



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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## **Board Highlights for September 2017**

The Trustees started their day at DCSS-South Peace Campus with a tour of the Learning Commons (previously known as the library). Highlights of the tour included a discussion of the increased use by students and teachers in the new, re-imagined learning hub!

### ***Presentation:***

#### ***Auditor Presentation: Sander Rose Bone Grindle***

The Financial Statements for SD 59 were presented by the auditor, Mr. Neufeld. The financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, and no major concerns were identified.

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

#### **Student Discipline**

There were 20 suspensions in total for the month of June, with most of the suspensions connected to safety of others and non-compliance.

#### **Staffing Issues**

This year has been an unusually difficult year for the recruitment and retention of teachers. The district currently has three teaching positions that have not been filled even with a concerted effort to continue the hiring process over the summer. The district will continue to work at filling these positions.

#### **Administrative Announcements**

Mike Readman, District Principal, received an appointment to Director of Instruction for SD 59.

#### **Class Size and Composition**

All classes in the district are in compliance with class size expectations; however, there are a few classes that have exceeded expectations around composition. The district will work with the union to seek remedies in those classes.

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

#### **Audited Financial Statements**

The district reported an operating surplus of \$701,550 for the 2016/17 fiscal year. As of June 30, 2017, an operating reserve balance of \$6.7 million is available, of which \$3.2 million is restricted funds.

#### **Preliminary Enrolment**

Preliminary enrolment numbers were presented. Overall the district is estimating to be up 113 FTE from projected enrolment.

#### **Property Update**

To prepare for the eventual disposal of the 121<sup>st</sup> Ave property and O'Brien School the ministry requires that the district allow the public the opportunity to identify any specific sensitivities or objection related to the potential disposals. No concerns were raised by the public.

The portable for Moberly Elementary is in place and is currently being hooked up. The portable should be available for use by next week. The portable for Devereaux Elementary is scheduled to arrive on site towards the later part of October.

Tate Creek Elementary School has been sold to the Tomslake and District Recreation Commission. The commission took possession of the property in August.

### **Trustee Items**

The Board will be hosting the BCSTA Northern Interior Branch Meeting in Dawson Creek on October 13 & 14. Representatives from all northern school districts, BCPSEA, BCSTA and Ministry of Education will be in attendance.

The board agreed to conduct the election of chair and vice-chair and review the committee reps at the October board meeting. Holding the election earlier allows for consistency throughout the school year. The Inaugural Meeting will continue to be held at the meeting immediately following a general election. The next general trustee election will be held in October 2018.

Architectural drawings of potential renovations for Chetwynd Secondary School are being reviewed by a committee.

The board discussed the idea of a balanced school year and if it is possible to have pilot schools in the district. The board previously conducted a survey in 2012 to receive public input on the idea of a balanced school year; of the four calendars presented, 16.1% of the 653 responders chose the balanced school calendar as their first choice and 75.7% placed it as their 4<sup>th</sup> choice.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Policy Committee**

A motion was made and carried to extend the circulation of the following policies to the October Board Meeting:

- o Policy & Regulation: 3115 Electronic Communication: Employees
- o Policy: 3055 Qualifications for Specialty Positions
- o Policy & Regulation: 4375 Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings
- o Policy & Regulation: 6070 School Bus Transportation

Any comments or questions can be directed to Candace Clouthier at [cclouthi@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:cclouthi@sd59.bc.ca).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Date:	Event:
October 9, 2017	Thanksgiving Holiday Stat – schools are closed
October 18, 2017	Public Workshop presented by Safe Schools @ TRSS, 10:30 am <b>Social Media Awareness and Parenting the Digital World</b>
October 18, 2017	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm in Chetwynd - Location TBA
October 18, 2017	Public Workshop presented by Safe Schools – CSS, 6 pm <b>Social Media Awareness and Parenting the Digital World</b>
October 19, 2017	Public Workshop presented by Safe Schools – DCSS, 6 pm <b>Social Media Awareness and Parenting the Digital World</b>
October 20, 2017	Non-Instructional Day - students do not attend school