

# School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF  
FEB. 22, 2022

February 23, 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](http://www.sd72.bc.ca).*

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You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:  
<https://youtu.be/gwmORJfMoj0>

## Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr opened his remarks saying that he hoped everyone had the chance to enjoy the Family Day long weekend, given the stresses experienced over the past two years and this stretch between the winter and spring breaks.

February 22 was budget day for the provincial government and Chairperson Kerr shared that while he had not yet been able to find information on education funding in early budget summaries, he was optimistic that the funding situation for K-12 education would soon be made clear.

He continued his remarks by speaking about the board's advocacy efforts over the last year to convince the Minister of Education that Cedar Elementary should be replaced. He stated again that the building does not support the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century education and the board's belief that children deserve better.

"Every child deserves a safe and stimulating place to learn and what we (trustees) wish for the students of Cedar Elementary we wish for all public-school students in the province."

He shared that the Ministry of Education will soon announce capital funding for the upcoming year and that the board hopes that their case has been strong enough for Cedar Elementary to be on the replacement list.

He closed by highlighting that on Friday, February 18 district staff participated in a professional development day and talked about how important these days are for staff to collaborate and learn with goal of improving professional practice, which directly benefits students.

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## Superintendent Remarks

After also sharing his hope that staff, students, and community had a wonderful family day long weekend, Superintendent Morrow shared that February 23 is Pink Shirt Day, a day to wear something pink to show our commitment to providing every child with an education free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

He stressed that the intention behind Pink Shirt Day is insufficient though if it only happens one day a year and stated that, as a district, we are deeply committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, accepted, and respected every day.

He also spoke about the professional development day on February 18 and highlighted that in addition to 315 district staff attending a full-day mental health literacy workshop, other staff also participated in Indigenous learning and reflection on Truth and Reconciliation, trauma-informed care, assessment and how to turn curricular competencies into learning progressions, literacy resources and writing instruction, as well as physical literacy.

Touching briefly on COVID, Superintendent Morrow shared that staff and student absences peaked towards the end of January (in line with public health's anticipation following the winter break) but the district seems to be returning to more normal absentee rates.

Lastly, he congratulated the Carihi Secondary senior girls' basketball team for qualifying for provincials.

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## CUPE Asks Board to Consider Administrative Assistant Peer Mentor Position

District administrative assistants and CUPE Local 723 is asking the board to consider the creation of an administrative assistant peer mentor/leadhand pilot position to address concerns from within the employee group.

Clerical Shop Steward Julina Duarte and CUPE Local 723 President Andrea Craddock gave a presentation to the board to outline the concerns and intention of the position if it were approved.

Citing the similar recent educational assistant peer mentor pilot project, Duarte said that an administrative assistant peer mentor could provide input on how changes will affect processes within schools, provide mentorship to new administrative assistants or those new to positions, and be a way to explore ideas and clarify issues. It was also presented that the position could be an avenue for concerns between administrative assistants and management.

It was suggested that the position be piloted for one year with regular review and adjustments and be awarded based on a combination of skills, abilities, qualifications, and seniority consideration.

The board directed CUPE to bring this forward as part of the upcoming budget process as the creation of any new position has budget implications and to ensure that all budget requests are considered equitably.

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## New Community Pavilion to be Built on Surge Narrows School Site

The board has approved construction on an outdoor meeting pavilion at the Surge Narrows school site after the Surge Narrows Community Association secured grant funding of \$39,600 through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.

The Board of Education approved construction of the pavilion in principle at their October 26, 2021 public board meeting and now has granted full approval after the community association secured a site plan, building design and

engineering and commercial liability insurance. The Surge Narrows Community Association will be responsible for all construction and maintenance costs.

In 2020, the community identified the need to create a dry covered gathering place for people to be able to safely gather outdoors, as well as provide a safe outdoor learning environment for Surge Narrows students.

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## New Cortes Island Academy to Give Secondary Students Hands-On Learning Opportunities on Cortes Island

The school district is creating a unique pilot project in partnership with the Cortes Island Community Foundation, Folk University, and the people of Cortes Island to provide some high school programming on Cortes for grade 9-12 students.

The Cortes Island Academy is going to be piloted starting in September 2022 to try to help address community feedback that the lack of high school programming on Cortes has been one of the largest barriers to keeping families on the island and creating a resilient local economy.

