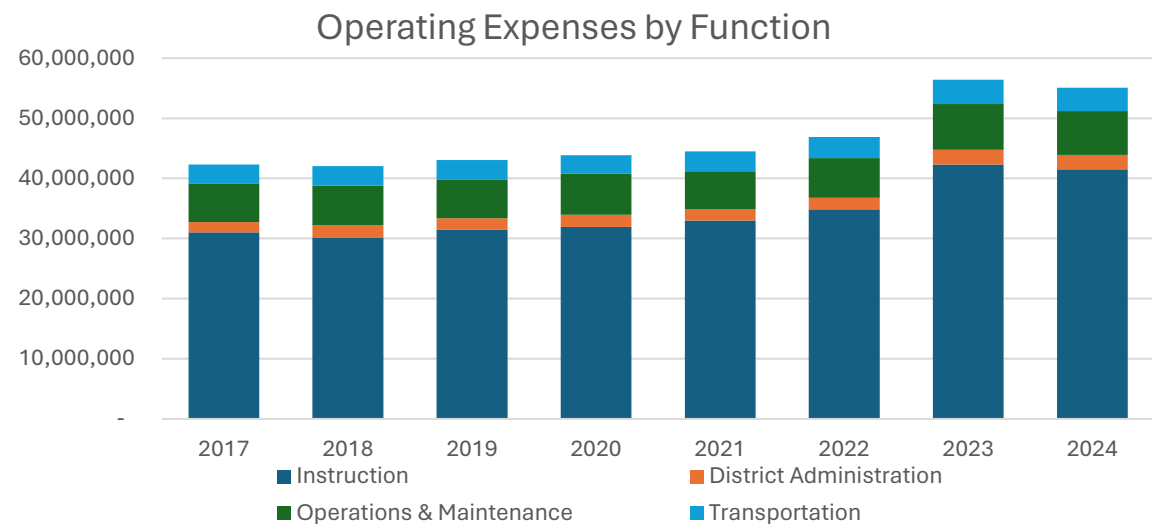|	**Unique District**	
7% allocated to recognize unique district factors	Additional funding to address uniqueness of district factors.	
	Small Community	For small schools located a distance away from the next nearest school
	Low Enrolment	For districts with low total enrolment
	Rural Factor	Located some distance from Vancouver and the nearest large regional population centre
	Climate Factor	Operate schools in colder/warmer climates; additional heating or cooling requirements
	Sparseness Factor	Operate schools that are spread over a wide geographic area
	Student Location Factor	Based on population density of school communities
	Supplemental Student Location Factor	Level 1 and 2 inclusive education enrolment
	Salary Differential	Funding to districts that have higher average educator salaries

	Funding Protection / Enrolment Decline	
0.1% allocated to buffer the effects of declining enrolment	Funding Protection	Funding to ensure that no district experiences a decline in operating grants greater than 1.5% when compared to the previous September
	Enrolment Decline	Funding to districts experiencing enrolment decline of at least 1% when compared to the previous year

CSF Supplement
District receives a 15% funding premium on allocated funding.

Expenses

Operating Expenses by Function

2023/24 Operating Staffing FTE

Teachers 42%
Education Assistants 28%
Support Staff 20%
Principals and Vice Principals 6%
Other Professionals 4%

