



# School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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## Open Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:** June 18, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

**Place:** School Board Office – Dawson Creek, BC

“We acknowledge that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.”

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) adopt the June 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

#### 1. ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

- R1.1 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2025
- R1.2 – Excerpts Closed Meeting – May 21, 2025

#### 2. BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3. ESSENTIAL ITEMS

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

- R4.1 – Student Voice – Compassionate Systems Leadership Workshop (30 min)

#### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

#### 6. REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- R6.1 – School/Student News
- R6.2 – Accessibility Update
- R6.3 – Don Titus Montessori Program Review
- R6.4 – Reading Recovery Program Update
- R6.5 – Principal Retreat at Gwillim



**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Board approve the serving of alcohol at the principal retreat dinner to be held at the Gwillim Lake Educational Site in August 2025.

#### 7. REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

- R7.1 – 2026-2027 Five Year Annual Capital Plan

**Recommended Motion:**

In accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the School Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) hereby approves the proposed Major Capital submission of the 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan as presented, for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

- R7.2 – Capital Projects Update
- R7.3 – 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates
- R7.4 – Secretary Treasurer Report – June 2025

#### 8. TRUSTEE ITEM

- R8.1 – BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

#### 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- R9.1 – Indigenous Education Councils



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### 10. DIARY

### 11. QUESTION PERIOD

*Questions or comments must relate to items in this meeting's agenda.*

### 12. FUTURE BUSINESS / EVENTS

R12.1 – September 17, 2025 - Open Board Meeting – Dawson Creek

### ADJOURNMENT

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** *THAT the Regular Board Meeting of June 18, 2025 be adjourned.*



# School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59 (PEACE RIVER SOUTH)

11600 – 7<sup>TH</sup> Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4R8

### Open Board Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 21, 2025 – 1:02 PM

PLACE: Visitor Information Centre – Tumbler Ridge, BC

PRESENT: Trustees:  
C. Anderson (Chair)  
R. Gulick (Vice-Chair)  
C. Hillton  
S. Mounsey  
A. Schurmann  
C. Wards  
T. Jones

C. Fennell, Superintendent  
K. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer  
R. Schwartz, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Nil

Called to Order – 1:05 PM

The Board Chair acknowledged that we share this territory with the people of Treaty 8.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Nil

Deletions: Nil

(2025-05-004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Jones/Wards

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve the May 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented.

CARRIED

## 1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

### R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2025

The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes.

(2025-05-005)

The Chair declared the minutes of the open meeting April 30, 2025 approved as presented.

### R1.2 Excerpts of Closed Board Meeting – April 30, 2025

(2025-05-006)

The Chair declared the excerpts of the closed board meeting April 30, 2025 approved as presented.

## 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

## 3.0 ESSENTIAL ITEMS

## 4.0 PRESENTATIONS

## 5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

## 6.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### R6.1 School/Student News

The Superintendent reported school/student news:

- Students from Student Voice across the district participated in a Compassionate Systems Leadership workshop. The training is centred around Self Leadership, Relationship Leadership, and Systems Leadership.
- TRSS students are growing microgreens that are used in school food programs.
- The May 5<sup>th</sup> District focused Truth and Reconciliation Day was an inspirational day full of learning with speakers Madelaine McCallum and Kevin Lamoureux. Thank-you to TRSS students for making the Red Dress Day pins handed out at the event.
- Outdoor Education students at CSS are enjoying getting outside. The students made Bannock and cooked it over a fire.
- CSS partnered with the RCMP for community cleanup.
- Peace View Elementary School has adopted the motto: “One For All, and All For One.” Students are really working together as a team with acts of cooperation and kindness.
- Little Prairie Elementary has been celebrating art, land and learning. The school just finished a wall mural art project that is a stunning winter nightscape. The mural honours the culture, stories, and wisdom of Indigenous communities who have long cared for the land.
- The grade 3,4,5 class at Canalta Elementary is learning about birds that are local to the area. The students will be going on a bird expedition to McQueen slough to see how many birds they can identify. The students at Canalta are also really enjoying the climbing wall in the gym.

- The Gwillim Lake Adventure Race will be held at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor Education and Environmental site on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Tumbler Ridge Elementary students had fun collaborating with the Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre in creating an art piece that showcased on World Art Day (April 16<sup>th</sup>). The grade 4/5/6 class built earthquake proof models that went through the earthquake test by Mrs. Edwards. The school also held a Build A Bus campaign that raised over \$14,000 for bussing costs for student field trips.
- The District Careers Department is hosting a Future Ready! Event in partnership with Northern Lights College. Denny Morrison, local speedskating Olympian will be the keynote speaker and a dual credit student panel will speak about their education and career journey.
- The District will celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Zoom Around the District will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Andrew Shedden has been appointed as Vice-Principal at TRE, effective August 1, 2025.

#### R6.2 Truth and Reconciliation District Day

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the District held a professional learning day with a Truth and Reconciliation focus. Kevin Lamoureux and Madelaine McCallum were guest speakers for the day. The day was a deep learning opportunity for all staff.

In the afternoon, high school students from Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Saulneau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations, did a profound presentation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Two-Spirited people. The presentation, "Say Her Name" highlighted family and community members we have lost. It provided a personal focus on the personalities and lives of the people, and how much they were missed by their families.

The day concluded with a round dance drummed by members of the Saulneau First Nations and closing remarks by West Moberly First Nations.

#### R6.3 PreVenture Program

PreVenture is an evidence-based program that teaches students how to cope with stress, handle peer pressure, and make positive choices. It is designed for implementation for students in grades 7-9. The goal is to give students the tools they need to avoid substance misuse and improve their overall well-being.

Students complete a short questionnaire that identifies students' personality traits linked to how they might cope with stress, emotions, or peer pressure. Based on their results, students are then grouped into targeted workshops that match their dominant personality style.

While the long-term plan is to regularly offer the program to Grade 8 students, due to time constraints, this year Grade 9 students at Central and CSS were selected to participate before they transition to Grade 10. Next year, the program will be offered to both Grade 8 and 9 students and then be back on track to complete it yearly with grade 8 students. TRSS is running the program with Grades 8 and 9 this year due to their smaller student population.

Each school identified staff members to be trained as workshop facilitators and assistants, along with members of the elementary counselling department and community partners who provide substance use counselling for youth. In total, 17 facilitators and 14 assistants were trained across the three communities.

Open Parachute is a mental health program used to support the emotional well-being and resilience of students from Kindergarten to grade 12. The program is for all students and is used as part of a regular classroom learning and contributes to creating a safe, caring school environment where every student feels supported.

**R6.4 Graduation Ceremonies**

The three high schools in the district will be holding their graduation ceremonies and events as follows:

***Tumbler Ridge Secondary School:***

Graduation Ceremony and Scholarship Presentations – June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 pm

Prom Dinner – June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00 pm

***Dawson Creek Secondary School:***

Scholarships – June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Graduation Ceremony – June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Dry Grad – June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 pm

Red Carpet – June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 4:00 pm

Prom – June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 pm

***Chetwynd Secondary School:***

Prom – June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm with parade of grads and escorts prior

Graduation Ceremony – June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2:00 pm

**7.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY TREASURER**

**R7.1 Monthly Financial Report – April 2025**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly financial report ending April 30, 2025. As of the end of April, 12-month budgets should have 17% left and 10-month budgets are targeting to have 20%.

