



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for January 19, 2022

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Devereaux Elementary School students have been enjoying getting outside to snowshoe and cross-country ski. Students in Grades 3-7 also went downhill skiing at the local ski hill.



Windrem Elementary continues to focus on primary literacy blitzes. The students are having lots of fun with all the themed activities.

DCSS-SP art students recently made moccasins with support from an Indigenous elder.



Ecole Frank Ross students have created a Social Justice Club. The 12 members model the bulldog traits of being calm, kind, courageous and determined. They are learning about social issues, and educational activism. They are talking about issues and problem solving. More groups like this are organizing around the district.



Moberly Lake Elementary students had a chance to try ice fishing. They also learned about Ling Cod and their spawning habits.

SNAP is the Student Numeracy Assessment and Practice which has been used in elementary schools. It is now expanding to the middle years through the collaboration of a working group focusing on grades 8-9. The group is working on number sense and modeling the process after the current elementary version.

The district has recently partnered with the UBC Career Field Experience Program. The program is for students who have completed their educational program who then come to the district for 4 – 6 weeks to gain experience in local classrooms. The district also has practicum partnerships with UNBC, SFU, VIU, U of A and U of C. These partnerships bring student teachers to our district with the hope that this will help with future recruitment.

The Tremblay Elementary School Library is the hub of the school where students participate in a variety of fun activities.



Congratulations to our 12 students in Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek who have been accepted into the first course offering for the **Early Childhood Education (ECE) Dual Credit Project**. Thank you to Northern Lights College for creating an amazing program and to the Ministry of Education for funding this special opportunity. Applications are now being accepted for the full one-year ECE Dual Credit Program scheduled to start in September. Students are encouraged to speak with their high school Career Coordinator if they are interested in the program.

Return to School Plan & Updated Protocols

The delay in return to school for students during the first week of January was to allow staff to collaborate and revisit health and safety protocols. Areas that schools focused on were entrances, break times and gathering spaces, and at DCSS-SPSS Campus the timetable was altered to decrease the amount of class transitions.

Schools also developed contingency plans for potential staff shortages and the possibility of functional school closures. Administration will monitor staff absences and implement a functional school closure if deemed necessary.

If a Functional Closure Occurs:

- Essential health workers' children or children with diverse and complex needs may still attend as per usual as long as that can be staffed.
- Schools (staff) are expected to have rolling, flexible 5-day plans that could be easily engaged by students in the event of a closure.
- Until we have more information, a Functional Closure would be for 5 instructional days from the announcement
 - Schools would shift to a remote or virtual/online delivery with staff checking in on student progress;
 - It would be announced as soon as possible the day/evening before.

The District has implemented a Mask Exemption form that now requires a written request for an exemption. The forms also ask parents for suggestions on how to keep their child safe while they are unmasked at school. Mask compliance may influence decision making when the district is considering functional closures.

2022-23 Proposed School Calendar

The 2022-23 proposed school calendar was developed in accordance within the requirements of the School Act and consultation with Peace River South Teachers Association. The calendar reflects the current collective agreement language around the start, end and break times with special approval for the two-week spring break.

The proposed calendar reflects the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, 2022 as an observance day until further direction is received from the Province.

The proposed calendar is being circulated to allow public input. All feedback will be considered, and a final calendar will be adopted by the Board of Education on March 16, 2022.

Feedback must be made in writing to Jan Proulx (japroulx@sd59.bc.ca) by March 4, 2022.

Unrestricted Operating Surplus Initiatives

Draft initiatives were presented in October to the board that identified priority areas of focus to allocate unrestricted operating funds. The board approved to allocate \$1,762,500 from Unrestricted Operating Reserves to Internally Restricted Operating Reserves to support initiatives in the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention
- Technology upgrades
- Engineering environmental scan
- Succession planning and capacity building
- District level student voice council
- MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument)
- Implementing the K-12 Student Reporting Policy
- MyEd Training
- Staff Wellness
- Fireproof room
- Building capacity

Reports from the Secretary Treasurer:

Finance Reports

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly finance reports as of December 31st, 2021.

2021-22 Amended Operating Grant

The district received the amended operating grant funding which was announced on December 17, 2021. The Amended Operating Grant increased by \$999,730 (2.2%). The student base allocation increased \$672,244 (2.4%) due to the increase in enrolment of 93.4 FTE as compared to the preliminary budget. The amended operating grant will be reflected in the amended budget that will be presented at the next board meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
January 31, 2022	Non-Instructional Day / Staff Pro-D students do not attend school

February 16, 2022	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm
February 21, 2022	Family Day – School are closed
February 23 & 24, 2022	Early Dismissal Days – students are dismissed 1 hr early
February 28, 2022	Non-Instructional Day / Staff Pro-D students do not attend school
March 16, 2022	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm

The Pouce Coupe Elementary school addition is complete. The expansion allowed for two new classrooms, a new washroom, and a meeting room.

