

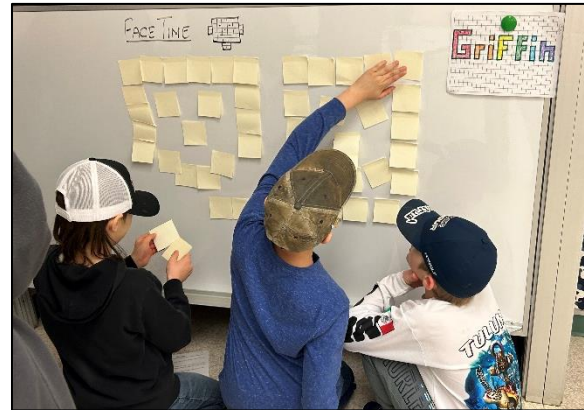


## Board Highlights for February 2024

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

### **School/Student News**

At Little Prairie Elementary School, Mr. RJ created a “Mathematics Escape Room” for their grade 4/5 students. The students had fun creatively learning the core competencies of math. Students at Little Prairie also enjoyed cosmic bowling in the gym and a dance.



Many schools in the district are using hydroponic grow towers to grow vegetables indoors. Mr. Schild’s class has a successful crop of lettuce!

Devereaux celebrated the Lunar New Year – 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. The dragon is a new animal in the Chinese zodiac to represent the next 12 months. The students created their own dragons and then held a parade of the dragons in the gym.



DCSS Central Campus held a staff versus students hockey game.

Outdoor Education students at Central Campus went snowshoeing.



Woodworking students at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School have been busy building Adirondack chairs.



DCSS students are starting to present their capstone projects. The two students pictured here have completed amazing projects and are well on their way to graduation! Congratulations.



South Peace students have been very busy already in the new year. The South Peace Student Council has started a public speaking group, grad planning is well underway, dual credit and course information nights were held, students had fun using the valentines photo booth, and a writing contest has been launched.



Mrs. McInnis' class at Crescent Park Elementary celebrated literacy with a book tasting event. Students sampled a variety of books in a café like setting.

Don Titus Montessori had a snowman building contest and students enjoyed watercolor painting with Mr. Goldie.

Students in Ms. Harman's Kindergarten class had their dream come true! Students designed their dream toque and then thanks to parent, Mrs. Krantz who knitted all the designs! Each student is proudly wearing their dream toque!



Tremblay Elementary created a wall mural with Mr. Lariviere.  
The Timberwolf is the new school mascot.



Many students throughout the district participated in the Regional Skills Competition event hosted at Northern Lights College on February 16, 2024. Many events were held on this day which included Junior and Senior Skills Competitions, Women in Trades, and Try A Trade.



*The following students from School District No. 59 (PRS) will be representing the district at the Provincial Skills Competition in Abbotsford in their respective categories:*

Potential Energy Vehicles (Jr Skills) – Thor Maclean and Kelly Amoson – DCSS Central  
Gravity Vehicles (Jr Skills) – George Baxter and Evan Strand - Tremblay Elementary  
Graphic Design – Angela Zhang – DCSS South Peace  
Photography – (tied for gold) - Kristina Tuyay and Tegan Steckly - DCSS South Peace  
Video Production – Lane French and Anastasia Nesnaioma - DCSS South Peace

### **International Field Trip to Europe**

The Board granted approval in principle for Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus to proceed with planning an international field trip to Europe in the spring of 2025. The itinerary includes travel to cities in France, Germany and England to tour areas known to be predominantly Canadian battle fields during World War I and II.

### **BCPSEA Pre-employment Hiring Incentives for SD59**

The rural and remote pilot program allows Northern school districts to offer approved hiring incentives for new hire employees, commencing employment April 1, 2024 or later. School District No. 59 submitted eleven incentive requests for positions in Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd for which the district received approval for five incentives to be used for positions in Chetwynd. The incentives will be attached to specific employment positions.

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

#### **Financial Report for January 2024**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly financial report.

#### **2023-2024 Amended Annual Budget**

The Board adopted the Amended Annual Budget. The Secretary Treasurer provided an analysis of changes and explanations of significant variances from the preliminary budget.

#### **2024-2025 Budget**

Key areas of focus and three-year enrollment projections were presented to the board for consideration in developing the 2024-2025 budget.

The board held a community meeting on January 24, 2024, to consult on the strategic plan and budget processes. In total, 71 individuals attended the event, with representatives from district staff, community partners, stakeholders, First Nations, Indigenous Councils, municipalities, and Regional District.

Table discussions were held on four pre-determined topics. The tables notes were combined and then themed using AI. The discussion notes will be considered in the development of the new strategic plan and future budgets.

The Opportunities for Focus and the consultation report can be found here: [Financial Information | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](#) .

#### **Major Capital Update: Crescent Park Expansion Project**

The Board of Education was presented with four options to consider for the Crescent Park Expansion project.

The options include:

- 1) Stand-Alone Five Classroom Building with Universal Washrooms
- 2) Connected Five Classroom Addition with Universal Washrooms
- 3) Connected Five Classroom Additional with Universal Washrooms, new Administration Office, and Library
- 4) Connected Five Classroom Additional with Universal Washrooms, new Administration Office, Library, Parking Lot Expansion, Existing Washroom Conversion to Universal, Roof Replacement and New Building Envelope

After consideration, the Board approved Option 3 (connected five classroom addition with universal washrooms, new administration office and library) with an estimated cost of \$9,200,000. The Board also approved the incremental cost of the project over and above the Ministry of Education and Child Care funding of \$7.5 million from operating reserves to a maximum of \$1.7 million. Option 3 adds capacity, improves the accessibility to the school entrance and library and allows for flexible space within the school.

**Committee Reports:**

**Indigenous Education Councils**

Trustee Hillton reported on the latest Indigenous Education Council meeting held in Chetwynd. Council looked at information on new graduation requirement courses – students provided positive feedback about the new curriculum and presented about what they are learning in the classes and why it is important. Council also heard about the graduation stories of students that did not graduate. The Board received an update on the planning for the District’s Truth and Reconciliation focused professional learning day to be held on April 29, 2024.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Date:	Event:
February 28 & 29, 2024	Early Dismissal Days for Parent/Teacher Interviews (students are dismissed 1 hour earlier)
March 4, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
March 13, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
March 18 – 29, 2024	Spring Break – schools are closed
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday Stat – schools are closed
April 24, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
April 29, 2024	Indigenous Education Day (Professional Development) Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school



**Pink Shirt Day is an annual event against bullying. It is a symbol of our commitment to supporting everyone with kindness and acceptance.**

**Pink Shirt Day aims to raise awareness of bullying across all platforms and is recognized on the last Wednesday of February every year with a mission to create a kind inclusive world by raising awareness against anti-bullying.**