

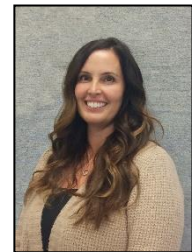


# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

## **Board Highlights for September, 2023**

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:***

#### **Artwork Presentation – W. Lariviere**

Mr. Lariviere was on hand to present the artwork that was created at the Leadership Retreat held at the district outdoor education site at Gwillim Lake at the end of August for Administrators and Senior Leadership. The artwork represents the collective work of five groups with an overarching theme of connectedness, leadership and stewardship of the land. All the groups started with a discussion about “Who we are”, and then decided as a group what they would paint. The process allowed the individuals to come together and make a connection with themselves, their group and the land.



#### **Auditor Presentation – J. Neufeld, Sander Rose Bone Grindle**

Mr. Neufeld from Sander Rose Bone Grindle accounting firm presented the audit report to the Board. The auditor found the financial statements to present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with all required regulations.



### ***Superintendent of Schools Report:***

#### **School/Student News**

Canalta Elementary students are excited to have a new universal accessible playground plus the new buddy bench that helps students find a buddy when they need one.



Members of the Principal Association and Senior Administration attended a Leadership Retreat at Gwillim Lake in August to prepare for the new school year. The theme of the retreat was compassionate leadership and caring schools. The group participated in team building activities on Sunday and leadership activities on Monday.



Schools are welcoming students, staff, and parents to their schools by hosting "Welcome Back" events.

Muffin Mornings are very popular!



Chetwynd Secondary School is back in full swing and already having Spirit Days. Staff and students were challenged to wear jerseys with the winning class receiving ice cream vouchers from the local bistro!



Schools are planning activities for the annual Terry Fox Run. Canalta Elementary was excited to receive their Terry Fox shirt designed with input from Ryan Reynolds! The shirt features messages Terry and his family received both past and present, and celebrates how his story and legacy continues to inspire people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities in Canada and beyond.

Moberly Lake Elementary is participating in a community event to celebrate 10 years of caribou recovery work. Moberly Lake Elementary has been actively involved in the Caribou Recovery Program that has seen the herd grow from 16 to 128 caribou thanks to the efforts of the recovery program.

The bulletin boards at schools are an important staple in schools as they create a welcoming culture for everyone. Everyone loves walking in and seeing all the great bulletin boards that not only showcases student work but also provides encouragement, kindness, and inspiring messages.



The library at Little Prairie Elementary School has been transformed into Hogwarts School of Reading. Students are excited to become reading wizards!

### Feeding Futures

The Feeding Futures program is aimed to address the immediate need of feeding students and builds on the progress made with Student and Family Affordability Fund to help reduce the challenges of rising food costs for families who need it most. The district has created a staffing position to assist schools in managing this program.

### New Reporting Order

A New Reporting Order has come into effect this school year. The use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale (Grades K-9) or letter grades and percentages (Grades 10-12) gives students, parents, and caregivers a clear understanding of what students can already do and areas for future growth. Classroom assessment and reporting that is focused on student proficiency in relation to the established learning standards, rather than on marks, leads to increased student engagement and deeper learning that transfers into life outside the classroom. Descriptive feedback provides students, parents, and caregivers with a clear understanding of both what students can already do and areas for future growth.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has released additional K-12 Student Reporting Policy implementation support materials. Resources are available for educators as well as parents and caregivers. More information is available on the Ministry website under the 'Reporting' tab at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

### **New Strategic Plan Timeline**

The Board of Education is in the final year of their 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. A strategic plan sets priorities of the Board and establishes goals and accountability that fosters student success in aligning with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's mandate to develop the "**Educated Citizen**," through support of the BC school system to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

The Superintendent will work with the Board of Education to complete an environment scan which will include input from students, parents, staff, community partners, and stakeholders. Themes will be pulled from the environmental scan which will assist the board in setting priorities and developing goals for the new four year strategic plan to be completed by June 2024.

### ***Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:***

#### **Audited Financial Statements**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements and provided further details of the statements in the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis report. The district reported a total Operating Deficit of \$591,680 for the June 30, 2023 year-end. As of June 30, 2023, an operating reserve balance of \$9,493,672 is available, of which \$2.3 million is internally restricted.

For additional details on the 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements please see the 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.

The Board of Education adopted the 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

#### **Preliminary Enrollment**

Preliminary enrollment numbers were presented at 3739 FTE. Final enrollment will be presented at the October meeting after the September 29<sup>th</sup> 1701 process. Overall, the district is estimating to be up 54 FTE from projected enrollment.

#### **2024-25 Minor Capital Plan**

The Board of Education approved the 2024-25 Minor Capital Plan as presented. The plan is submitted to the Ministry of Education as a request for funds. The Ministry reviews all submissions and will notify the district the following spring if they were successful on any of their submissions.

### ***Trustee Items:***

#### **Recognition, Appreciation, and Condolences**

Trustee Anderson brought forward a motion to revoke the previous process for recognition, appreciation, and condolence practices on behalf of the board to allow the Board Chair the responsibility as spokesperson of the board. The board adopted the motion presented, returning the responsibility for such communications to the Chair.

**2023-24 Board Committee & Reps**

The Board assigned trustees to standing committees and schools for the 2023-24 school year, effective October 1, 2023.

**Committee Reports:**

**Policy Committee:**

The board adopted Policy 5140 Moving Assistance. No changes were made during the feedback period.

All policies are posted on the school district website. ([www.sd59.bc.ca](http://www.sd59.bc.ca)).

**Upcoming Dates:**

Date:	Event:
September 29, 2023	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events at all schools
September 30, 2023	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 2, 2023	Schools Closed to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Stat – Schools Closed
October 20, 2023	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
October 25, 2023	Public Board Meeting – Chetwynd

