



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BOARD APPROVES 2024-2025 BUDGET PROCESS**

Dawson Creek, BC – The Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) has approved its process to develop the 2024-2025 annual budget.

Boards of Education are required to submit annual balanced budgets to the Ministry of Education and Child Care in June and February for preliminary and amended budgets respectively.

The Ministry also requires Boards to create 3-year budget projections and budget consultation opportunities in their processes.

At its regular open Board meeting on December 20, 2023, the Board set out plans to meet legislative requirements, provide transparency, increase engagement and gather relevant information for resource allocation decision-making.

At the same time the Board is planning next year's budget it is also undertaking development of its next strategic plan for 2024-2028.

Superintendent Christy Fennell sees alignment as key in the upcoming district imperatives, "Running budget and strategic plan development in parallel allows the community to understand learning in our District and to really focus the Board on its on-going investment in goals and strategies that provide opportunities for success for all of our students".

Three engagement opportunities will be provided in the upcoming budget development timeline: a combined strategic plan and budget meeting on January 24, 2024, a student symposium in February 2024 and a public information and feedback session on April 24, 2024.

The process also provides several milestones as the budget develops between January and April. From Kindergarten registration beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> informing enrolment projections, to revenue and expense scenarios, to alignment to the strategic plan and learning needs of students, the Board and community will receive several iterations of the budget and financial modelling as it moves toward approval on May 8, 2024.

Chair of the Board Chad Anderson looks forward to the Board’s continued commitment to students utilizing a new approach, “Putting students at the centre of all we do as a Board, we’re excited to provide opportunities to hear from our learning community, including students, about how investments are made in SD59. Implementing the three-year projection as a planning tool, the Board will be better able to provide stability in the district while fulfilling the goals of our new strategic plan.”

More information about the budget including invitations to the January 24<sup>th</sup> engagement opportunity will be available in the New Year.

Third reading and final approval of the budget is expected May 8, 2024.

For more information on the process please visit [Financial Information | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/financial-information) .

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