**R7.2 2026-2027 Five Year Annual Capital Plan - DRAFT**

The Secretary Treasurer presented a draft of the Five Year Annual Capital Plan to the Board. The plan includes major and minor capital project requests that are submitted to the Ministry for consideration. Capital funding from the provincial government covers most of the capital costs for site acquisition, new school construction, and school additions or renovations. Minor capital submissions include Carbon Neutral Capital Projects, Playground Enhancements, School Enhancement projects, and Bus Acquisition.

A final copy of the major submissions will be presented to the Board in June for approval. Minor capital submission will be presented in the September board meeting.

**R7.3 Capital Projects Update**

**Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion**

Since April 28, 2025 the following have occurred:

- City issued building permit for modular portion of project.
- Fort Modular confirmed manufacturing of modular sections will begin June 2, 2025.

- Force Engineering to provide documentation to post second tender for civil works on BC Bid May 21, 2025.
- Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer met with Crescent Park PAC to provide an update on the project.
- Director of Operations contacted the City to provide notice that civil drawings will be forwarded May 22 and to request dedicated time to review them.

#### ChildcareBC New Spaces – Tremblay & Tumbler Ridge Elementary

Since April 28, 2025 the following have occurred:

- Decision made to proceed with the stick build option for the following reasons:
  - Streamlined process with 1 contractor, 1 tender, 1 building permit.
  - Schedule.
  - Class D Refined Modular will only become more expensive as the costing (Class C, B, A) is more refined thus shrinking the variances of cost of stick build to modular (4.5%-2.1%).
  - Recent challenging experience with Crescent Park Elementary Expansion: 2 tenders, 2 contractors, 3 building permits (third is sprinklers).
  - Increased cost will be requested and assumed funded from Ministry of Education and Child Care.
  - Ministry does not have a preference between stick build or modular.
- SD 59 project team met to discuss next steps.
- Architect sent Class A cost estimates for the stick build childcares. School District 59 will reach out to the Ministry to see about applying for more funding.
- The district will present 2 options for the Dawson Creek Childcare Facility to the ministry:
  - Option 1 without before and after childcare (original application)
  - Option 2 with before and after childcare (increased cost)

Further updates are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

#### R7.4 2025-2026 Budget Process Debrief

Trustees and senior staff reflected on the 2025-2026 budget process, discussing what worked well and what improvements could be made for the next budget cycle.

#### R7.5 Secretary Treasurer's Report – May 2025

The Secretary Treasurer's report for May was provided for information.

### 8.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

#### R8.1 BCSTA Update – R. Gulick

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Survey results from the AGM were positive. BCSTA has put out messaging regarding shortfall of funding province wide.

### 9.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### R9.1 Indigenous Education Councils

Both Chetwynd and Dawson Creek Indigenous Education Councils met on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The councils reflected on the May 5<sup>th</sup> Truth and Reconciliation focused day, reviewed the submissions from schools for National Indigenous Peoples Day, and selected the Indigenous student awards. The Courage to Endure Awards will be presented at the school district's evening celebration event on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**R9.2 Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee presented changes to Policy 4660 Retention and Destruction of Records for review.

(2025-05-007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Gulick/Hillton

THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) approve circulation of Policy and Regulation 4660 Media in Schools, for feedback for a minimum of 30 days.

CARRIED

**10.0 DIARY**

**11.0 NOTICE OF MOTION**

**12.0 QUESTION PERIOD**

A question and answer period was provided.

**13.0 FUTURE BUSINESS**

R13.1 – June 18, 2025 (Dawson Creek)

**ADJOURNMENT**

(2025-05-008)

MOVED – Jones

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of May 21, 2025 be terminated. (2:24 PM)

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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C. Anderson, Board Chair

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K. Morris Secretary Treasurer





## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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**MEETING:** Closed Board Meeting  
**DATE:** May 21, 2025 11:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Visitor Information Centre – Tumbler Ridge, BC

The meeting was called to order at 11:11 a.m. and the following was reported:

### Items for Adoption

- Approval of Agenda
- Closed Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2025

### Business Arising

### Presentation

### Trustee Items

Items discussed and reported included:

- BCPSEA Update

### Superintendent's Reports

Items discussed and reported included:

- Personnel Matters
- Ombudsperson Letters

### Secretary Treasurer's Reports

Items discussed and reported included:

Adjournment Motion @ 11:44 a.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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C. Anderson, Board Chair

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K. Morris, Secretary Treasurer



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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June 18, 2025

To: Board of Education

### Re: **School District 59 Accessibility Plan Update**

In 2023/2024 accessibility surveys were completed for all SD 59 schools by district physiotherapist, Brennan Hammer and our facilities department. Based on the data from these surveys, the Director of Instruction, Jan Proulx, worked with Matt Lindgren, Director of Operations, and Dave Broadway, Facilities Manager, to set priorities and plan improvements.

This plan prioritized student needs by removing physical barriers, improving access, and creating more inclusive learning spaces across our schools. The following is a summary of completed, and planned projects aimed at improving accessibility for all students, staff, and visitors.

#### Completed Projects 2024/2025:

- Automatic Door Openers have been installed at Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus: (Main Entrance), Tumbler Ridge Secondary School, and Tumbler Ridge Elementary School, at a total cost of approximately \$20,000.
- Various smaller upgrades have also been completed, including:
  - Installation of signage, painting, and lighting for ramps at Central Middle School and Chetwynd Secondary School.
  - Lowering water fountains and adjusting soap dispensers and waste bins across the district.
- Many school service requests related to accessibility have been closed and completed.
- New door levers have been ordered for Don Titus to replace knob-style handles, with a total investment of \$18,000.

#### Planned Projects 2025/2026:

- Devereaux: Major renovation including replacement of exterior doors and installation of an automatic door opener (\$22,000).
- Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus: Installation of an automatic door opener at the Bus Entrance (\$7,700) and planning a lowered workstation in the Foods Room to accommodate wheelchair users.
- Tumbler Ridge Secondary School:
  - Wheelchair parking will be relocated closer to the main entrance and the sidewalk repoured to improve accessibility (anticipated for September).
  - New cabinets in the foods room are being installed. The school will be consulted on including a lowered section for wheelchair accessibility.

- Tremblay:
  - A fully accessible outdoor playground is being installed (\$200,000).
  - The bus loop is being repaved to provide better access for the wheelchair bus.
- Door openers/ signage/ parking - Canalta, École Frank Ross, Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus, Chetwynd Secondary School, Don Titus, Windrem, McLeod, Parkland, Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus
- \$100,000 allocated for asphalt and approach improvements, which will further support accessibility across all sites.

Christy Fennell  
Superintendent



## **Don Titus Montessori Program Review 2024/25**

Conducted by:  
P. Chisholm (Director of Instruction)  
C. Leroux (District Principal)

### **1. Rationale:**

Don Titus Montessori Elementary has been in operation since September 2014, as a district school of choice in Chetwynd BC. In the 2018/2019 school year, a comprehensive review was conducted by then, Superintendent C. Clouthier and Assistant Superintendent C. Fennell. This marked the first formal evaluation of the program since its inception.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining high standards in both Montessori pedagogy and alignment with the British Columbia Curriculum, the Board of Education determined that a structured and ongoing review process was necessary. As a result, the review team from 2019 created a list of four recommendations needed for Don Titus to be defined as a Montessori School in a public system.

