



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for October 25, 2023

The board visited Moberly Lake Elementary in the morning and was greeted with fresh bannock and canned pears along with kindness notes from the students. Students led the board on a school tour. Thank-you.

Presentations:

Windrem Elementary K,1,2 class Presentation

Students from Mrs. Salman's class presented a rhyme performance for the board. The students were excited to sing and do actions in reference to the poem "Itsy Bitsy Spider".

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Schools recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by participating in Orange Shirt day. Schools held many activities related to Truth and Reconciliation throughout the week which included, decorating flags and murals, community marches, crafts, rock painting, and school assemblies.



The district cross country running club has over 100 participants.





Canalta Elementary students are participating in sight blitzes, the grade 6/7 class visited Pioneer Village, the school is focusing on team building activities, the school held Dear Day, which is Drop Everything and Read! The potato fundraiser was a huge success!



Tremblay has a golden garbage can that gets awarded to the cleanest class of the week. The class is chosen by the school custodian.



Tumbler Ridge Secondary School invited a local knowledge keeper to come in and teach beading to students, the students in the woodshop class are busy building projects already.



Moberly Lake Elementary School held a thanksgiving dinner for students and family. Students have also participated in bus evacuation training and are having fun learning drumming and singing.

Ecole Frank Ross has held many athletic and community building activities; the whole school participated in a Kindness assembly.



All schools participated in Terry Fox runs. Ecole Frank Ross went above and beyond and held a fundraiser which involved taping their principals to the wall. The students raised \$2500 for the Terry Fox Foundation.



Devereaux Elementary students had fun rock painting and gave their buddy bench an update with an Indigenous focus.



Don Titus Elementary students have participated in community walks in the forest, STEM challenges, day trips to Gwillim Lake and they were excited to build their first snowman of the year!

U-18 Hockey Canada Teams will be in the district from November 5-11, 2023. Some schools will be hosting team visits and have the opportunity to go to a game.

Enhancing Student Learning Report

The 2022-23 Enhancing Student Learning (ESL) report was presented to the Board. This is a formal document that is used to set, create and maintain a strategic plan, annually report on student outcomes and put systems in place with a focus on enhancing student learning and success. It combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the provincial K-12 public system, including Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities or diverse abilities.

The district continues to have challenges in recruitment and retention. In 2023, the district created a partnership with a job search company (Indeed) to assist with employment recruitment. The district has also implemented a K-3 primary numeracy project to target numeracy at an early age.

Accessibility Plan

The Accessible British Columbia Act aims to support the identification, prevention, and removal of barriers that people with disabilities face in their day-to-day lives.

Jointly developed with districts in Northern British Columbia, the Northern BC School District Accessibility Plan outlines the commitments, support, prevention and removal of barriers specific to accessibility. The full plan is available on the school district website at <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/accessibility>.

The plan also comes with a feedback mechanism that individuals can access to provide feedback about accessibility in our organization.

Sr. Girls AAA Volleyball Provincials

Dawson Creek Secondary School is excited to host the Senior Girls AAA Volleyball Championships to be held November 30, 2023 to December 2, 2023. The event isn't commonly held outside of the lower mainland so being selected to host the provincial championships is a rare opportunity. The event will be held at the Dawson Creek Memorial Arena; School District No. 59 (PRS) students have been invited to watch games on November 30th. Thank-you to the host committee and community organizations that are helping support the event.

Secretary Treasurer

The Superintendent announced the current Secretary Treasurer, Melissa Panoulas, will be leaving the district at the end of the month. The Superintendent recognized Mrs. Panoulas for her work with the board and the district. The Superintendent thanked her for her nine years of service and her focus on keeping students first in decision making. The Board Chair also thanked Mrs. Panoulas for her time with the district and wished her well in her new endeavor.

Kim Morris has been appointed as the new Secretary Treasurer and will begin her position with the district November 6, 2023. Ms. Morris comes to the district with previous Secretary Treasurer experience as she has worked for other school districts in the province.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2023-24 Final Enrollment

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the final enrolment count as of September 30, 2023. There was a slight decrease from the preliminary as reported in the September board meeting. The final enrolment count is 3730.9 FTE.

Executive Compensation Disclosure

The 2022-23 Executive Compensation Disclosure report was presented. The report is an annual reporting requirement which includes the compensation philosophy of the district, including labour market comparators, cash and non-cash compensation, compensation administration and accountability. The disclosure includes the top five executive level decision makers with compensation over \$125,000. The report is reviewed by both BCPSEA and PSEC.

Capital Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD59-03

Capital Bylaw No. 2023/24-CPSD59-03 was presented to the Board for approval. This bylaw is an update to the capital plan bylaw that was read in March 2023. An updated response letter was received on September 27, 2023 which included new funding for capital projects. Capital bylaw no. 2023/24-CPSD59-03 was read and adopted.

Trustee Items:

BCSTA Update

Trustees attended the Northern Interior Branch meeting in Prince George on October 13-14, 2023. The meeting was a joint meeting with the Central Interior Branch; the group focused on advocacy. Trustee Gulick attended Provincial Council on October 20-21, 2023. Trustee Gulick highlighted the motions passed at the meeting.

The Board Chair attended a Chair's Advocacy Day in Victoria. Board Chair's had the opportunity to meet with their MLA's and had a discussion about priorities of the boards (Improving student outcomes, recruitment and retention, Capital and deferred maintenance).

The BCSTA Trustee Academy will be held in Vancouver November 23-26, 2023.

Student Voice Presentation

The board passed a motion that directs staff to work with the student voice group on their recommendations as presented at the board meeting held on June 28, 2023; with the purpose being to gather the cost of those recommendations and prioritize with Operations which ones can be completed. The recommendations will be included in the data for the next strategic plan.

Letter of Recommendation

The board passed a motion to write a letter of support to UNBC to encourage a Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education program. The program would allow students to stay and work in their home community while obtaining a Bachelor of Education.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Councils

The Indigenous Education Councils set new goals for this year which will focus on relationships. The position for a full time Indigenous Education Assistant has been filled. Both councils were presented information about the feeding futures grant and the accessibility plan that was jointly developed between the northern school districts. The Truth and Reconciliation assembly at Chetwynd Secondary School was very powerful. Councils reviewed the goals of the Enhancement Agreement and the Indigenous Education budget and how 1701 enrollment correlates to Indigenous Education.

Policy Committee:

Changes were made to the following regulations to reflect current practice:

- Regulation 4209 Energy Management and Sustainability
- Regulation 4570 Emergency Preparedness

All policies are posted on the school district website. (www.sd59.bc.ca).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
November 11, 2023	Remembrance Day
November 13, 2023	Remembrance Day Stat – Schools Closed
November 15 & 16, 2023	Early Dismissal Days – students are dismissed 1 hr earlier
November 27, 2023	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
November 29, 2023	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
December 20, 2023	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
December 25 - January 5, 2023	Winter Break – Schools Closed