2024

Teachers 33%
PVP 7%
Educational Assistants 9%
Support Staff 12%
Other Professionals 4%
Substitutes 4%
Benefits 16%
Services and Supplies 15%
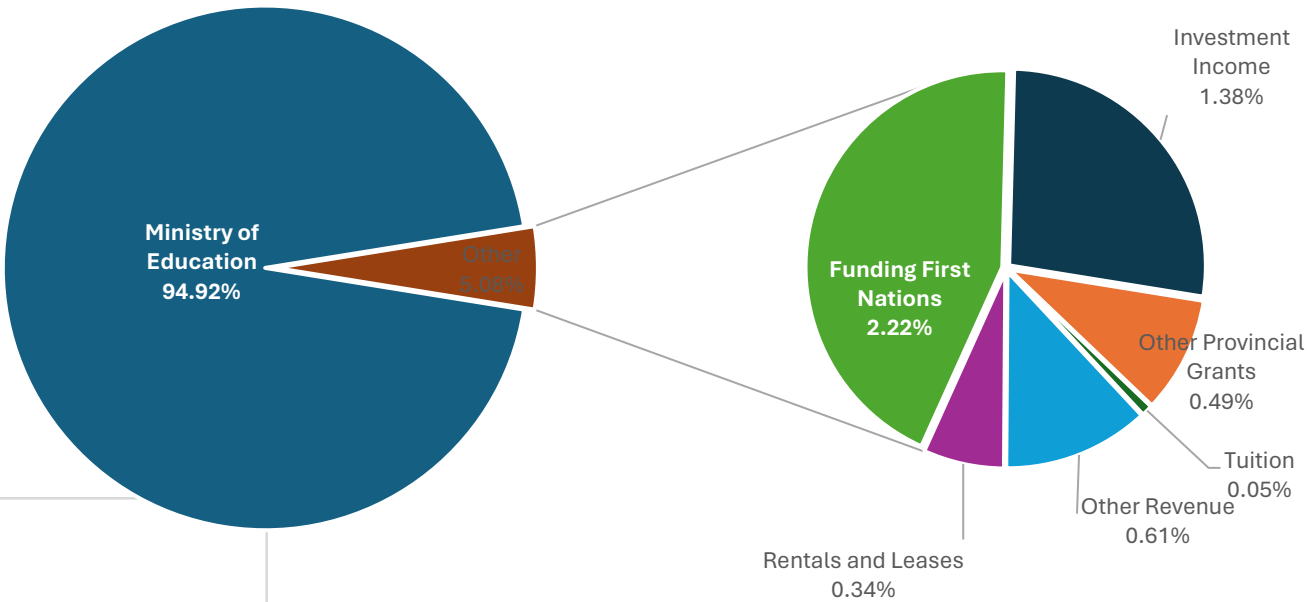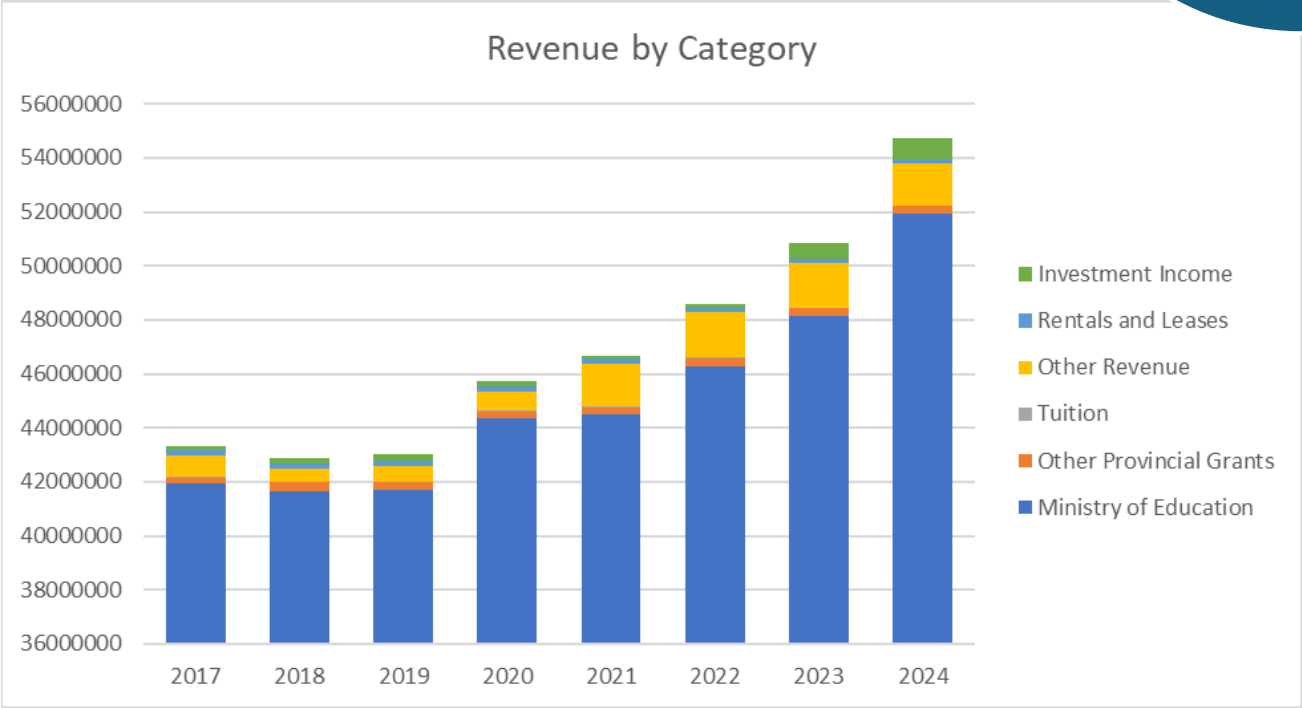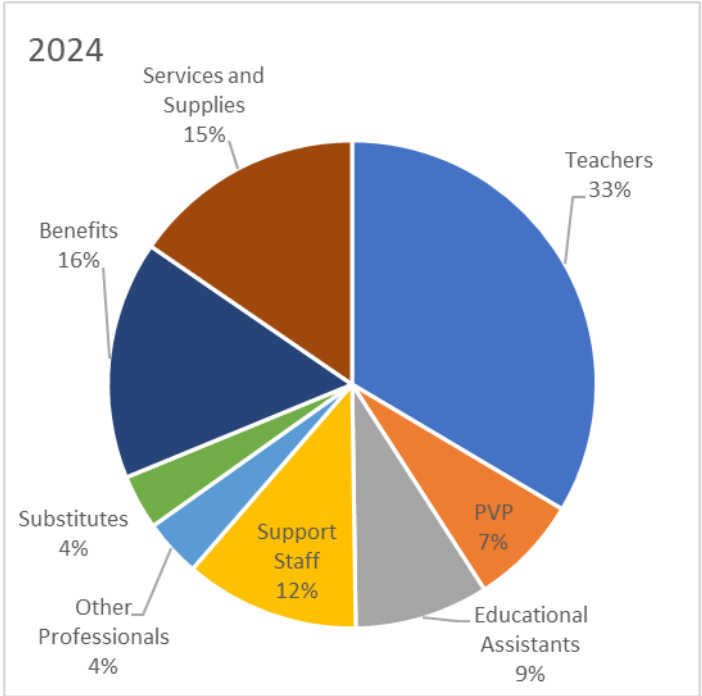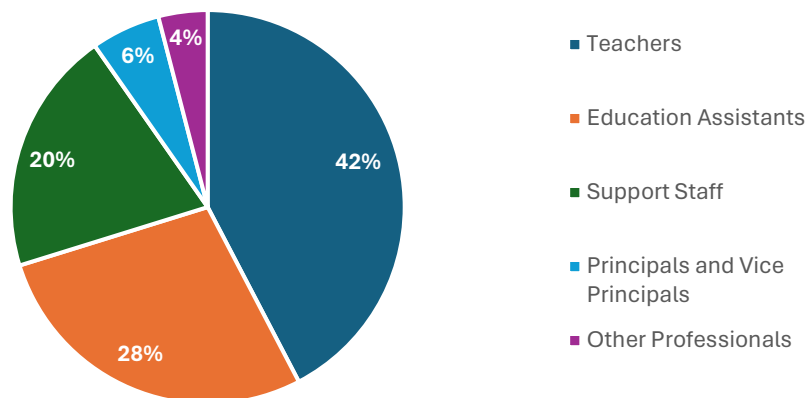
Reserves: Savings Account