### **Recommendations 2019:**

- A. The school staff will create a process for annual review of the Montessori Program.
- B. The staff continues to seek solutions to challenges and barriers that might impact the ability to fully implement Montessori methodology within the BC curriculum.
- C. The staff hired to the school have a commitment to gaining the Montessori qualifications.
- D. That the district conducts a review of the Montessori Program every five years.

### **2. The 2025 Process:**

The processes created for the 2019 review of the Don Titus Montessori Program were reviewed and used as a base for the processes utilized in the 2025 Don Titus Montessori Program Review. In addition, general information and a rubric were taken from the National Centre for Montessori Practice in the Public Sector (NCMPS) website (<https://www.public-montessori.org/>). Information from the NCMPS site, as well as documentation used to complete the 2019 Review,



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supported our creation of a digital staff survey and a digital parent survey. The surveys also aligned with the surveys created for the 2019 review. The surveys previously used were completed on paper. We hoped the digital versions would be more accessible to staff and parents and would give us the opportunity to collate the data in a variety of ways, helping us to understand the current context of Don Titus Montessori. We met with the principal of Don Titus Montessori to review the survey questions in advance of releasing the surveys to staff and parents. The meeting with the principal gave us the opportunity to discuss and refine our questions.

We wanted to give students, staff and parents the opportunity to provide anecdotal / qualitative data relevant to the Montessori program at Don Titus. We created a series of questions for students, staff and parents. We met with classes of students; all staff and a group of parents on May 14, 2025. The anecdotal data collected was reviewed and assessed for themes. This data was also used as evidence to support recommendations found later in this report.

The Principal of Don Titus Montessori gave us a tour of the school prior to the interviews we conducted with students, staff and parents on May 14, 2025. During the tour, we noted the organization of classes and common spaces, discussed structures (e.g. timetables, schedules), and looked at Montessori resources stored at the school.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) data and Student Learning Survey data was collected. The data from Don Titus collected over the past six years was compared to the data collected for all schools within School District No. 59. Local data, Student Numeracy Assessment and Practice (SNAP) and Fountas and Pinell data was collected for the past two school years and compared to the district data as well.

Numerous data sets were collated and simplified for review purposes. Summaries of the individual data sets were used as evidence to highlight assessed values within the NCMPS Essential Elements Rubric for Don Titus Montessori. The five NCMPS domains assessed during the 2019 review were assessed again in the 2025 review; these domains included: Montessori Adults, Montessori Learning Environment, Family Engagement, Leadership and Organizational Development, and Assessment. In addition to the NCMPS rubric, we recreated the rubric staff were given during the 2019 review to assess Don Titus Montessori from their perspective. Within this review, are copies of the various data sets collated in visual formats and accompanied by summary statements.



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The collation of data was summarized in a variety of ways. The staff survey data was scaled. The responses staff could provide were given numeric values. The numeric values were used to display the teacher/admin responses and the educational assistants' responses (Strongly Disagree = -2, Disagree = -1, Neutral = 0, Agree = +1 and Strongly Agree = +2). Six teaching/admin staff completed the survey, and six educational assistants completed the survey. The parent survey was summarized in two ways, one using the Net Promoter Score (NPS) and the other on a ten-point scale where a score of 10 was the strongest, most positive, response. The NPS rating is often used to assess customers' satisfaction with a business or product. We felt the NPS rating provided a unique assessment/collation of the survey data. FSA and Student Learning Survey data was collected from the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Power BI website and the SNAP and Fountas and Pinnell data was collected from the SD59 Student Assessment database.

The teaching staff at Don Titus Montessori are required to submit planning documents on an annual basis. The submitted documents for 2024-25 were reviewed to determine where Montessori practices/principles were addressed and /or discussed. Of the five sets of planning documents created for the 2024-25 school year, only one teacher made connections between Montessori principles and the outcomes they intended to address and assess within the BC curriculum. The teacher created a 'How To' section with their plans that incorporated elements of Montessori principles.

### 3. Timeline:

April 22	Planning Meeting
April 25	Staff invitation to voluntary meeting
April 22 – May 2	Internal data collection
May 2	Don Titus newsletter message sent to principal to be put into newsletters on May 6 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup>
May 14	All day data gathering at Don Titus: Students during the school day, staff 2:45pm – 3:45pm, parents 6:00pm – 7:00pm
May 16	Due date for Electronic survey submissions
May 20 – 23	May 14 data collection collation
May 26 – 30	Data / Information summary
June 9 – 13	Building Resource Binder and Review Report
June 18	Presentation to the Board of Education



### 4. Findings:

The following are the results of interviews and surveys conducted with teachers, students and parents.

#### Domain 1 Montessori Adults

- Overall Score: Needs Improvement 1.83/4
  - The school currently has 8 teachers: 6 classrooms teachers, 1 part time LAT, 1 prep teacher.
  - There are 3 teachers who are teaching under a letter of permission and 5 BC qualified teachers.
  - Out of the 5 qualified teachers, 1 teacher has completed NAMC qualifications, and 1 teacher reported having some Montessori training.
  - The principal has completed NAMC qualifications.
  - Teaching staff reported that some Montessori professional learning takes place throughout the school year.
  - 5 staff members indicated that they were members of the BCTF Montessori PSA.
  - The school does not have any Montessori trained Educational Assistants.
  - Teachers indicated that they embrace the core Montessori principles of respecting the process of human development and supporting children's independence, freedom, responsibility and growth.

#### Domain 2 Montessori Learning Environment

- Overall Score: Satisfactory / Needs Improvement 2.79/4
- Areas rated satisfactory to exemplary are:
  - The school adheres to the Montessori principle of 3-hour morning work block uninterrupted.
  - During the morning work block, small group instruction and one-on-one instruction takes place in many classrooms.
  - The school adheres to the Montessori principle of student choice in what to work on, where to work and how long to work.
  - The learning environment offers ongoing access to real-world materials and activities.
- Areas rated as needing improvement or unsatisfactory are:
  - The Montessori Scope and Sequence is not used within the school.



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- Classrooms are split grade but do not adhere to the Montessori recommendations of multi-age groupings. Montessori age groupings are:
  - Ages 2.5-6
  - Ages 6-9
  - Ages 9-12
  - Ages 12-15
- School wide practices of multi-age group learning are evident.
- Teachers reported feeling neutral about their music program. The school adheres to the BC curriculum.
- There are a lot of Montessori materials in the school but mostly in storage due to teachers being untrained in how to use the manipulatives.

### Domain 3 Family Engagement

- Overall Score: Satisfactory / Needs Improvement 2.7/4
- Areas rated satisfactory to exemplary are:
  - It was reported that during the enrollment process and orientation information about Montessori education is shared.
  - Parents indicated that information is also shared at PAC meetings.
  - The school has an active and engaged PAC with monthly meetings.
- Areas rated unsatisfactory to needs improvement are:
  - With an NPS score of 45 (good) that there is a well-developed handbook. It was commented that the handbook is given out at the beginning of the year while others commented not having seen the handbook. This gave room for growth in ensuring that all members of the community are informed.
  - Parents indicated with an NPS score of -29 (dissatisfaction) that there are not parent educational opportunities offered.

