



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

### **Board Highlights for April 2025**

The Transportation Department has been training drivers on the new routing and planning software. The new software automates many previous manual processes including tracking and managing fleet operations, dispatching and assignment of tasks to drivers, real-time notice of interruption of routes, and attendance tracking. The presentation is available on the school district website:

[Traversa Implementation Project- Presentation-Apr2025.pdf](#)



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

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



Students at Devereaux Elementary built bird houses for Earth Day and put them up in their community forest. Students also had fun participating in a gymnastics program at Mile 0 Gymnastics Academy.

The District received a Terry Fox participation letter with a history of schools that have registered and participated in the annual fundraising event. Huge shout out to the top two schools: Parkland Elementary for 34 years and Canalta Elementary for 32 years. Congratulations on your long-standing achievement of carrying on the Terry Fox legacy.

The concession manager at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus challenged students to raise funds for a fellow student going through cancer treatment. The challenge was to raise \$2000 towards the cause and she would shave her head. The students rose to the challenge and raised \$2400 with all proceeds going to the family.





DCSS-South Peace students in Contemporary Indigenous Education 12 class made their own moccasins. Science for Citizens classes made dioramas for natural disasters. Example dioramas included lightening strikes and volcano eruptions!



Parkland Elementary students enjoyed a presentation from the Art Starts program where students learned how to beat box!

Central and South Peace staff attended a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) workshop with Dr. Jennifer Katz. Over the course of the week, they collaborated on the UDL



unit planning process, focusing on meaningful inclusion and engagement of middle and high school students in math, science, social studies and English. Together, they developed unit frameworks, created rubrics, and designed learning centres that allow students to engage with content and demonstrate their understanding in multiple ways. The work emphasized building compassionate classroom communities, designing accessible curriculum for all learners, and supporting social and emotional well-being.



South Peace Elementary had a field trip to the sheep barn where the younger students got to watch the older students' shear sheep.

Eighteen students from across the district participated in the Adventures in Healthcare three-day event. Adventures in Healthcare is a partnership between Rotary, UNBC, NLC, Northern Health, SD59, and SD60 that allows students to explore healthcare careers and services. The students toured Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John hospitals, Rotary Manor, UNBC – FSJ Campus, and Freedom Physiotherapy.



### **Don Titus Montessori Program Review Timeline**

As announced in the November 2024 board meeting, a program review will be completed for the Montessori program at Don Titus Montessori Elementary School. The intent of the review is to ensure that the Montessori program operates in accordance with Montessori principles. Data gathering will include internal data collection and surveys with students and guardians through the months of April and May. The data will be compiled, and a report will be presented to the Board of Education at the June 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

### **Strategic Plan – 2024-2025 Operational Plan**

The Superintendent presented a detailed plan including budget allocations to carry out objectives set in the Operation Plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

#### **Trustee Remuneration**

The Secretary Treasurer presented an analysis of the annual survey results from the British Columbia School Trustees Association that summarizes trustee stipends, mileage rates and meal per diems across the province. The Secretary Treasurer showed a comparison of SD59 data to provincial and similar sized districts.

The Board approved a motion to refer Regulation 2250 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits, and Regulation to the Policy Committee to review the per diem rates.

#### **2025-2026 Annual Budget**

A themed report was included in the board documents from the April 2, 2025 consultation meeting that. In total, 68 people attended the event with representation from unions, PACs, municipalities, Regional District, First Nations, Unions, and other local stakeholders.

The Board adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of the 2025-2026 Annual Budget bylaw in the amount of \$69,917,920. The full 2025-2026 Annual Budget is available on the district website at [Financial Information | School District 59](#).

