

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
DEC. 7, 2021

December 8, 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/XeJLqBHKs3M>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr opened the meeting by addressing COVID and how the safety of students and staff continues to be of utmost importance to the Board of Education. The district continues to follow the direction of the public health officer and while, over the last 21 months, there have been exposures in district schools, there have been no known cases of in-school transmission due to cleaning protocols and the mask mandate.

With emergence of the Omicron variant, he encouraged everyone to maintain vigilance and urged parents to consider vaccination following recent approval of the COVID vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds.

He continued his remarks by sharing that on November 25 the board's Cedar replacement committee, Superintendent Jeremy Morrow and Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick had a 20-minute online meeting with the minister of education, deputy minister, assistant deputy minister of finance and MLA Michele Babchuk to advocate for a new Cedar Elementary School. He stated that he felt the minister listened carefully and took the request seriously. Next, the treasury board reviews requests and will announce those approved for funding in the upcoming year in February.

Chairperson Kerr acknowledged that there is no guarantee that the board will be successful in its application as the province is facing tremendous expenditures due to the extreme fire season, recent floods and the need for new schools in certain areas to address increasing population. However, he said he hoped that the provincial government will recognize the need for a new Cedar Elementary for reasons of equity and the poor condition of the building. The board will continue to advocate for a new school, and he again encouraged anyone, who hasn't already, to lend their

voice to the calls for a new Cedar Elementary by downloading and sending a letter from www.sd72.bc.ca/newcedar.

He also shared that he and Vice-Chair Kat Eddy recently attended the BC School Trustees' Academy in Vancouver where they attended sessions on a range of topics including, the new surplus policy, leadership management standards, and reimagining the future of education.

As this was the last board meeting of 2021, Chairperson Kerr closed his remarks by thanking students for their efforts towards their schooling during these difficult times and thanking staff for their efforts in providing safe and meaningful learning opportunities.

On behalf of the board, he wished everyone a happy, safe and joyous winter break, as well as a successful and fulfilling 2022.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by thanking everyone for their patience following Monday's snow day and some subsequent bus delays Tuesday morning.

He shared that it is a busy time in schools and that he has had the pleasure to visit and share in some of the learning opportunities taking place, as well as observe the magic of the ordinary day and additional energy that is particularly present in our elementary and middle schools as winter break approaches. He thanked staff for the consistent extra effort they have made to find creative ways to celebrate as they once again coordinate and share winter concerts online with parents.



Superintendent Morrow also shared that the Knights of Columbus have again partnered with several district schools in a food drive to brighten the holidays of those in our community. This is the 48th year that the Knights of Columbus has held the drive and they are seeking donations of non-perishable food items, new toys or cash to contribute to holiday hampers.

Echoing Chairperson Kerr's remarks on recent COVID exposures, Superintendent Morrow also reminded everyone that daily health checks are still the most important thing we can do to help prevent the spread of COVID in our community. He also thanked staff, students and school communities for their continued understanding, patience and compliance with health and safety protocols.

In closing, Superintendent Morrow wished everyone a wonderful and well-deserved holiday break.

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Campbell River Continues to Be Popular with International Students as Program Sees Student Increase

Campbell River and School District 72 schools continue to be a popular learning destination for international students as the district's international student program has seen an increase to 70 students this year.

At the end of August, the district welcomed 58 students and 12 more will be arriving in January ahead of the start of second semester. Of the students that arrived in August, 12 students originally planned to return home at the end of January, but 10 of those 12 students have now decided to stay until the end of the school year.

This year 82 percent of international students have come from Western Europe, primarily Germany and Spain, and 18 percent have come from Asia, mostly from Japan and Taiwan.

According to International Student Program Manager Mercedes Hayduk, Campbell River School District's international student program is a sought-after program because of its high-quality homestay experiences and programming; especially popular are the outdoor experiences that Campbell River has to offer.

Hayduk said the program often receives new students based off referrals and personal recommendations from previous students. "Our students are having amazing experiences here and I'm seeing their friends come the next year, or the younger brother come or younger sister."

Other positive factors that have contributed to the program's increase this year are the Island's low COVID numbers comparatively and our ability to offer full-time school. Australia and New Zealand are also not yet accepting international students.

The international student program carefully follows all federal and provincial health and safety protocols, including quarantine requirements for students who are not fully vaccinated to Canada's health standard, given their home country's access to vaccines.

As part of their orientation to the district and Campbell River, Carihi and Timberline leadership classes provided student ambassadors who gave school tours and helped international students pick their lockers.

Hayduk shared some highlights from the program including that the Carihi sports leadership offers an entirely student-run international sports night every Wednesday night for eight weeks and a sampling of the types of activities that international students get to participate in while they are in Campbell River.

This year international students were also members of the Carihi senior boys' soccer and Carihi senior girls' volleyball Island championship winning teams and part of the Timberline senior girls' volleyball team.