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Internally Restricted	2,223,621	3,468,717	3,106,063	2,610,153	3,157,953	5,410,944	2,570,088	1,256,241	2,058,880	3,643,721	2,305,371	3,506,179
Unrestricted	1,625,063	1,418,036	2,570,751	3,340,685	3,494,435	1,566,321	3,826,524	5,882,422	6,530,601	6,441,631	7,188,301	5,299,919
Total Operating Surplus	$ 3,848,684	$ 4,886,753	$ 5,676,814	$ 5,950,838	$ 6,652,388	$ 6,977,265	$ 6,396,612	$ 7,138,663	$ 8,589,481	$ 10,085,352	$ 9,493,672	$ 8,806,098
Unrestricted Surplus as a % of annual operating expenses	4%	3%	6%	8%	8%	4%	9%	13%	15%	14%	14%	10%

- Just like people should save money for an emergency or a big future purchase, the District does the same thing

- Operating reserves are $7.1m or about 14% of the operating revenue

How can we improve?

Financially we are solid: no deficit, no emergency cutbacks

But…

Are we sustainably nimble, aware and responsible?

Are we investing money in the right places?

If we could become more efficient and save money, how would we re-invest in ourselves to improve our results?

Discussion

Station 1

- Technology

Station 2

- Cultural Responsiveness

Station 3

- Advocacy and Agency

Station 4

- Engagement

Budget Simulation

Wrap Up and
Next Steps

Budget Timeline

25-Sep	Board Meeting	Process Draft & Approval	
26-Sep	Media Release		
23-Oct	Board Meeting		
30-Oct	Student Symposium	TBD	ENGAGEMENT
27-Nov	Board Meeting	Student Symposium Report	
18-Dec	Board Meeting		
06-Jan	Survey or engagement opportunity for school and wider community to provide input		ENGAGEMENT
22-Jan	Board Meeting		
14-Feb	**Enrolment due to MOECC**		
19-Feb	Board Meeting	Opportunities for Focus (Operational Plans) and Draft 1	
12-Mar	Board Meeting	Draft 2 and Reading 1	
14-Mar	**Ministry Funding Announcement**		
02-Apr	Special Open	Draft 3 and Reading 2/Superintendent Recommendations	
02-Apr	Public Consultation	Dinner meeting	ENGAGEMENT
09-Apr	Trustee Working Session	Clarifying questions	Attach to Round table
30-Apr	Board Meeting	Draft 4 and Reading 3 & Approval	
01-May	Media Release		
28-May	Board Meeting	25-26 process debrief	

Students are at the centre of every decision.

School District No. 59 (Peace River South)
Annual Budget

School District Parameters
2 schools: ABC School and 123 School

Starting Point/Minimal

	Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Absent Days (Sick, Vacation etc)	# of Computers
ABC School	8-12	600	24	1	8	3	2	250	60
123 School	K-7	400	17	1	6	1	1	175	30

	Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Substitutes	Utilities (Energy Costs)	Carbon Tax	Learning & Office Supplies	Repairs to Building	Total Minimum Budget	**Budget from Board of Education**
ABC School	8-12	600	24	$ 105,000	$ 320,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 10,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	$ 1,085,000	**$ 1,700,000**
123 School	K-7	400	17	$ 105,000	$ 240,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 75,000	$ 45,000	$ 4,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 719,000	**$ 1,100,000**

Optional - Can Choose

To buy 1 of the following	It will cost you
Vice Principal	$105,000
Teacher	$100,000
Education Assistant	$40,000
Custodian	$50,000
Secretary	$50,000
Learning & Office Supplies per Student	$100
Solar Panel	$5,000
School Garden Construction	$5,000
One high school course (art, global perspectives, band, rugby academy, Atlas, Etc)	$15,000
Counsellor - Full Time	$100,000
Counsellor - Half Time	$50,000
Librarian - Full Time	$100,000
Librarian - Half Time	$50,000
Playground Toy	$10,000
Bus Trip	$200
Computer	$1,000
Rainy Day Fund	Up to you

Ways to Save Money	
Each solar panel will save $100 on Energy Costs	$100
Each day someone doesn't need a sub will save	$200

Ways to Raise Money (Revenue)	Up to you

Emergencies (thrown out of the blue after the exercise starts)

Roof fell in and requires $300,000 repair

International field trip opportunity but not all students can afford to go

Arrival of students after funding date require an additional teacher

(BUDGET
615,000

- 100,000 - New Teacher
- 309,000 - Roof
- 3000 - Supplies
463,000

615,000
- 403,000
212,000

Libarian - Half time 50,000
Garden - 5,000
2 High School Course - 30,000
Instruments - 10,000
Vice Principal - 105,000
Rainy Day Fund - 10,000
Bus trips - 2,000.

ABC **Students = 615, 25 per class**
ABC -50,000 Europe
Secondary -50,000 rainy day
School -50,000 (10 solar panels)
6,15,000 -Vice principal -105,000
-300,000 roof
60 computers 60,000

rainy day
100,000 total

50,000 each

123 School
10,30,2024
Balance Sheet.
381,000 total
Playground 20,000
Custodian 50,000 100x50
Supplies 5,000
Teacher 100,000
Garden 5,000
Counsellor Half 50,000
course outdoor ed 15,000
Computer 30 30,000
Rainy day 50,000
Librarian Half 50,900
Solar Panel 51,000

Total 001,000.

Saved
600$ on energy.

123 school
381 thousand #
-700,000
-10,000 slide
Rainy day 20,000

Playground
10,080×2
20,000
Custodian
50,000

Supplies
100×50
=5,000
306,000
-100,000
+teacher

table 1

K District No. 59 (Peace River South)
al Budget

School District Parameters
2 schools: ABC School and 123 School

Starting Points/Minimal

Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Absent Days (Sick, Vacation etc)	# of Computers
8-12	600	24	1	8	3	2	250	60
K-7	400	17	1	6	1	1	175	30

