



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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## Board Highlights for September 2019

The Board held their annual organization meeting to elect a board chair and vice-chair and appoint committee reps and liaisons.

The Board congratulates Trustee Chad Anderson as the new Board Chair and Trustee Crystal Hillton in continuing her position as Vice-Chair.

### ***Presentations:***

#### **Auditor Presentation: Sander Rose Bone Grindle**

The Financial Statements for SD 59 were presented by the audit partner, Mr. Jaron Neufeld. The financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, and no major concerns were identified.

### ***Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:***

#### **Audited Financial Statements**

The district reported an operating deficit of \$580,653 for the 2018/19 fiscal year. As of June 30, 2019, an operating reserve balance of \$6.4 million is available, of which \$2.6 million is restricted funds.

#### **Pouce Coupe Portables**

The first portable has been installed at Pouce Coupe Elementary and is in use by the school. The estimated delivery date of the second portable is mid-October. The district continues to advocate for a permanent addition for the school.

#### **Preliminary Enrollment**

Preliminary enrollment numbers were presented. Overall the district is estimating to be up 43 FTE from projected enrollment.

### ***Superintendent of Schools Report:***

#### **School/Student News**

##### **DCSS South Peace Campus**

The Sr. Girls volleyball team is off to a great start as they are undefeated this season thus far, winning both the Spirit River and Price George tournaments.

##### **Tremblay Elementary**

The Edmonton Oil Kings visited Tremblay on September 13, 2019. The athletes spoke to all the intermediate classes about goal setting, working hard and following your dreams. They also had a game of floor hockey with Mr. Kazuki's grade 4/5 class.

##### **Crescent Park Elementary**

Intermediate students are applying for jobs at Crescent Park Elementary. There is a job board with application forms. The applications ask about previous experience, qualities that make them a suitable candidate and their availability. This is to help students learn real life skills and build responsibility.

As a way to help teachers and students get to know each other and build a stronger community within the school, Community Groups have been formed at Crescent Park. Students are part of cross grade groupings where they will participate in three sessions with a teacher before moving to a different subject. Subjects include baking, karate, photography, and mask making.

The Prince George Cougars visited Crescent Park Elementary. Students were very excited to see the hockey players and were able to ask questions in an assembly and meet the players in their classrooms. Many student questions were centred around what it takes to get into the WHL and the players consistently talked about practice, working hard, and putting in the hours to get better.

### **Tumbler Ridge Elementary**

Students at TRE are loving the new playground! The first open house of the year will be after the month end assembly on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Windrem Elementary**

On the first day of school, the school had a Community Building Day in the gym with all students and family members were invited to participate. It was a wonderful way to start the year.

On Thursday, September 19, 2019, Windrem will be hosting the Northern Participants of The Cops For Cancer Tour with Constable Lenin Cruz.

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, Windrem is hosting an Open House with a pancake breakfast for students and families. In the afternoon students and families will be taking part in the Annual School Terry Fox Walk.

Students at Windrem enjoy being part of House Teams (Bears, Eagles, Moose, Wolves). The students are working together and earning fun house team points. Friday September Events are “Bring Your Favourite Stuffy Day”, “Wear Your Favourite Colour Day” and “Black & White Day”.

### **Tumbler Ridge Secondary**

The Coal forum visited Tumbler Ridge Secondary this past Friday. Three students in grades 11 and 12 gave presentations to the panel of executives from across industry in BC. The panel was impressed by the presentations and the programs being offered.

### **Principal Announcements**

The district is pleased to announce the following Principal and Vice-Principal appointments effective August 1, 2019.

- Ron Berg - Principal of Dawson Creek Secondary – Central Campus
- Sean Cowie - Vice-Principal of Dawson Creek Secondary – Central Campus
- Sue Wakeham – Vice-Principal of Tremblay Elementary School (Reappointed)

### **Student Discipline Report and Annual Summary**

There were 16 suspensions in total for the month of June, with most of the suspensions connected to safety of others and controlled substance.

A report was presented looking at suspension trends over the last nine years. The suspension rate per FTE was 9.20% for the last school year, compared to the nine-year average of 7.24%. Further details on suspensions were broken down by schools and type.

### **Field Trip Summary**

The board reviewed a summary of the board approved field trips that occurred during the 2018/19 school year. Over 500 students visited the Pat O'Reilly Education Centre at Gwillim Lake, with over 400 students staying overnight.

Approved international field trips included travel to San Diego and Peru, and travel in Canada beyond BC and Alberta included a trip to Winnipeg.

### **Montessori Review Summary**

Don Titus Montessori Elementary School has been operating as a school of choice since September 2014. The first review of the program was completed during the 2018/19 school year. The review was completed to assure the Board of Education that the Montessori program of choice is authentic (maintaining the standards of Montessori Principles), sustainable, and aligns with the BC curriculum.

District staff developed a rubric for the review based on the National Centre for Montessori in the Public Sector (NCMPS). The rubric focused on five areas: Montessori Adults, Montessori Learning Environment, Family Engagement, Leadership and Organizational Development and Assessment.

Overall the belief of the district staff is that Don Titus Montessori is carrying out many of the principles of a Montessori school and classroom in its practice. The staff is committed to the Montessori program and actively seek on-going pro-d, collaboration and continued learning in Montessori methods. Students spoke positively about the program and their journey to becoming an independent learner, they were also able to articulate the principles of the Montessori program.

The report included the following recommendations:

1. School staff create a process for an annual review of the Montessori program
2. Staff continues to see solutions to challenges and barriers that might impact the ability to fully implement Montessori methodology within the BC curriculum
3. Staff hired to the school have a commitment to gaining Montessori qualification
4. The district conducts a review of the Montessori program every 5 years.

### **Student Voice Forum**

Mr. Chisholm presented on the first student voice forum that was held last school year. Students in grades 7-12 from all three high schools were brought together to explore “What is Student Voice?” The students discussed democracy, leadership, knowing your audience and explored what is important to them. Student Voice will continue this school year with an additional three forums planned.

### ***Trustee Items:***

#### **Recording Meetings:**

The board discussed a motion that was brought forward to videotape open board meetings. After much discussion, the motion was defeated.

#### **Summer Work:**

The board thanked all the staff that worked hard over the summer to ensure the schools were ready for students this September, as well as acknowledging the staff that has been flexible with school spaces that experienced project delays and were not returned to normal for the start of school.

#### **Immunization Requirements:**

There has been lots of talk in the media regarding the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation that came into effect July 1, 2019. The responsibility of the school district has not changed. Parents and guardians are expected to provide the immunization status of their children. School enrollment records will be reviewed by public health officials this fall to match against immunization records that currently exist in the provincial immunization registry. Public health officials have the responsibility to contact parents that do not have up to date immunization records for their child. This process allows the public health system to be prepared in the event of an outbreak as it permits health officials to quickly identify those who are under immunized or not immunized.

***Committee Reports:***

**Policy Committee:**

The policy committee brought forward Policy 4530: Animals in District Facilities for approval after it had been circulated for review. Policy 4530: Animals in District Facilities was adopted as presented.

Policies are posted on the school district website at <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/policies>.

***Upcoming Events:***

Date:	Event:
October 14, 2019	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools are closed
October 24, 2019	Open Board Meeting – Chetwynd @ Little Prairie Elementary School Time TBA
October 25, 2019	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
November 11, 2019	Remembrance Day – Schools are closed
November 20, 2019	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm @ School Board Office
November 20 & 21, 2019	Early Dismissal Days – school ends 1 hour early Parent/teacher conferences are held
November 29, 2019	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school