Through her presentation to the board, Hayduk and trustees spoke of how the international program is not run as a money-making venture, but rather to enhance the experience of both the international and Campbell River students, as local students also get to learn and interact with students from other countries and these international students contribute to the school culture.

The program continues to seek host families to provide coverage for host parents should family emergencies or other circumstances arise. While the program has enough host families for the current number of students, Hayduk



acknowledged that COVID has had an impact as families start to have a desire to travel themselves.

If you are interested in possibly being a host family, email homestay@sd72.bc.ca to learn more.

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Board Approves Three Additional Positions for Learning Support Services

The Board of Education voted to support the creation of three additional learning support positions at a cost of \$168,000 for the remainder of the school year in response to increased student needs.

According to Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing, learning support service needs have increased within the district since the 2021-2022 preliminary budget. While overall district enrollment didn't increase by much, the number of students with learning support needs did increase, which is expected to increase the district's learning service grants by \$913,000.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick cautioned the board in using the full learning service grant increase because there is an expected, but yet unknown reduction, from other district grants that won't be confirmed until later in the year.

In supporting the request, the district will now add: a 0.55 literacy intervention teacher to support those students who scored low on the Dibels literacy screener as an early intervention; another behaviour resource teacher to support social and emotional wellbeing for middle and secondary students and act as a liaison between district, school and outside agencies; and an outreach teacher to target those middle and secondary students who have not yet attended school or who have had low attendance either due to the pandemic or mental health concerns.

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Board Announces Committee Appointments

Vice-Chair Kat Eddy announced the board's committee appointments for 2022.

Core Pro-D: Susan Wilson, Alternate Joyce McMann
Board Communications: Susan Wilson and Richard Franklin
Board Governance: Richard Franklin and Kat Eddy
Audit/Risk Management: Shannon Briggs & Joyce McMann
Calendar: Shannon Briggs, Alternate Daryl Hagen
City of Campbell River Liaison: John Kerr and Kat Eddy
North Island College Liaison: John Kerr and Richard Franklin, Alternate Shannon Briggs
Strathcona Regional District Liaison: Susan Wilson and Shannon Briggs, Alternate John Kerr
CUPE: Kat Eddy and Daryl Hagen
CRDTA: Susan Wilson, Richard Franklin, Alternate John Kerr
District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC): Joyce McMann, Alternate Daryl Hagen
Equity: Joyce McMann and Kat Eddy, Alternate Susan Wilson
Student Leadership: Shannon Briggs, Alternate Joyce McMann
VI Labour Relations Council: Daryl Hagen, Alternate Kat Eddy
Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA): Susan Wilson, Alternate Shannon Briggs
Board Review: John Kerr

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Eddy and Wilson Elected to Represent the Board on Provincial Associations

Trustees elected their representation with the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council for 2022.



Vice-Chair Kat Eddy was named the board's representative to BCPSEA, and Trustee Susan Wilson was named as the BCSTA Provincial Council representative, both by acclamation.

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Six-Year Completion Rates Trend Upwards

The district saw a slight increase in its overall six-year completion rate for the 2020-2021 school year. Of a total 449 students, 85.2 percent of students graduated, up from 84.2 percent the year prior.

Indigenous six-year completion rates saw an almost 10 percent increase from the year prior and an improvement from the 5-year average to 68.6 percent, but there is still work to be done as shortening the disparity between outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students continues to be an important focus area for the district.

The six-year completion rate for English language learners saw a 17 percent improvement from the prior year to 77.4 percent and students with diverse needs increased from 63.2 percent to 69.7 percent.

While these are encouraging trends, there is a clear indication that there is still work to be done as this data represents individual students and their life outcomes.

Six-year completion rate is the proportion of students who graduate with a BC certificate of graduation or a BC adult graduation diploma within six years from the first time they enroll in grade 8.

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Board Met with Minister of Education to Advocate for New Cedar Elementary

Members of the board's Cedar replacement committee, along with Superintendent Jeremy Morrow and Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick had a 20-minute online meeting with the minister of education, deputy minister, assistant deputy

minister of finance and MLA Michele Babchuk on November 25 to advocate for a new Cedar Elementary School.

The board thanked MLA Babchuk for her efforts in securing the meeting with Minister Whiteside and expressed gratitude to all who had taken the time to send letters of support as those also helped to encourage the meeting.

The committee focused its conversation with the Minister on the need for replacement for reasons of equity and the poor condition of the building.

Given the fallout from the extreme fire season, recent floods and the need for new schools to address population increases in certain parts of the province, the board acknowledged that they may not be successful in their application this year. However, trustees are committed to continue to advocate for a new school and will continue their lobbying efforts.

The Cedar replacement committee will have another meeting in January to determine next steps.

It is expected that the treasury board will announce the projects approved for funding in the upcoming year in February.

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