

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAR. 8, 2022

March 10, 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/iBQdinKns6o>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr opened the meeting by touching on world events, acknowledging International Women's Day, and sharing that the district has provided information for parents that may help them in addressing the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine with their children. These resources are on the district home page, www.sd72.bc.ca, under Parent Tips: Talking about War & Conflict.

He continued by stating that the district is facing a difference of almost \$850,000 between budgeted and actual costs for TTOC coverage due to the pandemic, in addition to a projected deficit of almost \$2 million for the upcoming year. He highlighted that last year the board had an emergency unrestricted surplus of almost \$4.3 million which is now down to \$1.38 million and that this decrease in emergency reserves will have serious implications as the board considers next year's budget.

Speaking about the recently released provincial budget, Chairperson Kerr said that while it included a 3.8% increase to education funding, this increase was mostly targeted to cover enrolment increases across the province and did not consider recent events and increasing energy costs that is expected to increase inflation beyond 5%. He stated that the district will likely deal with additional costs of \$400,000 to \$500,000 due to inflation because the provincial government does not provide inflationary funding increases.

He warned that the board will be facing tough decisions because school districts cannot legally submit a deficit budget and almost 90% of the district's budget goes toward staffing costs.

Continuing with a focus on provincial news, Chairperson Kerr also spoke to the recent announcement of an Indigenous-

focused graduation requirement for all students starting in the 2023-2024 school year. He stated that he felt this was an important policy decision for education, and truth and reconciliation, inclusive of all students.

As this was the last week of school before spring break, Chairperson Kerr wished all staff, students, and parents a nice spring break and that he hopes they return reinvigorated for the last part of the school year.

Watch this segment: 0:01:26

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow also opened his comments by recognizing International Women's Day and expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the brilliant and inspiring women in our district who provide daily inspiration to students.

He shared with the board that student-led conferences were held at elementary and middle schools this week and that this was an opportunity for parents to connect and discuss their child's recent report card and find out about their learning goals for the remainder of the year. He also highlighted that during the student-led conference day, support staff would be participating in a range of professional development activities.

Superintendent Morrow continued his remarks by recognizing recent instances of student achievement – congratulating the Carihi senior girls' and Timberline senior boys' basketball teams on their competition at the provincial championships and the Carihi and Timberline students who returned from the Skills Canada North Island regionals on Wednesday, March 2. Students won awards in cabinetmaking, welding, computer animation, carpentry,



TV/video production, digital art, website design, electronics, and 3D animation. For a list of the student winners, visit www.sd72.bc.ca.

In closing, he acknowledged staff who helped cover classes, supported colleagues, and adjusted for students as the district dealt with significant staff absences during January and February, and thanked parents for their patience and understanding as the district responded to the pandemic.

With a return to more typical absence rates, Superintendent Morrow shared that he was cautiously optimistic that it will be a more normal spring for schools and shared that he looked forward to welcoming everyone back after a much-deserved spring break.

Watch this segment: 0:06:08

Leveraging Technology to Support Literacies

District Educational Technology Coordinator Shannon Hagen and teacher Andrea Humphries shared with the board how they used technology with the Carihi Skills for Life class for an engaging, differentiated literacies lesson.

The vision for the lesson was to use a graphic novel format as a literacy tool. Students created a short story following a simple framework of who the story is about, what they want to do, the introduction of a problem, the resolution, and the conclusion.

Once they had their stories planned, students created a storyboard and then used the iPad application Toontastic 3D to bring their stories to life.

Through the activity, students were able to connect with literacy in a positive way. According to Humphries every student in her Skills for Life class was engaged, including non-verbal students and another student who rarely participates, and students were able to share their stories with their parents and families.

This is just one example of how the district is supporting teachers in using technology as another means of working towards learning outcomes/competencies or individual education plan goals across multiple areas and literacies.

After sharing an example from a student that was produced in approximately 40 minutes, Hagen shared with the board how she collaborates with teachers to build their capacity, allow for differentiation, and encourage student engagement. She says that her end goal, beyond supporting teachers, is to leave having helped the students become creators not just consumers of technology or media.

Watch this segment: 0:10:36

Board Adds Special Meeting for Budget Process

To allow for thorough consultation in the 2022-2023 budget development process, the board will have an additional special board meeting on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at which they will hear the final budget presentation. The budget will still potentially be adopted at the May 31 public board meeting.

Watch this segment: 0:31:29

Superintendent's Student Leadership Committee

Trustees Shannon Briggs and Joyce McMann and Superintendent Morrow met with eight student representatives from Southgate Middle School, École Phoenix Middle School, Carihi Secondary, Timberline Secondary and Robron Centre on February 24.

According to Trustee Briggs, the students heard a presentation from the district's Technology Manager Barbara Drake and discussed residential schools and their impact, Equity in Action and how funding works for direct services for those who self-identify as Indigenous with District Principal of Indigenous Education Debra Martel. The meeting ended with a discussion about current school culture and how students are feeling and coping with today's challenges.

The meetings are part of a continued board goal to hear more directly from students and to help inform their decision-making from a student perspective. The aim is to meet monthly either online through Teams or in-person. The next meeting will be April 14 and focused on the district's budget for the upcoming school year.



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Students were selected in consultation with school administration because the students exhibit interest in forming policy and communicating with trustees around improvements and supports for public education.

Watch this segment: [0:32:47](#)