### Domain 4 Leadership and Organizational Development

- Overall Score: Satisfactory / Needs Improvement 2.36/4
- Areas rated satisfactory to exemplary are:
  - It was noted in both the parent survey and discussion that the school leader actively works to support the implementation of Montessori method and philosophy. This received an NPS score of 61 indicating a "great" score.
  - It was also noted that staff treat each other with respect, grace and courtesy which are hallmarks of Montessori practice.
  - Most teaching staff are members of the BCTF Montessori Professional Learning Community.





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- The program is entirely driven by provincial curriculum with some Montessori structures woven in.
- Areas rated as needing improvement or unsatisfactory are:
  - It was indicated that the school needs to improve having a reflection and review process on the Montessori program. Parents felt that the program is discussed during PAC meetings and direct conversations but otherwise there hasn't been a formal review.
  - The school and district do not have a system in place to ensure Montessori trained teachers are hired.
  - Some staff have engaged in ongoing professional development

### Domain 5 Assessment

- Overall Score: Exemplary / Satisfactory 3.5/4
- Areas rated satisfactory to exemplary are:
  - The school maintains profiles of all students based on work sampling and performance.
  - Both formative and summative assessments are delivered in an unobtrusive manner.
  - Students keep records of their progress and learning.
  - Parent-teacher- student interviews are student centered.

### Student Anecdotal Data

- Indicated that they appreciated the choice and flexibility.
- Indicated they felt food was readily available and students were sometimes responsible for preparation and clean-up of their own food.
- They are responsible for many real-life tasks around the school.
- Several students indicated that the focus of the school was on self-development and not competition of others.
- The lack of bullying was referenced several times.
- Indicated that they felt cared for by multiple adults.

### Parent Anecdotal Data

- Parents indicated a strength of the school was its focus on positive personal and social responsibility.
- Parents indicated that the focus on independence and work habits fostered their children's growth and led to success post elementary.
- There are multi-aged activities at the school.
- Students have a capacity around problem solving.
- There are STEM challenges in the library.
- There is no competition.



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- There was a displeasure and perception of lack of financial support for the program by the school board.

### Staff Anecdotal Data

- Staff indicated that student choice and flexibility are evident.
- There is a strength-based and Individualization learning approach.
- Classrooms and students all share school supplies and there is a set organizational structure to workbooks.
- Connections are made to the outside world and there are many field trips.
- There is intentional use of authentic learning activities and materials you would see in the world.
- Staff recognized the need for training and that Professional development days had been used to learn from trained staff members.
- There is intentionality around teaching students to help one another and be judgement free with each other.
- The staff has an overall pride with the school.

### The Don Titus Montessori School Improvement Plans

- a. School Improvement Plan 2024-2025 Goal 3: To incorporate Montessori practices into every classroom.
  - Don Titus Montessori staff have initiated an annual internal review to ensure that it is carrying out the principles of a Montessori school and Montessori classrooms in its practice.
- b. Previous school year growth plans at times had a goal to do an internal review. Data collection has shown that there has not been a formal school review of the program.
  - 2019/2020 no internal review goal
  - 2020/2021 internal review goal
  - 2021/2022 no internal review goal
  - 2022/2023 no internal review goal
  - 2024/2025 internal review goal

## 5. Summary:

### **Recommendations 2019:**

- A. The school staff will create a process for annual review of the Montessori Program. **Recommendation Not Met.**
  - In the 2024/25 School Growth Plan, goal number three discussed having the staff initiate an internal review of the program. In



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discussion with the principal, staff and parents this had not been completed.

- It was evident through both the staff and parent survey and discussion that informal discussion of Montessori programming and implementation happens on a continual basis.

B. The staff continues to seek solutions to challenges and barriers that might impact the ability to fully implement Montessori methodology within the BC curriculum. **Recommendation Not Met.**

- The principal indicated the staff initially made efforts to meet this recommendation but found the process too challenging. It was difficult to weave the BC Curriculum with the Montessori scope-and-sequence. The staff felt they could not maintain the integrity of the BC Curriculum when they made effort to fuse it with the Montessori scope-and-sequence. The staff recognized the requirement to meet the BC Curriculum was expected and superseded the need to meet Montessori's scope and sequence.
- A decision was made to work to meet the Montessori Givens versus making efforts to match the scope-and-sequence.

### **Givens:**

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ○ Plants that students care for   | ○ Self-correcting opportunities  |
| ○ Hands-on activities and centers | ○ Morning greeting with music    |
| ○ Use of manipulatives            | ○ Peace corner                   |
| ○ Practical life-skills           | ○ Chore list                     |
| ○ Field Trips                     | ○ Student Choice work block time |
| ○ Outdoor Education Time          | ○ Must-Dos with Tracking         |
| ○ Shared supplies                 | ○ Multi-age Groupings            |
| ○ 3-Hour Work Period              | ○ Minimal Direct Instruction     |
| ○ Class Meetings                  | ○ Orderly environment            |
| ○ Peer Teaching                   |                                  |

C. The staff hired to the school have a commitment to gaining the Montessori qualifications. **Recommendation Not Met.**

- There has been significant staff turnover in the past five years at Don Titus.
- There have been several teachers authorized on Letters of Permission teaching at Don Titus in the past five years.



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

- The principal and the one trained teacher in Montessori principles make regular and continued efforts to provide staff with professional development opportunities where possible.

D. That the district conducts a review of the Montessori Program every five years. **Recommendation Met**

### **Summary Statement:**

Don Titus Montessori has a wonderful feeling; evidenced when you walk through the doors of the school. Staff, students and parents love their school and speak positively about the structures that are in place to support learning. An overall sense of positive feeling about the school culture and climate is evident in the anecdotal and survey data. Intentional structures connected to learning through the Montessori principles are evident at Don Titus. The school day is structured to match many of the qualities of a Montessori program. A three-hour block of time, from 9:00 – 12:00 each day is scheduled for students. During the three-hour window, students engage in individual, small group and whole class learning activities. It is here that the Don Titus Program attempts to match the essential elements of a Montessori program. Students have 'uninterrupted independent work period' where they have 'choice' over the work they complete. 'Personalized Learning' takes place during the three-hour block as well, giving the teacher the opportunity to support students individually and in small group settings; personalizing the instruction to the individual needs of the students. The classrooms are organized, permitting students to access the materials and supplies they need to complete their work; their Must Do's. Students and parents alike spoke about valuing the idea that all school materials (pens, pencils, paper, etc.) were provided by the school with an expectation that students take care of what is provided. 'Mixed Age Groupings' appeared to be structured as is commonly done in all elementary schools across the district, it did not appear the mixed-age groupings were based upon the developmental age of the students.

Students and staff shared a collective excitement about the upcoming MALT (Multi-age Learning Time) activities that were planned for June 2025. The MALT activities happen once a year, one day a week over a three-week period. MALT Days were created as an attempt to intentionally meet the Montessori expectations of multi-age learning groups with the infusion of



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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choice in a real-world setting. In addition to MALT, the students spoke about enjoying opportunities to work with students in other classes for various activities. The connections between classes seemed to be a regular occurrence but it was unclear how often it occurred.

