

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JAN. 11, 2022

January 12, 2022
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/k72AfcxUgBw>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr opened the meeting by addressing COVID and the Omicron variant. He stressed the importance for everyone to follow safety protocols and to wear masks, wash their hands frequently and do a daily health check before attending school. He also urged all staff and parents to get vaccinated and for parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated as well, given the high transmissibility of the virus and how vaccination helps to prevent serious illness.

He shared that, during the Ministry of Education's mandated four-day delayed opening after the winter break, school staffs prepared for the necessary changes to combat the spread of Omicron and to ensure continuity of learning. He also highlighted that this was the second time since the end of the last school year where the district's management team has had to use their break time to implement measures to ensure a smooth and safe opening. Chairperson Kerr thanked all who have worked to make schools safer for students and extended well wishes to everyone for a successful and healthy second term.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by sharing that last week school and district staff used the delayed return to classrooms to plan for continuity of learning, including planning for the potential functional closure of a school if we do not have enough staff to remain open because of Omicron. He stated that the district will do everything we can to ensure minimal disruption and will communicate quickly and thoroughly with families if we must functionally close a school.

He echoed Chairperson Kerr in stressing that daily health checks remain in place and reminded staff and students to stay home when they are sick and put on a mask before entering the school. He also shared that schools have been working to limit face-to-face seating, reduce congestion in the hallways and shared spaces, move meetings and gatherings online, and have once again limited visitor access. Parents are still welcome at schools but are asked to call ahead before their visit.

He thanked staff and parents for their patience, understanding and support as the district continues to navigate the pandemic.

Moving on from COVID, Superintendent Morrow shared that all schools and the district will be getting new websites this month, which is exciting because of how these new sites will help enhance communication with parents.

He also shared that the district is pleased to help get the word out about Family Literacy Week, which starts on January 23. More information on Family Literacy community events will be available on the Campbell River Family Literacy Facebook page, as well as on the district website and social media. Kindergarten registration also begins on January 31 and runs until February 4.

Lastly, he shared that the district has received several grants through the efforts of district teacher coordinators, Georgina Knox and Jeff Lontayao:

- \$6,500 from All Kids Bike to encourage K-1 students to engage in cycling with the hope of building confidence and interest in biking to school when it is age appropriate;
- \$2,000 from BOKS Kids Canada to support physical literacy; and



- \$8,000 from Industry Training Authority (ITA) to purchase tool kits for elementary students to engage in the applied design, skills and technology curriculum.

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Notice of Motion for New Policy on Pro-D Allotments for Exempt Staff

Vice-Chair Kat Eddy and Trustee Richard Franklin presented the board with a notice of motion for a new board governance policy concerning professional development allotments for exempt staff.

Under the new policy, if approved, the superintendent will examine each role and report to the board upon contract renewal a recommended discretionary professional development allocation on a scale of between 2% and 5% for each exempt staff member.

A notice of motion was given for feedback to be sent to the policy review committee through the superintendent's office before January 26, as the board will be considering the motion at their February 1 public board meeting.

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Update on District COVID Protocols

Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmic provided the board with an update on district COVID-19 protocols with respect to the Ministry of Education's reinstatement of enhanced safety measures announced on December 29.

After review of the [December 29 Addendum to Public Health COVID Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#), it was clear that the district was already compliant with or exceeding many of the requirements and had been since September 2021 at the board's direction to maintain additional measures.

For example, the district has maintained mid-day cleaning at all elementary schools (middle and secondary schools have always had daytime custodians); is upgrading to MERV-13 filters (as global supply has allowed) even though it is not a requirement for fresh air systems which are in place at all district schools; has increased the amount of fresh air in our

intake systems; and installed portable HEPA filters where ventilation hasn't been sufficient.

Associate Superintendent Cizmic said that principals have worked with their site-based health and safety committees to review other recommendations from the addendum and to see if they can further improve on other measures, such as minimizing congestion. But many district elementary schools did not need staggered start and end times as they have classroom doors outside, and students are accessing the classroom from these outside doors instead of the main entrance and hallways.

Associate Superintendent Cizmic also shared that the district has secured an additional supply of 100,000 3-ply face masks from a local vendor to ensure continued compliance with the face mask recommendations from public health.

In a recent townhall with district staff, North Island Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Charmaine Enns advised that 3-ply masks are sufficient for school settings as N95 masks are difficult to wear for long periods, they are very difficult to find right now because of heightened anxiety, and they should be reserved for healthcare workers who are in more direct and close contact as they treat individuals with confirmed COVID.

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