



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for May 2018

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

The Great Adventure Race occurred last weekend at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor Education Site at Gwillim Lake. 42 students participated in the event ranging from grades 6 to 11. Students raced 26 km in teams of three. The race had three wilderness travel components: trekking, biking and canoeing. Students demonstrated grit and tenacity as they overcame mental and physical challenges. The race was designed to provide students with an opportunity to be active in nature and to build community among students, teachers and parents at the Pat O'Reilly Outdoor and Environmental Studies Centre.



The event would not have been possible without the support of sponsor teachers and dozens of parents who came out in support of the weekend challenge and helped make it a huge success.



The Equity Scan committee met in Vancouver, this is a collaboration project with the Aboriginal Education Branch of the Ministry of Education. Christy Fennel, Director of Instruction, presented SD 59 data on aboriginal achievement, we are well along the path of achieving equity in our district. Our work ensuring Aboriginal students are as successful as non-Aboriginal students was highlighted in the Deputy Minister's report to Superintendents as key work in the province. Read the full article on the school district website, www.sd59.bc.ca.



"Goal setting is the best! It reminds us that we are never finished until we are finished! We can always work at things and make them better. Also, FAIL means our first attempt! Always try again! It is always nice to talk about what we're thinking about working on. It means someone is cheering us on!"

Nevada, Grade 5, Parkland Elementary

Assessments and field trips are happening in most schools in the district throughout the remainder of the year. There are many out of district field trips, including school trips to Vancouver, Edmonton and Barkerville.

The StrongStart program presently housed at Tumbler Ridge Elementary will be moved to Tumbler Ridge Secondary effective September 2018. This move is a result of increased enrolment at Tumbler Ridge Elementary resulting in a need for space. There are also plans to involve students from Tumbler Ridge Secondary in practicum and coursework in the Early Learning area.

Personnel Announcements

The district is pleased to announce the following administrative appointments effective August 1, 2018:

- Christy Fennell: Assistant Superintendent
- Shawnese Trottier: Principal - Tremblay Elementary
- Shaun Henry: Principal - Ecole Frank Ross

International Field Trip Update

A change in location of a previously approved field trip planning process was presented to the Board of Education. The location of the trip has been moved from Ecuador to Peru. The Board approved a motion to allow the continued planning for this field trip.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Interim Audit

The 2017/18 interim audit has been completed and audit procedures to date have revealed no major weaknesses in internal controls.

Capacity Review

Secretary Treasurer presented a capacity summary of all schools in the district. Given the 0% utilization of the Rolla School that was closed June 2017 the board approved proceeding with the disposal of the property.

Also discussed was the capacity utilization rates within Chetwynd Elementary schools. Maintaining schools with low enrollment numbers increases complexities with class size and composition and results in higher costs for education, administration, utilities, custodial and maintenance.

The Secretary Treasurer is recommending the board review enrollment numbers in the fall to determine if there is a more effective way to utilize building capacity with the possibility of an elementary school closure in Chetwynd when final enrollment numbers are known.

Property Acquisition

The board approved proceeding with the acquisition of a small parcel of land owned by the District of Tumbler Ridge which currently has a playground on it. All costs of the transfer will be incurred by the District of Tumbler Ridge. Further, the District of Tumbler Ridge has committed to covering 50% of the costs associated with the purchase and installation of a new playground when the existing wooden structure is removed. This has been tentatively scheduled to be installed during the summer of 2019.

Trustee Items:

BCSTA Service Recognition

Trustees received recognition from BCSTA for their service.

- Crystal Hillton 1 term
- Nicole Soontiens 1 term
- Andrea Smith 1 term
- Tamara Ziemer 3 terms
- Richard Powell 4 terms
- Sherry Berringer 4 terms
- Wayne Ezeard Life Member (24 Years)



Election Information Sessions

Information sessions will be held in each community for anyone interested in becoming a school trustee. Information will be presented on roles and responsibilities of a school trustee and the general election process. The General School Election will be held in October 2018.

Information sessions will be held at:

- Dawson Creek – June 7th, 2018 @ 7 pm - School Board Office (11600-7th Street)
- Chetwynd – June 12th, 2018 @ 7 pm – Chetwynd Secondary School (5000-46th Street)
- Tumbler Ridge – June 14th, 2018 @ 6 pm – Tumbler Ridge Secondary School – 180 Southgate

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The following policies were adopted:

- Policy and Regulation 2020: Trustee Electoral Areas
- Policy and Regulation 5005: Budget Monitoring and Reporting
- Policy and Regulation 5010: Accumulated Operating Surplus
- Policy 5040: Chief Election Officer

All school district policies and bylaws are available for viewing on the school district website, www.sd59.bc.ca.

Date:	Event:
June 7, 2018	Election Information Session – Dawson Creek – 7 pm
June 8, 2018	Non-Instructional Day - students do not attend school
June 12, 2018	Election Information Session – Chetwynd -7 pm
June 14, 2018	Election Information Session – Tumbler Ridge – 6 pm
June 20, 2018	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm @ School Board Office
June 22, 2018	DCSS Graduation Ceremonies
June 23, 2018	Chetwynd & Tumbler Ridge Graduation Ceremonies
June 28, 2018	Last day of school for students
September 6, 2018	First day of school – students start 2 hrs late and end 1 hr early