



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for February 2025

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Tremblay Elementary celebrated 100's Day! Students and staff dressed up as if they were 100 years old and enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast.



Pink T-Shirt Day February 26, 2025

Students at Pouce Coupe Elementary School were challenged by the school's Leadership Team and Social Justice Club to create a logo design for Pink Shirt Day. Students worked diligently at creating designs that promoted kindness and anti-bullying; the designs were narrowed down to six finalists. Judges, Public Librarian Courtney Johnson and Mayor Danielle Veach, selected the winner!



Congratulations to Maddison Terkilsen on the winning design! The school is purchasing pink shirts with Maddison's design for all students and staff to wear on February 26th.

The Social Justice Club at Ecole Frank Ross created pins to promote kindness. The Club provided pins to trustees to wear not only on Pink Shirt Day, but also as a pledge to continue to be kind every day.

The library at Ecole Frank Ross was turned into a Book Tasting Event. Students sampled a variety of books and then chose the books that interested them the most.





The Tremblay Elementary Curling Team, Cool Beans, have had a great year and will be participating in the Elementary Curling League Bonspiel on March 1st.

Don Titus Montessori students are learning about numeracy through math manipulatives. This is a fun and engaging way to learn about numeracy.



Despite the cold weather, students continue to enjoy participating in winter activities like snowshoeing, downhill skiing and building snow sculptures.



Chetwynd Secondary School and Dawson Creek Secondary School joined together and traveled to Jasper on a ski field trip.



Monthly assemblies are fun at Devereaux Elementary as they always play a minute-to-win-it game. This month the students played a game called Sticky Face. The students had one minute to stick as many sticky notes as possible to their partner's face!



The Junior and Senior Regional Skills Competitions were held on February 14th at Northern Lights College. Gold medal winners will be invited to participate at the provincial competition in Abbotsford on April 16th. Congratulations to all the competitors.



Grade 8 students across the district also participated in the Try a Trade Event which is a district event aimed at introducing students to various trades, healthcare, and ADST activities. Students got to explore Northern Lights College campus and learn about healthcare programs and trades like welding, carpentry, heavy duty mechanics, electrical, and plumbing. Also on this day, SkilledTradesBC hosted a Women in Trades conference which saw over 50 students attend to network and hear from a panel of local women that are working in trades.

Julie Hamilton has been appointed as Vice-Principal at Central Campus in a temporary position.

Early Learning Presentation

Mary Manual and Dianne Bassendowski highlighted all the early learning programs and initiatives offered by the district. SD59 has six StrongStart programs. StrongStart is designed for 0 to 5 years working in partnership with parents/caregivers, ECE facilitators and community partners.

The Early Learning Hub houses the first early learning indoor playground in the province. The Hub houses a StrongStart program, indoor playground, and activity centre for young families.

Tremblay Elementary School is home to our largest StrongStart centre, Munchkinland, and the JustB4 preschool program. The programs offer an introduction to 'school life' and sets children up for a successful transition into the school and Kindergarten.

The Early Learning Department offers many other events and activities:

- Annual Baby Welcome Party
- Ready, Set, Learn
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- Family Fun Day (every Saturday at The Hub)
- Positive Discipline Parenting Workshops
- Early Years Health Fair



- Participates in Bringing Learning Together Society
- Participates in National Child Day (November)
- Participates in Dawson Creek Child Task Force
- Partners with YMCA to offer Before and After School Child Care programs

K-12 Literacy Supports – Professional Learning Grants Update

In February 2025, the District was awarded a professional learning grant in the amount of \$238,867 to better support students’ literacy development in the K-12 school system. The grant is to be used to provide professional learning for teachers and support staff in the area of evidence-based approaches to literacy development and literacy information/resources for parents and caregivers. The funds are to be fully expended by June 30, 2027.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2024-2025 Amended Annual Budget

The Board of Education adopted the 2024-2025 amended budget. Overall, the amended budget increased by \$4.3m, representing an overall increase of 6.4%.

2025-2026 Annual Budget

a) Enrolment Projections

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 3-year enrolment projections. The 2025-2026 projections will be considered in developing the 2025-2026 annual budget. Overall, the district is projecting a slight increase in enrolment of 21.399 FTE to total 3,669 FTE.

b) Budget Survey

A budget survey is available for public input on the 2025-2026 annual budget. The consultation process allows for input on priorities and considerations in the budget development process. The survey is open until March 4, 2025. [2025-2026 Budget Survey Link](#)

Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since January 22, 2025, the following have occurred:

- Tender closed - 4 bids received with prices ranging from \$3.1 to \$4.9 million and Fort Modular was awarded the contract for the modular portion of construction. [Our Completed Projects | Case Studies | Fort Modular](#)
- Project kick off meeting with Fort Modular, Engineer and SD59 project team, including Principal Richer.

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

Since January 22, 2025, the following progress has occurred:

- Architect and Engineer continued working on civil and structural drawings.
- Architect completed costing for stick building the childcare facilities.
 - Tumbler childcare stick build cost \$ 5.6m
 - Dawson childcare stick build cost \$ 5.0m

- Architect and project team met to discuss costing and next steps. Architect still awaiting modular build costing to compare to stick build.
- Project team begins licensing applications with Northern Health for both locations.
- Architect and Director of Operations met with the City of Dawson Creek to discuss fire hydrant requirements and next steps in the building permit process.

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).

Trustee Items:

BCSTA Update

Trustees attended the BCSTA Northern Interior Branch Meeting in Prince George on February 7 & 8, 2025. The meeting focussed on advocacy and motion development for the BCSTA AGM which will be held in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025, as well as an engaging MLA forum.



Letter to Minister of Education

Trustees approved a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care outlining some barriers to education that are a priority of the board to see addressed. In the letter, the Board addressed the following: the need for an online/hybrid teacher education program and specifically the advancement of the UNBC Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education Program; interprovincial credential recognition to lessen unnecessary TRB/TQS costs and delays; streamlining of the Letter of Permission process; and reducing and coordinating provincial travel for meetings to relieve the higher costs and travel time for northern and remote districts to attend provincial meetings.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

The Chetwynd Indigenous Council met on January 18, 2025 where Council was presented with the How Are We Doing? Report. Council also reviewed the Bill 40 changes.

The Indigenous Council in Dawson Creek will be meeting on February 25, 2025 and will have similar reports.

Policy Committee

The Board of Education approved to circulate Policy & Regulation 4585 Media in Schools for feedback. Feedback will be accepted until April 4, 2025. Please email feedback to cfennell@sd59.bc.ca.

Regulation 5170 Reimbursement of Expenses (Staff) has been updated and presented to the Board of Education for information.

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:
February 26 & 27, 2025	Early Dismissal Days – students are dismissed 1 hr early
March 12, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
March 17-28, 2025	Spring Break – schools are closed
April 2, 2025	Special Open Board Meeting – Budget Bylaw 1 st Reading
April 2, 2025	2025-2026 Budget Consultation Dinner Meeting
April 7, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
April 18, 2025	Good Friday Stat – schools are closed
April 21, 2025	Easter Monday Stat – schools are closed
April 30, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek



The 2025-2026 Proposed School Calendar is being circulated for feedback. The proposed calendar can be viewed on the school district website: [2025-26 Proposed School Calendar-for feedback.pdf](#). Written feedback must be sent to [Jan Proulx](#) before February 28, 2025 to be considered.