The academy will run for five months from September to January and feature four modules that run for five weeks each, in alignment with the secondary schools' quarter model. Students will get to experience the island and earn academic credits through experiential learning and a connection to the land.

Jeff Lontayao, the district coordinator for student options and opportunities, has been working with parents and volunteers on Cortes Island to develop this support for rural students.

The first module will be Leadership Outdoor Recreation and Local Ecology in which students will earn credits for PE and/or leadership through learning about food prep and planning, overnight hiking, camping and navigation, survival skills and edible plants, kayaking and marine navigation.

Our Oceans Aquaculture and Stewardship will be the second module and students will explore and learn about the marine



environment towards a science credit. They will explore and research types of fisheries and aquaculture, marine ecology and climate change, and the Indigenous cultural connection with the oceans, stewardship, and resource use.

The third module, Creative Tools for Truth Telling, will study the basics of journalism, essay writing and oral storytelling through such tools as podcasting, and students will earn credits in new media and English.

Film Making with Reel Youth will complete the modules, using film as a medium for students to tell their story and the module will end with students creating a short documentary film about an elder or local older person with knowledge and wisdom to share. Students that successfully complete this module will earn media design credits.

The intention of the pilot is to create immersive hands-on, place-based learning that embraces Indigenous learning approaches and is connected to real life applications and offers personalized education planning.

The Cortes Island Academy modules will be featured as an option in the 2022-2023 secondary school course offerings and Campbell River or international students will be able to billet with families on Cortes Island.

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## Board Adopts Amended Budget

The board voted to approve the amended budget of \$79,391,862 for 2021-2022.

The total budget revenue is \$75,061,721 while the budgeted costs are \$78,636,112 resulting in an overall deficit of \$3,574,391. The deficit includes planned spending of \$1.1 million from reserves and an increased operating deficit of \$2 million, which includes unplanned cost increases of \$1 million in TTOC costs and \$400,000 in other inflationary pressures.

The amended budget includes updated expenses, actual revenue based on the number of students attending district schools, and salary costs from the preliminary budget passed in May 2021.

The district has a combined surplus of \$4 million, but after covering the combined deficit of \$3.1 million the district will be left with a combined surplus of only \$1.38 million.

Historically, the district has been willing to draw up to one-third of its surplus to avoid reductions but heading into this budget development process that practice will likely not be able to continue.

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## Enrolment Forecasted to Increase Next Year

Preliminary 2022-2023 district-wide student enrollment projections are expected to increase by 46 full-time equivalent (FTE) students next year, based on the Baragar demographics and information from schools.

While the district is forecasting a slight increase, this is not enough to offset the district's anticipated deficit and the projection is subject to change based on the annual September 30 enrollment count.

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## Ocean Grove Elementary Possibly Adding a Portable Next Year

The Board of Education has approved a draw of up to \$300,000 from local capital to purchase a portable for Ocean Grove Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year.

According to Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick, the school is at capacity and is forecasted to increase by 15 full-time equivalent students in September, requiring an additional classroom.

New housing developments in the Ocean Grove catchment are expected to be complete in the next two years at which time the enrolment will stabilize and start to decline as the neighborhood matures. The district has applied for capital funding for two classrooms under the Ministry of Education's school expansion program.

Expansion costs are not supported through the Ministry of Education's capital plan or eligible for Ministry of Education restricted capital funds.

The district had identified the need for a school catchment review as part of the district's 10-year facility plan. A catchment change and an approved expansion of two additional classrooms would eventually allow the portables to be moved to other school sites as needed.

If Ocean Grove Elementary's actual enrolment is less than projections, the portable may be able to be moved in 2023 to Ripple Rock Elementary instead.

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## Budget Development Process for 2022-2023 Starts in April

Partner group consultations to develop the 2022-2023 operating budget will begin in April and, this year, consultation with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee has also been added to the budget development process.

Meeting details will be provided by the secretary-treasurer's office to respective groups. Dates to note for the public are:

Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Budget information will be reviewed by the board and the parent advisory groups.

Tuesday, April 27 at 12 p.m.

Deadline for public submissions/presentations regarding the 2022-2023 operating budget to be heard at the May 3 public board meeting. Should you wish to make a presentation, contact Natalie Crawshaw in the secretary-treasurer's office at (250) 830.2302.

Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Public submissions/presentations submitted by 12 p.m. on April 27 will be heard at this meeting.

Tuesday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Potential adoption of the 2022-2023 budget at the public board meeting.

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