



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for March 2019

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Regional Skills Competition

Students from across the region competed in the Skills Canada Regional Competition held at Northern Lights College with over 120 participants in Junior, Senior and Post-Secondary Skills. In the Senior Skills events the district had 10 medal winners. The three Gold Medal winners will be traveling to Abbotsford for the provincial competition on April 16th, 2019.

Try-a-Trade:

In conjunction with the Skills Canada event, SD59 and NLC hosted the Try-a-Trade event for grade 7 students from across the district. Over 300 students took part in a wide range of hands on activities, ranging from the always popular toilet assembly competition, to building wooden birdhouses, and riveting parts in the Aircraft Maintenance area.

Women in Industry:

The Women in Industry event, sponsored by the Industry Training Authority, attracted students from across the region as well. This year's event featured an opportunity for participants to meet and talk directly to a number of women in a variety of industry related careers in our region.

Overall, the three events provided an amazing opportunity for students from the District and across the region to gain more information and understanding of a wide range of career possibilities and to become more familiar with the NLC Dawson Creek Campus.

SD59 Career Fair at DCSS-South Peace Campus

The 5th annual Career Fair organized jointly by the Career Education Department and DCSS will be held on Thursday, March 14 from 9:30 until noon. There will be over 30 local businesses and organizations set up in the gymnasium at the school. Over 800 students will have the opportunity to ask questions and gather information about a large variety of career paths represented by the employers at the event. Career Education staff at DCSS, along with the District have worked hard to coordinate this event.

Tech Summit

Eight students (5 DCSS, 2 CSS and 1 TRSS) attended the BC Tech Summit – Youth Innovation day. The event was held in Vancouver. The trip is a chance for students to explore future career and education opportunities in Canadian technology industries.

Youth Energy and Sustainability Forum

Four DCSS students are representing DCSS at a Youth Energy and Sustainability Forum at the end of the week in Canmore Alberta. The forum is designed to develop student leaders in climate change and environmental responsibility.

Elementary Basketball Tournament

The Elementary Basketball tournament was this past weekend. It was a 10 team tournament with Devereaux Elementary winning the tournament.

Science Fairs

Little Prairie Elementary held their annual Science Fair on February 28, 2019 and had overwhelming support from the community! Judges came in from the college, district office, community and local businesses. Grade 12 science students also helped with judging. Students that placed 1st or 2nd will be participating in the Regional Science Fair in Fort St John this coming April.

Emergency Preparedness for Students

Don Titus Montessori is taking part in an exciting program that encourages emergency preparedness in families and the wider community. Children learned about potential emergencies, making-a-plan for when an emergency and having a kit to stay safe during the first 72 hours. By becoming active participants in the *Emergency Preparedness Squad* our children are inspiring positive social and environmental change in their families and the community.

Presentations of Learning at McLeod Elementary

McLeod Elementary held a Presentation of Learning on March 12, 2019. Students demonstrated their learning from the term which included testing of spaghetti bridges, math fair presentations, and research posters of the much liked book series, 'Who Would Win.' The BIG Encana energy map of Canada was also showcased.

2019/20 School Calendar

The Board adopted the 2019-20 School Calendar, as presented (minor changes made to the circulated calendar). The approved calendar will be placed on the School District website.

First Nations Transportation Agreements

The Joint Transportation Agreements with each First Nation (Saulteau First Nation and West Moberly First Nation) were presented in draft form at the board meeting. The Transportation Agreements are part of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nations Student Success.

All boards of education are required to develop and submit to the Ministry, annually, a joint First Nations Students Transportation Plan for First Nations served by the board of education, to be jointly signed off with each First Nation needing transportation of their First Nation students to a BC public school. Interests were expressed for a bus that would run later in the day to allow for extracurricular participations, as well as, a dual credit bus for transportation between Moberly and Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek. The district will put in a request to ask for additional funding for these two initiatives.

Northern Opportunities Request

A request was made for the board of education to write a letter in support of continuing the Ministry of Education funding to Northern Opportunities to support students with information, guidance and support with a wide range of career opportunities.

Board Meeting Information Update

Information was provided to the board of education on the practice of recording and archiving open board meetings. There are very few districts in the north who record and/or live stream open board meetings. There are more districts in the lower mainland that will live stream or archive their open board meetings. The advantage to recording open meetings would be to make the meetings more available to the public. The only concern is that the recording may limit the ability for trustees to move and express themselves freely.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Finance Reports

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the current school, revenue and expense reports with the board.

Private School Transportation Fees

Private School Transportation fees were discussed. The Secretary Treasurer notified the board that she will be informing the private schools of a 2% increase to the transfer bus fees that are billed directly to the schools. The increase will help offset the increasing costs in staffing, fuel, and maintenance for our buses.

Rolla Property Public Notice

A public consultation is required in obtaining Ministry of Education approval to dispose of a property. Public notice was advertised in the local newspaper three different times in February requesting feedback regarding the disposal of the property. No feedback was received; the district will submit the findings with other required documentation to the Ministry of Education.

2019/20 Capital Budget & Bylaw

The district will receive Ministry capital funding for phase two of the DCSS – South Peace Campus heating upgrade (\$1,350,000), installation of a DDC System at Devereaux Elementary (\$80,000), a new playground at Moberly Lake Elementary (\$90,000) and five new buses (\$679,640). The Capital Budget Bylaw was read and adopted.

Pouce Coupe Elementary School Capacity

School District #59 submitted a capital expansion request to the Ministry of Education in June 2018 for a one classroom addition for Pouce Coupe Elementary. The district was notified in March that the submissions request was not successful. During the last board meeting different options were discussed if the submission was not successful. Overwhelming, the board supported exploring portable options for the 2019/20 school year. Devereaux Elementary and Moberly Lake Elementary both have a portable that is being utilized by the schools. The Board of Education approved to purchase a new portable at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
March 18-29, 2019	Spring Break – Schools are closed
April 17, 2019	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm @ School Board Office
April 19, 2019	Good Friday – Schools are closed
April 22, 2019	Easter Monday – Schools are closed
May 29, 2019	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm @ Tumbler Ridge