

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
SEPT. 28, 2021

September 29, 2021
INFORMATION RELEASE

Please note these are not official minutes of the Campbell River Board of Education.

Minutes are available from the school district website at www.sd72.bc.ca.

Find us on Facebook under [Campbell River School District – SD72](#) or on Twitter under [@CRSD72](#)

You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
<https://youtu.be/TV4ngH2iO04>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson John Kerr opened the meeting by thanking the seven candidates that put their name forward in the recent federal election and congratulated Rachel Blaney on her re-election as our member of parliament, stating that the board looked forward to working with her in the future.

He continued by highlighting that September 30 has been declared the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and that, as a statutory holiday, schools will be closed on that day. While the day is a statutory holiday, Chairperson Kerr encouraged the community to treat it as a time for reflection, much like Remembrance Day, to reflect on the tragic history of loss and the lasting effects of Canada's residential school system. He shared that leading up to the date students have been learning about the history and consequences of the residential school system in all grades.

In the spirit of learning and reflection, he also encouraged the community to participate in the fifth-annual Every Child Matters Orange Shirt Day Walk on September 30 at 11 a.m., starting at Spirit Square.

Touching on the ongoing concerns of COVID-19, Chairperson Kerr shared that the Vancouver School Board recently passed a motion to extend the mask mandate in their district to include students in kindergarten to grade 3. He stated that whether similar motions spread to other school districts remains to be seen, but that he anticipated it would spark discussion by the provincial health officer and Ministry of Education. He continued by encouraging everyone who can get vaccinated and hasn't already, to get vaccinated as the most effective action we can take to help keep our schools safe.

Lastly, he shared that the public campaign for a replacement of Cedar Elementary School has gotten underway and encouraged everyone to watch the video, Our Vision for a New Cedar Elementary, on the district website and lend their voice to the calls for a new Cedar Elementary by downloading and sending the letter of support to MLA Babchuk and Minister Whiteside.

Watch this segment: 0:12

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by sharing that preliminary enrolment numbers show the district to be at approximately 5,300 students, 50 more than the district's spring projections. Final enrolment numbers will be shared at the next public board meeting after the September 30 official count.

He continued by also sharing that schools have been focused on lessons and reflections on the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada all month, and particularly this week, in dedication to truth and reconciliation. District staff have also been wearing orange throughout this week to reflect our commitment to a shared journey towards reconciliation and as declaration that every child matters.

Superintendent Morrow stated that, on September 30, he hoped the community would join us in listening, learning, and reflecting on the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the impact that dark chapters of our shared history, such as the residential school system, has had on Indigenous communities. He continued by also saying that the district recognizes that a day, week, or month dedicated to reconciliation is insufficient and that the district is committed to the daily work that's required in taking action towards reconciliation.



Shifting to talk about COVID, Superintendent Morrow reminded parents and staff of the importance of conducting daily health checks and staying home when sick.

He closed his remarks by highlighting that World Teacher's Day is coming up on October 5 and stating that the district is fortunate to have such dedicated, committed, and professional educational staff.

Watch this segment: 6:03

Board Reviewed Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2021

For the year ending June 30, 2021, School District 72 had a combined deficit of \$1,554,122 according to Graham Roberts of the accounting firm MNP LLP.

Overall, district revenues were up by approximately \$2 million, after a grant increase of \$2.5 million for the federal and provincial Safe Return to Schools funding was offset with a decrease in international student tuition of approximately \$500,000. Expenses came in under budget at \$75,190,248.

The district had projected an appropriated operating fund deficit of \$3,237,745 and the year-end statements show that the district came in under that projection with a final deficit of \$1,260,023.

Mr. Roberts informed the board that the district's operational surplus and internal restricted surplus amounts to four days of coverage for operational expenses should the district encounter funding interruptions.

It was acknowledged that the district received a clean audit report; meaning that there were no procedural changes required in the district's finance department.

Following recommendation from Trustee Joyce McMann on behalf of the board's audit committee, the board voted to adopt the financial statements. The financial statements will be available on the district website at www.sd72.bc.ca/pages/publications.aspx.

Watch this segment: 11:29 and 55:30

District Working to Increase Mental Health and Wellness Supports

The board heard a presentation from Director of Learning Support Services and Safe Schools Coordinator Brenna Ewing and Drew Williams, the healthy schools district teacher coordinator on mental health and wellness in district schools, which is directly connected to the district's second strategic priority.

This school year the Ministry of Education has given every school district a grant as part of the Mental Health Action Plan and the funds are to be targeted towards compassionate systems leadership, capacity building and mental health in the classroom, which is in alignment with the district's work-to-date in developing and implementing a mental health and wellness framework.

A draft of the mental health and wellness framework and implementation plan has been shared with partner groups across the district including the Indigenous Education Advisory Council and, while still being finalized, the draft and these conversations have already begun to guide district work with regards to supporting mental health and wellness.

District health and wellness encompasses compassionate systems leadership, adult well-being, trauma informed practice, social emotional learning, mental health literacy, sexual orientation and gender identity, and healthy sexuality and relationships.

High level goals of the mental health and wellness framework include building mental health understanding (literacy), mental health promotion, supporting caring school communities, and community collaboration to strengthen and expand partnerships.

In addition to the development of the mental health framework and implementation plan and training work towards compassionate systems some of the other work underway includes development of mental health literacy instruction modules for middle schools, professional development for the elementary level in programs like everyday anxiety strategies for educators (EASE), a Middle Years Development Index pilot where students in grades 4 and 7 self-report on aspects that determine overall health, the development of personal and sexual health kits,



development of a digital wellness curriculum, and ongoing collaborations with Foundry and other community partners.

Data to further improve and develop mental health and wellness efforts will come from counsellors, youth care workers and Indigenous youth care workers, principals and vice-principals, student learning evidence, a mental health literacy and self-assessment of mental wellness staff survey, reports from Foundry and the McCreary Centre, as well as various student surveys.

Watch this segment: 26:31

Board Approves 2022-2023 Minor Capital Plan Submission

The district is requesting the Ministry of Education consider a new school bus and/or the possible replacement of some other buses within its transportation fleet, heating and ventilation upgrades, playground replacements at Pinecrest, Cortes and École Willow Point, and sectional roof replacements at Southgate and Timberline.

These project requests totaling \$4.7 million dollars were approved by the board to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration in the 2022-2023 school year.

Watch this segment: 1:1:36

Advocacy Efforts for New Cedar Elementary School Continues

The public campaign for a replacement of Cedar Elementary School has gotten underway and since the last board meeting there have been two articles in the local media, a radio interview, information posted on the district website and social media, and meetings with representatives from various groups.

Chairperson John Kerr shared with members of the board that MLA Michele Babchuk has also met with Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside to inform her of the need to replace Cedar Elementary.

The Cedar replacement committee will meet again early next week to determine next steps.

The board, through a subcommittee comprised of Trustees Richard Franklin, John Kerr and Joyce McMann, are increasing their advocacy efforts for a new building for Cedar Elementary School. For over six years the top priority of the district's capital requests, and a key element of the district's 10-year facility plan has been the replacement of Cedar Elementary.

You can find more information on the board's vision for a new Cedar Elementary School at www.sd72.bc.ca/newcedar.

Watch this segment: 1:13:38