A connection to authentic learning was evident with a focus on food preparation, consumption and the processes related to cleaning-up after one-self. Food, and the processes surrounding eating, was talked about in all interview sessions throughout the May 14<sup>th</sup> interview day. There is an emphasis at Don Titus to provide students with authentic learning experiences around food; authentic to the point of using real dishes versus plastic or paper. Connection to the outdoors as a learning space and ensuring students access the outdoors daily is a significant part of life at Don Titus. Sewing is a skill all students at Don Titus learn as an authentic life-skill. 'Go Outs' or field trips are used significantly at Don Titus as a means of placing students in authentic environments where they can experience learning opportunities. Cleaning-up is also an expectation for all students, although one would hope this is an expectation in all schools, the intentionality placed on teaching students to be socially responsible around cleaning-up was evident and talked about.

Montessori highlights the expectation that children learn through curated authentic learning experiences. The staff at Don Titus Montessori attempt to meet the Montessori criteria of learning through authentic experiences with food, sewing, social responsibility expectations, connections to the outdoors and field trips. Don Titus does not follow the Montessori scope-and sequence as defined/organized by the Montessori Foundation, rather as a public school located in British Columbia, the British Columbia: Building Student Success curriculum is followed at each grade level. Manipulatives used for learning are not specifically Montessori products, but many allow for hands-on, self-guided learning.

Don Titus Montessori is, essentially, a Montessori-inspired school that utilizes many of the tenets of a Montessori program. Don Titus is unable to completely match the criteria of a Montessori school due to it being a school within the public system in British Columbia. Class size and composition, curriculum, reporting expectations and local limitations on professional development preclude Don Titus from matching the Montessori Foundation's criteria for a Montessori School completely while, also, not fully meeting the criteria set by the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector.



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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June 18, 2025

To the SD 59 Board of Education,

Re: Principal Retreat

As per policy 5190 – Use of School Facilities

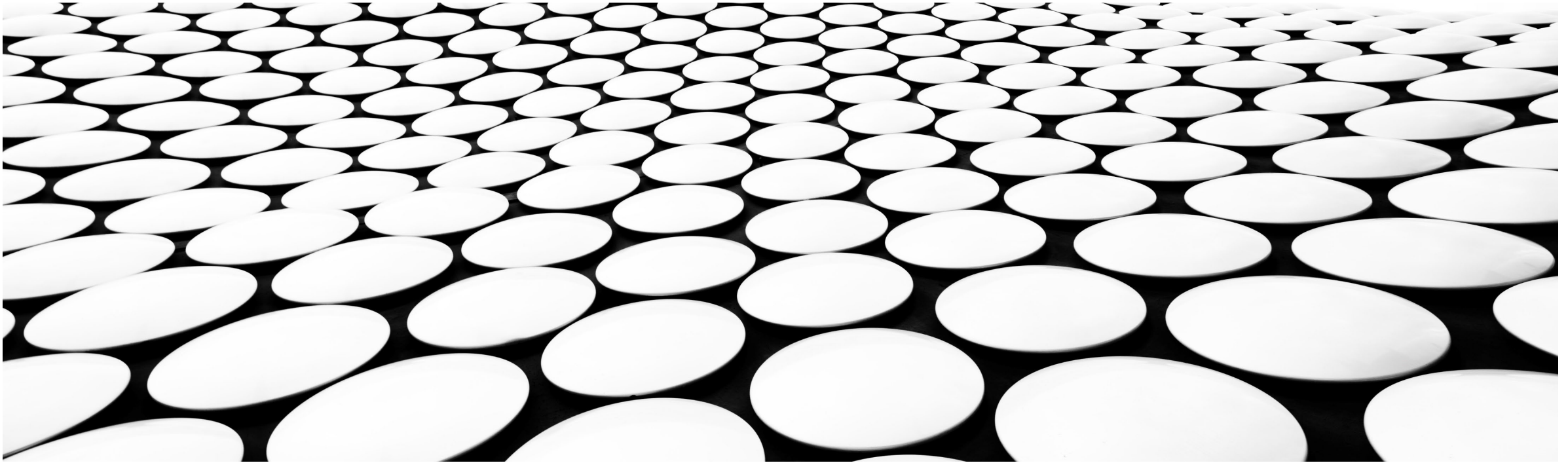
i) The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted at school district facilities, except at events hosted or permitted by the Recreation and Social Services Societies that are associated with our schools, or property that is otherwise leased or rented to third parties, and where the board has given prior approval to consume alcohol. The group requesting permission to serve alcohol must have complied with any and all conditions that may be stipulated by the board, and the Province of British Columbia, prior to alcohol being served.

The District and the Peace River South Principal's and Vice-Principal's Association will be hosting a Leadership retreat at the Gwillim Lake Education Site in August. I would like to request approval to serve alcoholic beverages with dinner.

I would also like to ask that this request be considered to extend into the following years when we have the Leadership retreat in August at the Gwillim Lake Education site, instead of being presented each year.

Thank you for considering this request.

Christy Fennell  
Superintendent



# ANNUAL FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN - FINAL

JUNE 18, 2025 BOARD MEETING



# PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Safety



```
graph TD; A[Safety] --> B[Enrolment & Capacity]; B --> C[NEW! Accessibility]; C --> D[Existing Building Condition]; D --> E[Climate];
```

Enrolment & Capacity

NEW! Accessibility

Existing Building Condition

Climate



# CATEGORIES

Annual Facilities Grant	Additions	Replacement	New School	Expansion
Seismic	Rural Districts Program	School Enhancement Program	Carbon Neutral Capital Program	Playground Enhancement Program
	Bus	Food Infrastructure Program	Building Envelope Program	

