



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for March 2026

Announcement of New Secretary Treasurer

Chair Anderson welcomed Peter Neale to the district as the new Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Neale is a Chartered Professional Accountant and has over twenty years experience in various roles of Secretary Treasurer working for school districts in BC and Alberta. Mr. Neale's wealth of experience and leadership will be an asset to the district.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Devereaux Elementary students enjoyed the warmer winter days by making snow sculptures.

Windrem Elementary students had a great field trip to the Bear Mountain Ski Hill.

Ecole Frank Ross students had fun snowshoeing.



Students from CSS and Moberly Lake Elementary enjoyed their annual ice fishing day!

Indoor activities included Don Titus Elementary students swimming at the Chetwynd Leisure Pool and Tremblay Elementary students rockin' it on their rock climbing wall.



Some of the local firefighters showed up at Central Campus for a friendly game of basketball.



Don Titus celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday! Students had to design their own original sock which was showcased on the library bulletin board.

Tremblay Elementary students have been enjoying numeracy and literacy activities.



Windrem Elementary students shared their read-a-louds in the monthly school assembly.



Canalta Elementary students are creating food truck businesses. The students are creating a business model that includes developing menus, advertising and making one of the menu items that they will bring into the class for sharing. The students will also learn about financial literacy.





Crescent Park Elementary held an entrepreneur fair that showcased student entrepreneurship. The students created a business model and learned about financial literacy. The students learned about creating, making and selling products. The students had to donate 10% of their earnings to a community organization as they learned about citizenship. The project was developed through PowerPlay Young Entrepreneurs which provides free unit plans that can be used by classroom teachers in grades 4-8.



Pink Shirt Day was celebrated at schools throughout the district. Students and staff wore pink to support kindness and inclusion in schools.



2026-2027 School Calendar

The Board of Education adopted the 2026-2027 School Calendar. The calendar is available on the school district website: [2026-2027 School Calendar | School District 59](#).

Tumbler Ridge Update:

The Superintendent reported the District has worked very closely with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance and Safer Schools Together throughout the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge. The District continues to work with all the groups as we move forward in establishing a school community.

The team worked together to quickly establish a temporary school site. The Superintendent provided an update on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 plan for Tumbler Ridge students. Students were provided the opportunity to slowly return to their school spaces.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget Amendment

The Board of Education adopted the 2025-2026 Amended Budget with a total bylaw amount of \$71,534,929. The Amended Annual Budget is available on the school district website: [2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget | School District 59](#).

2025-2026 Annual Budget

As part of developing the annual budget, the Ministry requests all school districts to submit enrolment projections for the upcoming school year. The enrolment information is used by the Ministry to set base funding allocations. The District enrolment submission is projecting a decrease of 106 FTE.

Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Ongoing work continues on the Crescent Park School Expansion. The work includes civil planning, millwork, technology (network), ceiling installation and electrical tie-in.

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

The project team awaits a decision from the Ministry regarding the resubmission of their application for additional funding for both Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge childcare projects due to the escalation of costs since the initial application was submitted to the Ministry of Education and ChildCare in 2023.

The two applications for additional funding have progressed through the initial review and have moved to the next level of approval. No decision date was provided.

Tumbler Ridge Campus

Phase 1 Complex:

- The Ministry secured wildfire trailers to use as temporary spaces.
- The trailers began arriving on February 16, 2026 and trailer placement began on the Tumbler Ridge Elementary School site.
- The trailers were set up and running (with utilities) by February 25, 2026.
- First day of classes was February 27, 2026.

Phase 2 Complex:

- The site plan was confirmed on February 19, 2026 and planning for utility services and permits was initiated.
- Site prep work continued and trailers began arriving on February 23, 2026.
- Roof and floor joints were connected to secure the trailers together.
- Plans for the center complex were started which will be installed in July. The center complex will include office space, reception, bathrooms and a lunch area.
- Two trades trailers have arrived.
- Consultants continue to work on civil and utility planning.

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).

2026 General School Trustee Election

The General School Trustee Election will occur in the fall. General Voting Day will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Election preparations are starting, therefore, the Board of Education appointed Peter Neale as the Chief Election Officer and Richell Schwartz as the Deputy Chief Election Officer. Election updates will be posted on the website: [2026 General School Trustee Election | School District 59](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/2026-General-School-Trustee-Election).

Trustee Items:

BCSTA Update

Trustees attended the Northern Interior Branch meeting in February in Prince George which included an MLA forum and discussion on motions to take forward to the BCSTA AGM. Trustees will be attending the BCSTA AGM in Vancouver from April 9-11, 2026.

BCPSEA Update:

The Memorandum of Agreement between BCTF and BCSPEA was ratified and the new four year (2025-2029) collective agreement for teachers is now in effect.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The following policies were adopted as presented (no revisions were made from circulation for feedback):

- 3150 Teacher Absences
- 3210 Political Activities

The Board of Education adopted Trustee Election Bylaw 2026-01.

The following policies were repealed, effective immediately:

- 3020 Employment of Summer Students (did not follow current practice – note, the district will still continue to hire summer students)
- 3080 Retirement – (not needed as retirement language is in collective agreements)

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: |
|-------------------|---|
| March 16-27, 2026 | Spring Break – schools are closed |
| April 3, 2026 | Good Friday Stat – schools are closed |
| April 6, 2026 | Easter Monday Stat – schools are closed |
| April 22, 2026 | Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek |
| May 1, 2026 | Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school <i>Truth and Reconciliation focus pro-d.</i> |
| May 18, 2026 | Victoria Day Stat – schools are closed |

Hoppy Easter!

