



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for September 2018

Presentations:

Auditor Presentation: Sander Rose Bone Grindle

The Financial Statements for SD 59 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 \$324,877 for the 2017/18 fiscal year. As of June 30, 2018, an operating reserve balance of \$7 million is available, of which \$5.4 million is restricted funds.

Preliminary Enrollment

Preliminary enrolment numbers were presented. Overall the district is estimating to be up 76 FTE from projected enrollment.

Chetwynd School Review

As follow-up to the capacity review completed last spring Secretary Treasurer, Melissa Panoulias, presented preliminary fall enrollment numbers for all Chetwynd Elementary Schools. The overall utilization rate of the elementary schools currently is 58%. By combining the students into two schools the utilization rate would increase to 81%, this would still leave room for an additional 91 students if enrollment were to continue to grow.

The Board approved a recommendation to proceed with the process of a school closure review of Don Titus Montessori. Little Prairie is the newest school and has the highest utilization rate. Don Titus Montessori was chosen for review as opposed to Windrem due to the district's increased ability to maintain Windrem (more information is available in the September 19, 2018 open board meeting package available on the School District website). As part of the process, the school of choice Montessori program would be considered.

The board approval will grant the district time to continue to gather data to present to the board to determine if a school closure should proceed. The complete school closure process would involve public consultation and three bylaw readings, each bylaw reading will require a vote by the board.

Pouce Coupe New Classroom

Last year Pouce Coupe Elementary School was operating at capacity and students were being directed to register at a school in Dawson Creek. The Secretary Treasure was able to work collaboratively with the Village of Pouce Coupe and the Pouce Coupe Public Library Board to construct a temporary classroom space within the public library. The space was converted this summer and there are currently 18 Kindergartens in the new classroom.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Start-up of the year has been very positive. The new Superintendent, Candace Clouthier, visited the majority of the schools already this year; staff and students are excited to be back and looking forward to learning.

Student Discipline

There were 15 suspensions in total for the month of June, with most of the suspensions connected to fighting, safety of others and non-compliance.

A report was presented looking at suspension trends for the last eight years. The suspension rate per FTE was 6.67% last year, this is within the eight-year average of 6.99%. Further details were broken out per incident area and schools.

Personnel Announcements

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

- Cynthia Percy: Vice-Principal – DCSS - Central campus
- Jeff Corcoran: Vice-Principal – Ecole Frank Ross
- Randy Parr: Vice-Principal – Tremblay Elementary

Staffing Issues

This has been another difficult year to fill staff postings. The hiring staff anticipated having a shortage of teachers this fall and started the hiring process in January. The District currently has 6 positions posted, which equals approximately 3.0 FTE, with the anticipation of more vacancies to fill. Currently there are 10.18 FTE Letter of Permission positions in the district. The District provides training and mentorship to all of these individuals.

Class Size and Composition

Principals are working on resolving any class size and composition issues they may have. Any situations that are unable to be resolved by the end of September will result in remedies for the teachers affected.

Policy Committee

Changes were made to the DRAFT version of Policy/Regulation 4075: Diversity and Inclusion, therefore it is being recirculated until the next board meeting. This policy includes information from Policy 4080: Learning Services-Inclusion and Policy 4090: Diversity in Schools. These two policies would be repealed if Policy 4075 is approved.

The policies may be found on the school district website (www.sd59.bc.ca). Feedback may be made in writing to Candace Clouthier at cclouthi@sd59.bc.ca before October 17, 2018. Approval of the policy will be brought forward at the October board meeting.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates:

Date:	Event:
October 8, 2018	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools are closed.
October 10 & 17, 2018	Advance Voting Opportunity – Electoral Area I & IV (Refer to the Notice of Election by Voting posted on the School District Website for location and times)
October 20, 2018	General Voting Day – Your Vote Counts!
October 22 & 23, 2018	Non-Instructional Days – Students do not attend school.
October 24, 2018	Public Board Meeting – 1 pm – School Board Office, Dawson Creek
November 5, 2018	First Day New Trustees can take office
November 21, 2018	Public Board Meeting – 1 pm – School Board Office, Dawson Creek