# ANNUAL FACILITIES GRANT (AFG)

- Used to maintain assets that do not meet minor or major capital threshold

Project Description	Location	Total Budget
TRE HVAC Upgrade	TRE	\$ 300,000.00
All Inclusive Washroom 2nd Floor	CMS	\$ 200,000.00
Devereaux front door replacement/opener	Devereaux	\$ 40,000.00
Accessibility	TRE,Canalta, Park, EFR,SPSS,CSS,LP,DT,Wind,McLeod, CMS	\$ 110,000.00
Duct Cleaning	TRSS	\$ 50,000.00
Playground Upgrades	Windrem, EFR,Canalta, Dev,McLeod,Parkland	\$ 50,000.00
Roof Repair	LP	\$ 60,000.00
Lead Mitigation	EFR, CSS,TRSS,Canalta	\$ 25,000.00
Lighting upgrades	EFR, CSS, Canalta,LP	\$ 100,000.00
Door Hardware	Don Titus, SPSS,CMS,McLeod	\$ 50,000.00
Network/ VOIP upgrades	SPSS,CSS	\$ 80,000.00
PA Upgrade	Crescent Park	\$ 15,000.00
Millwork	Parkland,LP,	\$ 20,000.00
Millwork TRSS foods room,	TRSS	\$ 100,000.00
Painting	CMS, SPSS, TRE, DT,CSS	\$ 50,000.00
Sprinkler Deficiencies	SPSS,CSS,EFR,CMS,PC,LP	\$ 25,000.00
Tremblay Bus Loop	Tremblay	\$ 50,000.00
Fencing	McLeod, Maintenace Yard	\$ 20,000.00
Flooring	EFR	\$ 50,000.00
Asbestos Abetments	TRE	\$ 20,000.00
DT Gym Doors	Don Titus	\$ 20,000.00
Unchaga retaining wall	SPSS	\$ 40,000.00
TRSS Front Entrance Ramp	TRSS	\$ 10,000.00
Sawdust extractor duct insulation	SPSS,TRSS,	\$ 20,000.00
SPSS Field	SPSS	\$ 50,000.00
Tremblay Windows	Tremblay	\$ 60,000.00
CMS sidewalk	CMS	\$ 45,000.00
Bus Yard Drainage	Bus Garage	\$ 38,464.00
Tremblay pipe insulating	Tremblay	\$ 15,000.00
Window Trim CMS/Blinds	CMS	\$ 50,000.00
Gwillim Gen replacement	Gwillim	\$ 20,000.00
Pavement Repairs	LP, SPSS	\$ 100,000.00
CP- Touch up Paint, T-bar hallway	Crescent Park	\$ 40,000.00
Tremblay Playground land prep	Tremblay	\$ 19,600.00
Roof Reports/Inspection/Reapirs	All buildings, DT	\$ 30,000.00
McLeod Car Rail	McLeod	\$ 8,000.00
		<b>\$ 1,981,064.00</b>

June 18, 2025



# MAJOR CAPITAL

- Moberly Lake Gymnasium Addition
- Chetwynd **Windrem Replacement K-12**
- ~~■ Windrem Replacement~~
- Canalta Replacement

## Submission Summary

<b>Submission Summary:</b>	Major 2026/2027   2025-06-30   MAIN - K12
<b>Submission Type:</b>	Capital Plan
<b>School District:</b>	Peace River South (SD59)
<b>Open Date:</b>	2025-04-07
<b>Close Date:</b>	2025-06-30
<b>Submission Status:</b>	Draft

Submission Category	Sum Total Project Cost
Addition	\$4,539,168
Replacement/Renovation	\$134,002,229
Total	<b>\$138,541,397</b>

## Submission Summary

	ADDITION				
SD Category Rank	Project Number	Facility/Site	Project Type	Project Description	Total Project Cost
1	157660	Moberly Lake Elementary	Addition	Addition of gymnasium, the school currently does not have a gymnasium.	\$4,539,168
				Submission Category Total:	<b>\$4,539,168</b>
	REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION				
SD Category Rank	Project Number	Facility/Site	Project Type	Project Description	Total Project Cost
1	150247	Chetwynd Secondary	Full Replacement (Replace/Reno)	CSS and Windrem are one structure, replacement would consist of K - 12.	\$99,094,968
2	150243	Canalta Elementary	Full Replacement (Replace/Reno)	1962 build max capacity with portable. building style not conducive to major renovations.	\$34,907,261
				Submission Category Total:	<b>\$134,002,229</b>

# MINOR CAPITAL – GATHERING COSTING FOR SEPTEMBER SUBMISSION

## Bus

- 5 Replacements

## Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)

- Tumbler Ridge Elementary Windows

## Playground Enhancement Program (PEP)

- McLeod

## School Enhancement Program (SEP)

- Tremblay Gym HVAC
- Don Titus Montessori Roof
- Tremblay Elementary Roof
- District (Various Schools) Security
- Frank Ross Elevator

OTHER



Food Infrastructure Program (FIP)

No submission



Rural Districts Program

No submission



Expansion

No submission

# DEADLINES



Annual Facilities Grant  
May 16



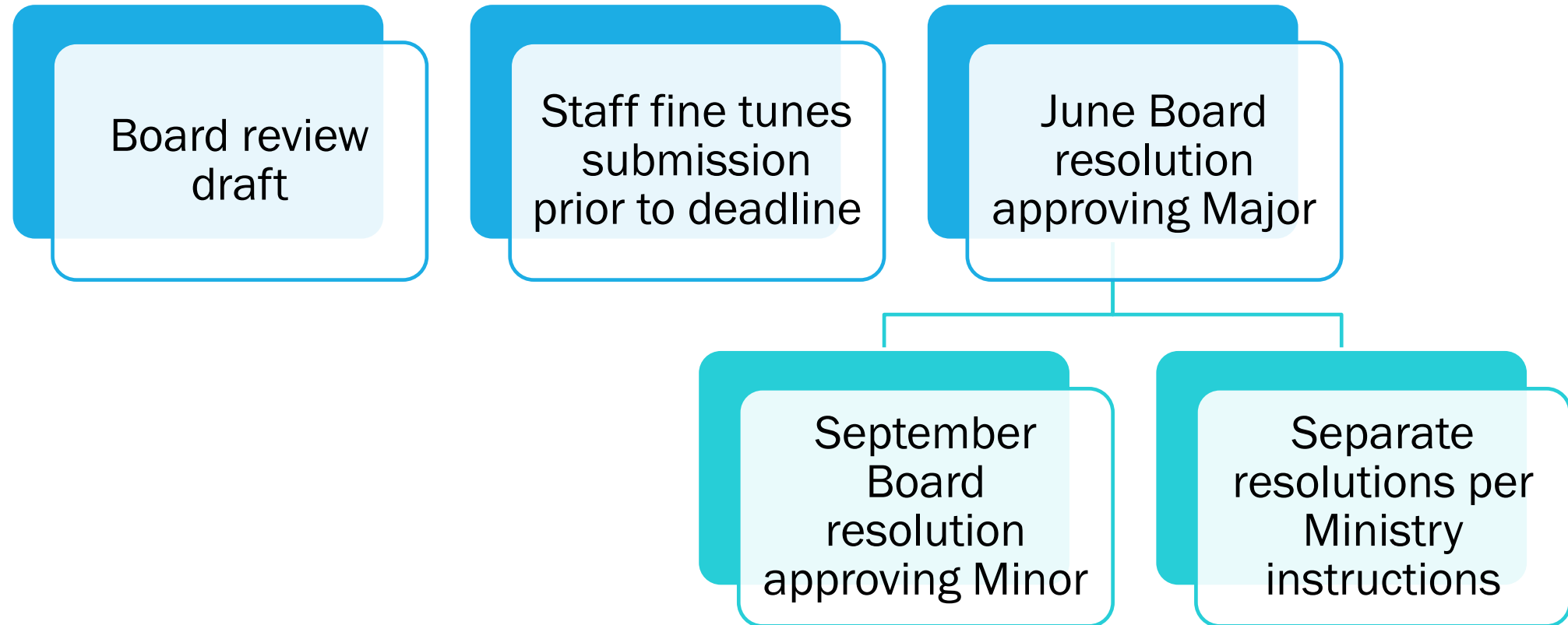
Major Capital  
June 27



Minor Capital  
September 30



## NEXT STEPS





# QUESTIONS?



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

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June 18, 2025

Board of Education

### **RE: Capital Projects Update**

#### Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion Project

Since May 13, 2025 the following have occurred:

- May 23, 2025
  - Site and earthworks RFP posted on BC Bid, closes June 13<sup>th</sup>; Ministry advised.
- May 26, 2025
  - Site and earthworks tender drawings were delivered to the City to be reviewed for the building permit.
- May 27, 2025
  - Principal Richer formed an Expansion Committee made up of school staff, custodian and Health and Safety Coordinator to plan for construction and impacts. Questions and items of discussion were forwarded to Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer.
- June 2, 2025
  - Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer attended a voluntary school staff meeting to answer questions above and discuss plans and schedule.
- June 2, 2025
  - Fort Modular construction of the modular units commenced.
- June 5, 2025
  - Mandatory site visit for the site and earthworks tender proponents.
- June 11, 2025
  - Director of Operations and Facilities Manager met with City of Dawson Creek to provide an update on the project.