ABC School
123 School

Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Substitutes	Utilities (Energy Costs)	Carbon Tax	Learning & Office Supplies	Repairs to Building	Total Minimum Budget	Budget from Board of Education
8-12	600	24	$ 105,000	$ 320,000	$ 150,000	3 100,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 10,000	$ 150,000	$ 100,000	$ 1,085,000	$ 1,700,000
K-7	400	17	$ 105,000	$ 240,000	$ 50,000	$ 60,000	$ 75,000	$ 45,000	$ 4,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 719,000	$ 1,100,000

ABC School
123 School

Optional - Can Choose	It will cost you
To buy 1 of the following	
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Custodian	$50,000
Secretary	$50,000
Learning & Office Supplies per Student	$100
Solar Panel	$5,000
School Garden Construction	$5,000
One high school course (art, global perspectives, band, rugby acar........ tos, Etc)	$15,000
Counsel...	$10...
Counsell...	$5...
Librari...	$1...
Playth...	$...
Bus T...	$...
Com...	
Rai...	

Ways to Save Money

Each solar panel will save $100 on Energy Costs	$100
Each day someone doesn't need a sub will save	$200

Ways to Raise Money (Revenue) — Up to you

Handwritten calculations:

1700,000
− 300,000
1,400,000

1,800,000
−1,079,000

321,000   35,000
−116,000 +14,641
           49,640

000

235,000

Sticky note:
- teachers
- Sports
- ta's
- Staff
- Sports bus
- Supplise
- Food / kitchen

Sticky note:
Vice principal
2 custodians
5 teachers
2 highschool courses
2 half time counsellors
1 Full time librarian
1 half time librarian
1 playground toy

35% sports

Sticky note:
Teachers
T.As
Sports coaches
Staff (Janitors, bus drivers, etc)
Buses
Supplies
Food

Outdoor Rink ~~卌 卌~~ ✓

(Haven't know Foods Room 卌 I
(Plasma table) III

~~Equipment for Anatomy~~ 卌 卌 New
Scoreboard

Hockey nets I

New bigger lockers 卌 III

Gym Frogs Gym floor 0

~~Sports~~ the Bean New (~~卌~~) 卌

New elective engine laptop III
= 卌 卌

School District No. 59 (Peace River South)
Annual Budget

School District Parameters
2 schools: ABC School and 123 School

Starting Point/Minimal

	Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Absent Days (Sick, Vacation etc)	# of Computers
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	Grades	# of Students	# of Classroom Teachers	Principal	Education Assistants	Custodians /Janitors	Secretary	Substitutes	Utilities (Energy Costs)	Carbon Tax	Office Supplies	Repairs to Building	Minimum Budget	Budget from Board for Education
ABC School	8-12	600	24	$105,000	$320,000	$160,000	$100,000	$75,000	$75,000	$10,000	$150,000	$100,000	$1,080,000	$1,700,000
123 School	K-7	400	17	$105,000	$240,000	$50,000	$50,000	$75,000	$45,000	$4,000	$75,000	$75,000	$719,000	$1,000,000

Optional - Can Choose

To buy 1 of the following	It will cost you	Ways to Save Money	
Vice Principal	$105,000	Each solar panel will save $100 on Energy Costs	$100
Teacher	$100,000	Each day someone doesn't need a sub will save	$200
Education Assistant	$60,000		
Custodian	$50,000	Ways to Raise Money (Revenue)	Up to you
Secretary	$50,000		
Learning & Office Supplies per Student	$100		
Solar Panel	$5,000		
School Garden Construction	$5,000		
One high school course (art, global perspectives, band, rugby academy, Atlas, Etc)	$15,000		
Counsellor - Full Time	$100,000		
Counsellor - Half Time	$50,000		
Librarian - Full Time	$100,000		
Librarian - Half Time	$50,000		
Playground Toy	$10,000		
Bus Trip	$200		
Computer	$1,000		
Rainy Day Fund	Up to you		

Handwritten notes:

We had 615'000$ left over for the secondary school. Its roof fell, costing 300,000 & leaving us 315,000$. We also hired a new teacher for half the year due to new students for 50,000 leaving us with 265,000$ We used 165000 to buy new equipment for all academic & elective classes, such as a new plasma table, tools for dissections, hockey rings, etc. [...] rainy day fund, in case something happens.

8-12 615,000

K-7 381,000

615,000

315
265
-165
100

615,000
505,000 - 10 plasma
000 - 5 Posh
300 - 30000 Roof
295 - 5 new

Extra
Activities 5%

Water
+ Garden
5%

Books
+ Supplies
10%

Indigenous
support
7%

Counselling
custodian

2%

Food
5%

Supplies for classes + school
17%

Staff
8%

Better Technology
10%

Classrooms
15%

15%
Solar Power