



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for March 12, 2020

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

The Dawson Creek elementary basketball tournament was held on March 6-7th. A total of 9 teams participated in the event. The final game was Parkland Elementary versus Mountain Christian School with Mountain Christian School taking 1st place. Congratulations to all the players!

Tumbler Ridge Secondary and **Chetwynd Secondary** attended a career fair on March 10th hosted by Saulneau First Nations. The event allows students to obtain information on a wide variety of careers and post-secondary opportunities.

Parkland Elementary has been learning American Sign Language (ASL) this term. They are able to sign O'Canada and We are the Champions in ASL. They are all also working on reading body language, facial expressions and hand shapes in order to assist ASL conversations.

The **Crescent Park** kindergarten class and the Leadership class from **DCSS – Central Campus** have partnered together for a project. Students are paired together from each class and have been exchanging letters. The students from DCSS also visited their kindergarten buddies to visit in person on March 11, 2020.

DCSS – Central Campus raised awareness surrounding the Moose Hide Campaign, a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys that are standing up against violence towards women and children. The students wore moose hide pins and educational displays were set up in the hallways. On February 26th, "Pink Shirt Day," the Leadership class and Police Officer liaison for the school visited each class to talk about bullying. The entire school had a symbolic joining together against bullying and students were given pink bandanas.

Ecole Frank Ross held a science fair and will be sending 24 students to the regional competition in Fort St. John. The French immersion students participated in the bi-annual public speaking/concours event and the school held a French cultural event called Tombola on March 5th.

DCSS – South Peace Campus held a career day on March 12th. On April 17th the school is hosting its first ever Mental Health Summit, there are 48 sessions planned for students that day and the keynote address will be delivered by former NHL player Jordin Tootoo. A special thanks to the community businesses and organizations that have helped sponsor this event.

2020/21 School Calendar

The Board reviewed feedback submitted on the draft calendar. Six of the seven individuals that provided feedback requested that Spring Break be attached to the Easter long weekend. Assistant Superintendent Christy Fennell confirmed that current contract language dictates that spring break start the third Monday in March, thus Spring Break is unable to be attached to Easter. The Board adopted the 2020-21 School Calendar as presented. The approved calendar will be placed on the School District website.

Before and After School Care Legislation

Under current legislation before and after school care located on school district properties must be operated by third party contractors, new legislation has been tabled that will allow school boards to directly operate these programs. Currently School District #59 will not be exploring operating before and after school care themselves, we will continue to support access to available spaces within facilities to third party operators. We are currently partnering with the YMCA for an after-school care program within Little Prairie Elementary that will open March 30, 2020.

Coronavirus Update

The school district continues to remain in communication and take direction from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. The district will continue to keep the community informed with information they receive in regard to COVID 19. Please refer to the school district website for information already sent out to parents, as well as, further updates.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2020/21 Capital Budget & Bylaw

The district will receive Ministry Capital funding for phase three of the DCSS-South Peace Campus heating upgrade (\$850,000), Devereaux roof replacement (\$230,000), Ecole Frank Ross flooring upgrade (\$110,000) and three new buses (\$421,632). Furthermore, the board received preliminary support for two major capital projects, Pouce Coupe Elementary addition and the Rolla Elementary demolition. Additional steps are required to completed before the Ministry of Education will approve funding for these major capital projects.

Funding Model Update

Following the completion of the funding formula review, the Ministry of Education will implement recommendations with a two-phase plan, beginning with 12 of the 22 recommendations. A new supplement was also announced that will support BC's children and youth in care, this change will also expand funding to more children with mental-health challenges and those living in low-income families.

Trustee Items:

SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Challenges) Analysis

District staff have completed a SWOC analysis within all schools and with various partner groups to assist with the development of the next strategic plan. Staff and the Board will be meeting in April to review the data collected to discover common themes.

Superintendent Position

The Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Christy Fennell to the position of Superintendent effective August 1, 2020.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The board adopted the following policies as presented or amended:

- Policy 2205 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Recognition (as presented)
- Policy 2260 Communication with the Public (as amended)

The policy committee brought forward the following policies for circulation:

- Policy 4200 Career Development Education
- Policy 4580 Electronic/Social Media Communication and Information Access – Students

Policies will be circulated for a minimum 45 days. Feedback will be accepted in writing to Candace Clouthier at cclouthi@sd59.bc.ca until April 27, 2020.

The board passed the first two readings of Bylaw 3-08: Student Appeals. The bylaw will be circulated for public feedback. The third reading will be presented in the next regular board meeting scheduled for April 23, 2020.

Policies for review are posted on the school district website main page at: www.sd59.bc.ca.

Current policies and bylaws are posted on the school district website at: <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/policies>.

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
March 17-27, 2020	Spring Break – Schools are closed
April 10, 2020	Good Friday – Schools are closed
April 13, 2020	Easter Monday – Schools are closed
April 23, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1pm @ School Board Office
May 1, 2020	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
May 28, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm @ Tumbler Ridge (Northern Lights College)