The project budget is:

Ministry funding	\$5,000,000
Ministry contingency funding	2,500,000
Board Contribution	<u>1,700,000</u>
Total	\$9,200,000

Spent to date: \$1,156,737 (12.5% spent)













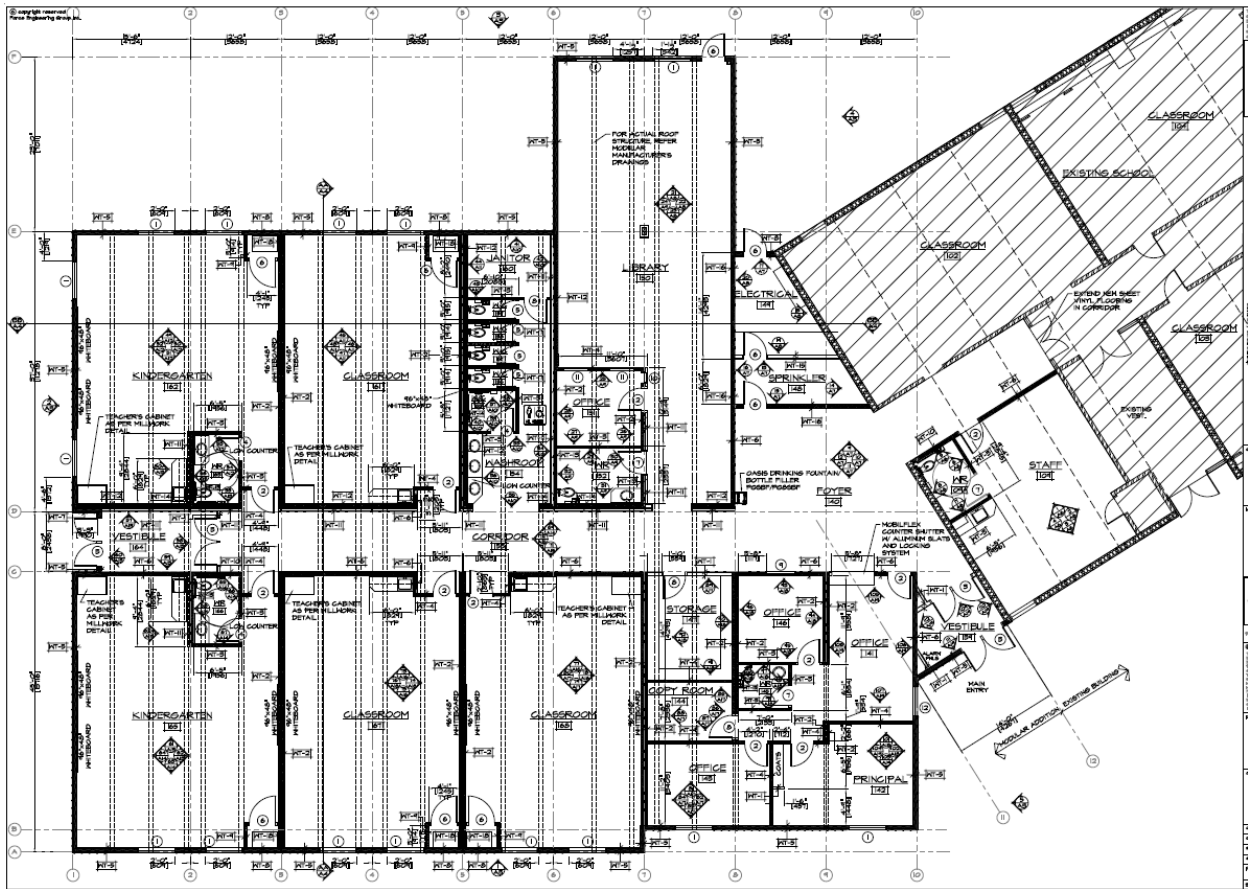
Crescent Park Elementary Modular Addition



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Peace Engineering Group Inc.







## ChildCareBC New Spaces – Dawson Creek & Tumbler Ridge

- June 9
  - Secretary-Treasurer contacted Ministry to determine requirements for application for additional funding; Ministry to contact within 10 days.
  - Secretary-Treasurer contacted neighbouring district in the Northern Interior Branch to request suggestions/advice on their submission for additional funding
- June 10
  - Ministry sent a guide to preparing the submission including current budget status, variances and the additional request.
- June 17
  - Director of Operations and Secretary-Treasurer to prep submission before meeting with the team to finalize the submission.

