



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for September 23, 2020

The Board held their annual organizational meeting to elect a board chair and vice-chair and appoint committee reps and liaisons.

The Board congratulates Trustee Chad Anderson in continuing in the position as Board Chair and Trustee Crystal Hillton in continuing in the position as Vice-Chair.



Presentations:

Auditor Presentation: Sander Rose Bone Grindle

The Financial Statements for SD59 were presented by the audit partner, Mr. Jaron Neufeld. The Financial Statements presented fairly, in all material respects, and no major concerns were identified.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Audited Financial Statements

The district reported an operating surplus of \$742,051 for the 2019/2020 school year. As of June 30, 2020, an operating reserve balance of \$7.1 million is available, of which \$1.2 is internally restricted.

For additional details on the 2019/2020 Financial Statements please see the new Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis report that provides readers with a more comprehensive understanding of the financial activities of the district. The information contained in this report goes beyond what Financial Statements alone can provide. This report is available on the district website under District Info – Financial Information.

Pouce Coupe School Addition Update

The Secretary Treasurer reported that during the regular closed meeting of the board a proposed cost share percentage in support of the Pouce Coupe Elementary School addition was agreed upon. The approval will be presented to the Ministry of Education as part of the Concept Plan phase of the project.

Transportation Assistance Allowance

Transportation allowance is available to support students that are eligible for transportation services but have been denied due to circumstances other than student behaviour. The board approved a change to the transportation assistance allowance from the existing rate of \$0.15 per KM per day, plus \$0.30 per day for each student to \$0.25 per kilometre to a maximum of \$12 per day.

Preliminary Enrollment

Preliminary enrolment numbers were presented, final enrolment will be presented at the October meeting after the September 30th 1701 process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in enrollment are continuing daily for some schools. Of the 3604 student, 146 students have enrolled in the distributed learning model.

COVID-19 Funding

Additional investments are being made to support a safe return to school for students and staff. School District No.59 will receive an additional \$313,770 from a provincial Safe Return to School Grant. The federal government will be providing additional funding under the Safe Return to Class Fund. The

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funding will be presented in two instalments. The first instalment is \$646,118 and the district is operating under the assumption the second instalment will be of a similar amount. The district has already allocated additional resources from these funds and will continue to assess the need as we proceed through the school year. Both of these funds are one-time and need to be spent by June 30, 2021.

Property Update

The Secretary Treasurer presented that the sale of O’Brien Education Centre closed for \$450,000 on August 31, 2020. The proceeds will be apportioned 25% to local capital funds and 75% as minister-restricted funds.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Don Titus Montessori took their intermediate class on a day field trip to Gwillim Lake. A great day was had by all students enjoying the outdoors in their learning cohort.



Mrs. Harris’ class at Crescent Park Elementary is bringing the outdoors inside. Mrs. Harris is creating a reading nook complete with a canoe, tent, chairs and a pretend firepit.



Staff and students at Tremblay Elementary showed an amazing organized restart. Staff, students and parents were all excited to see each other outside and find their new entrances.

Pouce Coupe Elementary will be receiving new handwashing stations in the portable classrooms.

Dawson Creek Secondary has been busy organizing their cohorts and timetabling. Students and staff are adapting to the changes. Students were excited to receive Tim Horton’s “smile” cookies delivered by robots made by the robotics class.



Creative bulletin boards are welcoming students and staff back in every school.

Return to School Update – COVID-19

The Superintendent spoke about the cohort structures put in place at schools across the district, with different cohort groups using separate learning spaces, entry and exits, having different break times and areas of the playground. All schools have protocols and guidelines to follow which include standardized use of personal protective equipment, physical distancing, health and safety protocols, including cleaning and what to do when you are sick. The protocols will be adapted as new information and direction is received from the Ministry of Education and provincial and local health authorities.

All the schools worked hard on developing a safe back to school plan which included a student orientation component and managing the scheduling of students. Some of the high schools had to change their timetable format to initiate cohorts and limit the number of transitions for students and staff in a day. CSS and TRSS are on a semester-based timetable. DCSS-Central Campus is semester based

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for the first time in recent memory. DCSS-South Peace Campus is now on a quarterly or Copernican system where students take only two classes at a time for a 9-week period.

The district is providing a K-9 distributed learning program to accommodate students who are not ready or willing to return to face-to-face instruction. There is a lot of work being done to get the program off the ground as the district has previously only offered distributed learning in grades 10-12.

School District No.59 (PRS) was made aware by Northern Health that there was an exposure at Ecole Frank Ross Elementary School on September 10-11, 2020 to a confirmed COVID-19 case. The district works with Northern Health and the Medical Health Officer and follows their guidance in these situations. Please be reassured that our schools will continue to implement the strict protocols and procedures we have in place so that children can continue to attend school as safely as possible.

International Field Trips Update

The Ministry of Education has given a directive that student international field trips be cancelled for the 2020-21 school year. Tumbler Ridge Secondary and Dawson Creek Secondary schools both had international field trips scheduled for the spring of 2021. The board passed a motion supporting direction from the Ministry to ban all student international travel.

Trustee Items:

Recording Board Meetings

The board discussed a motion that was brought forward proposing to record open board meetings. After discussion the motion was defeated.

2020-21 Committees and Representatives

As part of the Organization Meeting, the board assigned committee and school representatives for the 2020-21 school year.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The board adopted the following policies as presented:

- Policy 2320 School Closure
- Policy 2350 Organizational Chart
- Policy 3000 Hiring Personnel
- Policy 4050 Grade Placement of Students
- Policy 4500 Communicable Disease
- Policy 4560 Visits to the Schools
- Policy 4570 Emergency Preparedness
- Regulation 6070.1 – School Bus Transportation: Walk Limits
- Regulation 6070.4 – School Bus Transportation: School Bus Passengers
- Regulation 6070.5 – School Bus Transportation: Operating Regulations
- Regulation 6070.6 – School Bus Transportation: Transportation Assistance Allowance

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

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
September 28, 2020	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
October 12, 2020	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools are closed
October 21, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (CSS - Chetwynd)
November 11, 2020	Remembrance Day Holiday – Schools are closed
November 18-19, 2020	Early Dismissal Days – Schools end 1 hr earlier
November 25, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)
December 16, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)



Mrs. Hiebert at Canalta Elementary School