



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for September 2026

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Central staff worked together to beautify the school before students arrived on the 1st day. The school also held a school wide assembly to start off the new school year.



Canalta Elementary School is excited to start the new year with a new logo painted by Wayne Lariviere that is at the entrance of the school. Students are learning about Boreal Outdoor Education and already have had a presentation from the Forestry Office.

Devereaux Elementary students were excited to find a new universally accessible playground was installed over the summer. The school also hosted their annual Muffin Morning to welcome students and families to the new school year.

Windrem Elementary School enjoyed a whole school wide trip to the Gwillim Outdoor Education site.



Little Prairie Elementary students are working on fine motor skills by using a variety of items and textiles to write their names. The school librarian was dressed in costume to engage students in reading.



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Other district news:

- A leadership retreat for administrators and senior leadership was held at the district's outdoor education site at Gwillim Lake in late August.
- The senior leadership team attended the BCSSA conference planning session for the 2026/27 school year.
- Before school started, the district hosted an orientation session for new teachers and training for individuals teaching on Letter of Permission, as well as specific training for Education Assistants.
- The Enhancing Student Learning report is being drafted and will be presented in the October board meeting.
- Orange Shirt Day will be celebrated on September 29, 2026.

The following Principal and Vice-Principal appointments have been announced:

- DCSS South Peace – Principal – Jeff Corcoran
- DCSS South Peace – Vice Principal – Meghan Haugen
- DCSS Central – Vice Principal – Joanne Dueck
- Chetwynd Secondary – Principal – Trisha Warncke
- Chetwynd Secondary – Vice-Principal – Michael Lukey
- Tumbler Ridge Secondary – Vice Principal – Cedar Wechlin
- Ecole Frank Ross – Vice Principal – Heather Regner
- McLeod Elementary – Principal – Rebecca Harnden

Childcare / Early Learning Updates

The before and after school care at Crescent Park will be expanding to add an additional 12 new seats and a new program at Canalta Elementary School is also opening that will provide 24 new spaces. Funding for the expansion renovations is through the ChildCare BC Operational Start-Up Fund.

The beginning stages of two new builds for full day childcare through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund has started. One Centre is being built at Tremblay Elementary School, and the other is in Tumbler Ridge. In total, 74 new childcare spaces will be available in Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge to provide support for families with young children. This initiative was part of the new spaces grants approved in 2023.

Tumbler Ridge Update

The removal of the existing school was completed over the summer along with remediation of the land. Every effort was made to carry out this work in a way that respected the significance of the site and minimized disruption to students, families, and the broader community. A key date

was July 21, 2026 in which a small symbolic event was held to lower the flags and take down of the school sign.

Construction has begun for a new tilt up gym, and a RFP has been issued for preliminary site work on a proposed new school site.

Reports from the Secretary Treasurer:

2025-2026 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Grindle from Eclipse LLP presented the Independent Auditor's Report. The audit found the financial statements to present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the School District as at June 30, 2026, and the result of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section 23.1 of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act of the Province of BC.

The Board approved the audited financial statements for year ending June 30, 2026.

2026-2027 Preliminary Enrolment

The preliminary enrolment is currently being reported at 3,544.25 FTE, an increase of 68.25 FTE (2%) from the spring projections; however, preliminary numbers are showing an overall decline of 101.75 FTE (3%) from the previous school year. The favourable variance from the projections in the spring is concentrated in secondary enrolment, particularly at DCSS South Peace Campus and a notable increase in enrolment at the elementary level at Tremblay Elementary School.

The Board approved an information enrolment review of Chetwynd schools.

2027-2028 Minor Capital Submission

The Board approved the 2027-2028 Minor Capital submission as provided on the Capital Plan Summary for 2027/28 submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure.

2026 General School Trustee Election Update

An Election by Voting will be held in three of the four trustee electoral areas. On September 21, 2026 an Election by Voting was declared in TEA II (Tumbler Ridge), TEA III (Dawson Creek) and TEA IV (Rural areas surround Dawson Creek, including Pouce Coupe and contiguous rural area).

Additionally, Candidates in TEA I (Chetwynd) were acclaimed.

Key Election Dates:

Advance Voting Days – October 7 & 14 (where applicable)

General Voting Day – October 17, 2026

More information about the election and where to vote can be found on the District's website at [2026 General School Trustee Election | School District 59](#).



Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Significant work was completed over the summer to have the school ready for the start of the new school year. An additional change order was submitted over the summer to address safety and accessibility needs, including improving drainage. The \$194,028 increase in the total project cost has increased the total project budget from its initial budget (which included a contingency) of \$9.2 million to \$9.21 million.

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

The construction of the childcare centres in Dawson Creek (\$4,859,558.44) and Tumbler Ridge (\$4,994,236) to C. Chandler Contracting Celtic Construction Ltd.

Excavation for services started for both centres in mid-August and work on footings/foundation began. Pilings and tying in of water and sewer were started on the centre in Dawson Creek which will be located at Tremblay Elementary School.

Capital project updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

Tumbler Ridge Campus

The new centre complex was installed over the summer. The remaining wildfire portables were removed and the Kodiak Campus parking lot construction was completed.

On July 21, 2026, the School District and the Government of British Columbia entered into a memorandum of agreement to dispose of, through remediation, a school building and associated site improvements in the community of Tumbler Ridge.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Partners' Advisory Council (Dawson Creek)

Trustee Jones reported the Dawson Creek council met on September 22, 2026. The meeting focussed on review of the draft copy of the Learning Enhancement Agreement.

Indigenous Education Council

Trustee Hillton reported the Indigenous Education Council met on September 21, 2026. Council reviewed recent data and continued to work on developing goals for the Enhancement Agreement.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee revised Policy & Regulation 2205 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Recognition. The Board approved to circulate the revised policy for feedback.

Feedback will be accepted until October 30, 2026. Please email feedback to cfennell@sd59.bc.ca.

Policies are available for review on the district website: [District Policies | School District 59](https://sd59.bc.ca/district-policies).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
September 30, 2026	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – schools are closed
October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving Stat – schools are closed
October 7 & 14, 2026	Advance Voting Days (where applicable) – 2026 General Election
October 17, 2026	General Voting Day – 2026 General Election
October 21, 2026	Public Board Meeting – Chetwynd Location TBD
October 23, 2026	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
November 2, 2026	Inaugural Meeting of New Board of Education – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
November 11, 2026	Remembrance Day Stat – schools are closed
November 18, 2026	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek

Leadership Retreat at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor and Environmental Education Site

