



Board Highlights for January 20, 2021

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News:

On February 12th, 2021, ITA (Industry Training Authority) held a Women in Trades event for female students across North-East BC. Students in SD59, SD60, and SD81 participated in a virtual zoom conference and had a chance to meet six women from across the province currently working in trades.



The female trades people included a carpenter, welder, heavy-duty mechanic, heavy equipment operator and an engineering tech, who all shared their stories of how they got into the trade, what the work is like, and how they have overcome barriers to be successful. The session ended with a hands-on activity that led the students through the creation of a table lamp made from threaded conduit.

In elementary schools some highlights from January 2021 include:

- Crescent Park students recently shared their presentations of learning on ancient worlds.
- Pouce Coupe Elementary students took part in a maker space activity, which started with an “I wonder . . .” and led to some amazing projects.
- Devereaux Elementary had a presentation about science fairs from a previous student that is now in Grade 9. Hollis Mattson went to the National level of the Science Fair two years ago when she was a Devereaux grade 7 student, so she has lots of experience! Hollis shared her passion for science and presented her new project – “Underwater Soundscape” which studies the effect sound has on oceans. The project asks the question: Does the noise generated by oil rigs, near bodies of water, interrupt fish communication?
- Tremblay Elementary students are exploring what they can build with 3-D printers. The District Resource Centre has two 3-D printing machines that schools can sign out.



The Moose Hide Campaign was evident in schools on February 11th. This campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children.

School participation and recognition of this important topic was happening in K through 12 classrooms across the District.

The DCSS-South Peace Campus Musical Theatre students were excited to still be able to perform in the Frog Prince production. There was no live audience this year, but the production was live-streamed out. Viewers from across the District and beyond got to enjoy a wonderful performance. The production was based on music by the artist formerly known as Prince.

Tumbler Ridge Secondary School students created 3 legged stools in wood shop class. Students learned different methods of joinery to create various styles of the stools.

COVID-19 Update

An update was provided on the revised pandemic protocols that came from the Ministry of Education on February 4th, 2021. The significant area of change to note is mask use by secondary students and K-12 staff. Enhance protocols were also announced for Music and PE classes.

The Ministry of Education has announced regional COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams. These teams will continue to improve the speed of school exposure investigations, can conduct physical or virtual site inspections, and if needed can conduct a review and recommendations after a significant exposure event or an in-school transmission.

FSA-Update

The Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province wide assessment of all BC students in grades 4 and 7. The assessment has been postponed and will now be conducted from February 15th to March 12th, 2021.

Completion Rates and Other Data

Completion rates for the 2019-20 school year are now public. The overall 6-year graduation rate was 86% in SD 59. The District's graduation rate for Indigenous students was 79%, which is our highest rate ever. Additional data is provided which helps the district determine next steps and areas to focus on for improvement.

Draft 2021-22 School Calendar

The proposed 2021-2022 school calendar was presented and will be circulated for public feedback. The proposed calendar reflects current collective agreement language around that start, end and break times with special approval for the two-week spring break. The board will review the feedback and adopt a calendar at the next public board meeting on March 10th, 2021. Feedback may be made in writing via email to Jan Proulx (japroulx@sd59.bc.ca) by March 5th, 2021.

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Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2020-21 Amended Annual Budget

The 2020-21 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw was read and adopted.

2021-22 Enrolment Projections

Enrolment projections were presented to the board. School District No.59 is projecting a slight decrease for the 2021/22 school year.

Trustee Items:

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the Dawson Creek City Council.

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
March 10, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)
March 15-26, 2021	Spring Break – Schools are closed
April 2, 2021	Good Friday – Schools are closed
April 5, 2021	Easter Monday – Schools are closed
April 21, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)