#### **2025-2026 Capital Plan Response Letter**

The Board of Education adopted the 2025-2026 minor capital bylaw that included the following projects:

	Project:	Funding:
Tumbler Ridge Elementary	SEP – HVAC Upgrades	\$950,000
Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus	CNCP – Exterior Wall Systems Upgrades	\$300,000
Tremblay Elementary	PEP – Universally Accessible Playground Equipment	\$200,000



## Capital Projects Update

### **Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion**

The following events have occurred since the March 12<sup>th</sup> report:

- Fort Modular visited the site.
- Director of Operations and Facilities Manager met with City planners and approvers to discuss the building permit timeline and process.
- Building permit application submitted to the City.
- City confirmed review of the modular portion of the project and expressed no code concerns.
- Fort Modular has the Crescent Park Modular Addition scheduled to start construction in their factory mid-May 2025.
- Force Engineering continues the preparation of the civil, foundation, earth works tender.

To date, \$682,445 has been spent of the \$9,200,000 budget.

### **Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities**

Since March 12, 2025, the following have occurred:

- SD59 internal project team met to discuss next steps and delay in receipt of modular costing.
- SD59 internal project team met with architect to discuss concerns with receipt of modular costing, timelines and delayed reports to the Board of Education, BLT (Building Learning Society) and the Dawson Creek Child Care Task Force.
- Architect provided a refined costing for modulars and updated costing for stick build.

*Staff presented a recommendation to proceed with advancing the stick build option, unless otherwise directed by the Board, for the following reasons:*

1. Streamlined process with 1 contractor, 1 tender, 1 building permit.
2. Schedule.
3. 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%).
4. Recent challenging experience with Crescent Park Elementary Expansion: 2 tenders, 2 contractors, 3 building permits (third is sprinklers).
5. Increased cost will be requested and assumed funded from Ministry of Education and Child Care.
6. Ministry does not have a preference between stick build or modular.

A second configuration option is being explored for Dawson Creek. When the funding applications were submitted in 2023 and approved in 2024, the Dawson Creek child care request did not include before and after school care in the new structure. The Tumbler Ridge facility did include before and after school care in the request.

When the request for increased funding goes to the Ministry, the project team will present two options for Dawson Creek: one as the project application was approved (child care) and one modified project (child care and before and after school care) for the Ministry's consideration. If the Ministry does not approve the increased funding request, an update will be provided to the Board before proceeding with either project.

The Board of Education supported Staff's recommendation to proceed with the stick build option.

Capital project updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Capital-Projects).

### **Lead in Water Testing Results**

The district conducted water testing at eight sites in January 2025; a total of 160 samples were obtained in accordance with Ministry guidelines. Results were submitted for analysis and 25 deficiencies were reported. Of the deficient results, all but two fixtures passed post purge tests and have signage posted in accordance with Northern Health requirements. Filter installation and/or fixture replacement have been started and will be completed by September of 2025 at which time the fixtures will be re-tested and reported to Northern Health to ensure compliance.

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

#### **BCSTA Update**

Trustees and senior staff attended the BCSTA AGM in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025.

Congratulations Trustee Gulick in being elected to the BCSTA Board of Directors.



### ***Committee Reports:***

#### **Indigenous Education Councils**

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek Indigenous Council is looking forward to the May 5<sup>th</sup> Truth and Reconciliation professional development day that will be held in Dawson Creek at Unchagah Hall. All district staff and many community stakeholders are invited to attend this event.

Trustee Hillton reported the Chetwynd Indigenous Council heard from CSS students that went ice fishing with Moberly Lake Elementary students. Council also had a presentation from the Secretary-Treasurer on the 2025-2026 Annual Budget and council is starting the planning for the achievement awards that will be presented on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the School District's National Indigenous Peoples Day event.

#### **Policy Committee**

The Board of Education adopted revised Policy & Regulation 4585 Media in Schools as presented.

All school district policies can be viewed on the school district website at [District Policies | School District 59](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/District-Policies).

## Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
May 5, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – District professional development focussed on Truth & Reconciliation - students do not attend school
May 19, 2025	Victoria Day Stat – schools are closed
May 21, 2025	Public Board Meeting – Tumbler Ridge
June 6, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
June 18, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
June 26, 2025	Last day of classes
June 27, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school