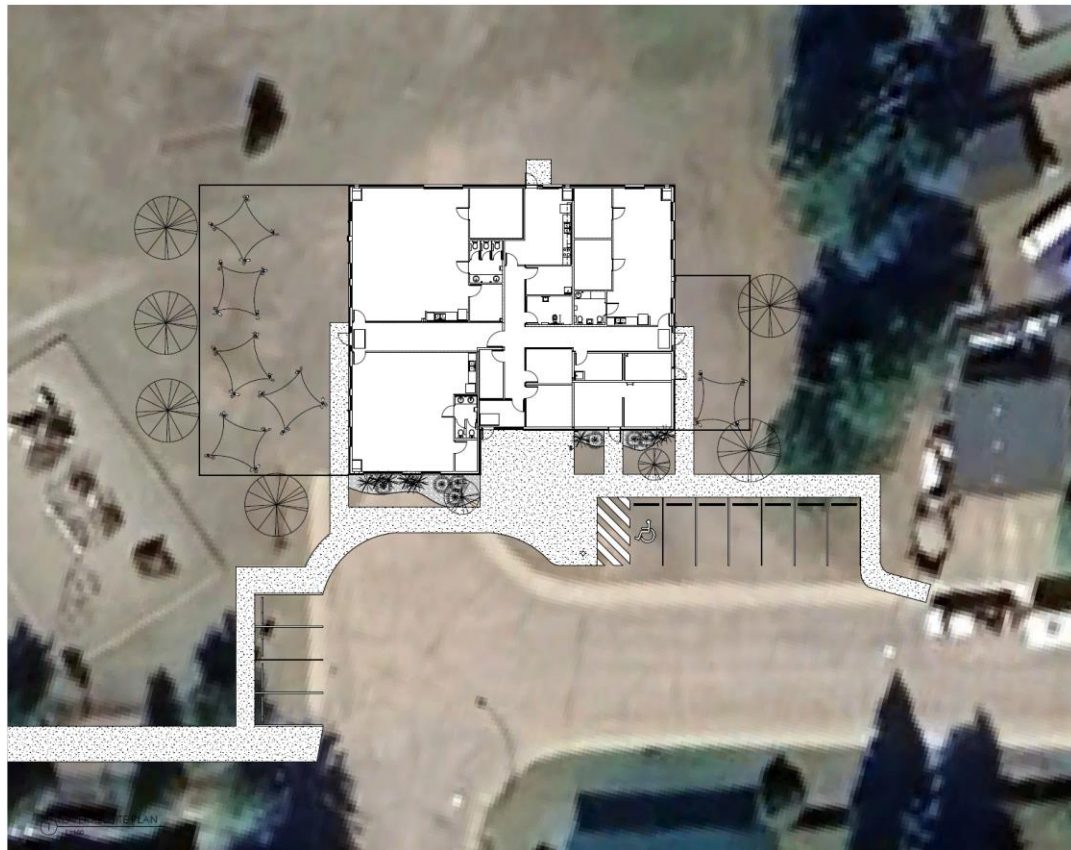


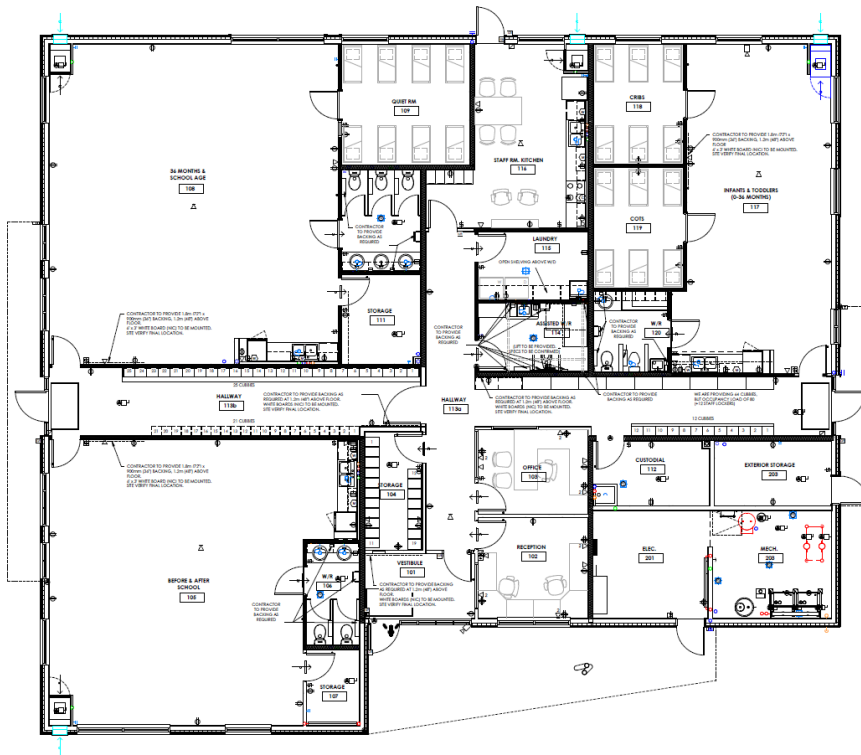
## Dawson Creek Child Care Centre





## Tumbler Ridge Child Care





## Budget

<b><u>Tumbler Ridge</u></b>	Budget	YTD Exp	Remainder	% Rem
Revenue				
Ministry	3,974,000	1,589,600	2,384,400	60%
Interest	1,000	43,041	- 42,041	-4204%
Total Revenue	3,975,000	1,632,641	2,342,359	59%
Expenses				
Audit	1,040		1,040	100%
Contract Services	397,000	190,195	206,805	52%
Building Initiatives	3,126,960	28,693	3,098,267	99%
Equipment	450,000		450,000	100%
Total Expenses	3,975,000	218,888	3,756,112	94%

Please follow <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/capital-projects> for updates on these projects.

Kim Morris  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO





## School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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### 2025-2026 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

Open Board Meetings will begin at 1:00 pm @ School Board Office in Dawson Creek unless stated at an alternate location.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (Chetwynd)  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (Tumbler Ridge)  
Wednesday, June 17, 2026

*Reminder all Agenda Items must be submitted to Richell Schwartz nine (9) days prior to Board Meeting Date.*

### 2025-2026 ROUND TABLE MEETING SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, September 10, 2025  
Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
Wednesday, November 5, 2025  
*No December Meeting Scheduled*  
Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – Retirement/Long Service Dinner in evening



## School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

June 13, 2025

Board of Education

### **RE: Secretary-Treasurer's Report for June 2025**

The purpose of this memo is to keep the Board apprised of some of the activities of the Secretary-Treasurer to June 13, 2025.

To date I have attended/initiated the following meetings and events:

- Crescent Park Client Meetings Fort Modular
- SD59 Technology Planning Working Group meeting
- Two school trust account audits in each of Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge
- Student and Staff Device Refresh Project meetings with Year 1 2025-2026 receiving schools
- Benefits renewal finalization meeting with District's benefit carrier
- ERP meetings with consultant
- Budget meeting with one principal
- Next Generation Telecommunications Agreement meeting with providers
- Crescent Park staff meeting: capital project update
- BCPSEA Training: Investigating Bullying and Harassment (2 days)
- Weekly meetings with each of the Finance Manager, the Director of Operations and Technology Systems Manager
- Weekly stand-up meetings with Finance Team
- Weekly Senior Leadership Team meetings

### **Facilities**

The team is gearing up for summer projects with the new year's AFG funding as well as the Central window replacement, Tumbler Ridge Elementary HVAC upgrade and the Tremblay Playground resulting from the minor capital funding announcement this Spring.

Work continues on the network refresh project as the team winds up in Chetwynd and makes its way to Dawson Creek with stops at McLeod, Devereaux and Parkland.

## Transportation

Traversa implementation continues its pilot phase and moves to complete implementation. Communication to parents in advance of RFID card implementation in September, will be provided before school ends in June. Any questions regarding the Traversa implementation can be directed to the Transportation Department as the single point of contact during migration.

## Finance

The District continues to experience post-Atrieve migration issues with outstanding support tickets and continues to work with PowerSchool to resolve. Staff are beginning to explore options to improve current service by exploring other applications (ERP).

Schools and finance staff are organized and well-positioned to complete year end transactions in a timely manner before school breaks for summer and work begins preparing for the financial statement audit.

During the 2024-2025 school year, all school trust accounts have been audited by the internal audit team made up of the Finance Manager and Secretary-Treasurer. Many thanks to Lauralee Cooper, Finance Manager, for taking up this new initiative in SD59.

## Technology

The Student and Staff Device Refresh plan is underway for year one 2025-2026 with student device replacements at Ecole Frank Ross, DCSS South Peace and Central, and CSS. The three high schools listed below will have further refresh devices in Years 2 and 3 by mutual agreement.

2025-2026	iPad	Laptop	iPad	Laptop	Total
EFR	60	59	43,258	100,536	143,794
DCSS-SP	0	50	0	85,200	85,200
DCSS-Central	0	22	0	37,488	37,488
CSS	0	17	0	28,968	28,968

In addition to the student device refresh above, 48 staff devices will also be replaced in year 1 2025-2026 starting with the oldest inventory being replaced first.

The refresh plan invests \$400,000 in total device replacement for the next 4 years.

Kim Morris  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO