

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
APR. 5, 2022

April 6, 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/aWp5L4mQ-eU>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr opened the meeting by touching on world Chairperson Kerr started his remarks by welcoming everyone back from spring break and highlighting that we are now into the last three months of the school year.

While the mask mandate is no longer in place, he asked everyone to respect individual choices and that this is a sensitive topic as people weigh their own comfort level and risk factors. He also urged people to continue to take care as the BA.2 strain of the Omicron variant continues to circulate.

Chairperson Kerr highlighted that the district's budget development process is starting shortly and once again expressed concern about the district's deficit heading into the 2022-2023 school year. He encouraged those that would like to share their input and thoughts about the district's operating budget to make a submission to the board.

He continued his remarks by also sharing that the district has not received a response from the Ministry of Education on the request to rebuild Cedar Elementary. Chairperson Kerr stated that should the Ministry choose not to approve a rebuild the board will need to consider the future of this facility.

In closing, he wished everyone a happy and healthy upcoming Easter long weekend.

Watch this segment: 0:00:08

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow opened his comments by sharing that the district's international program will have its highest number of students for next school year and that the

program is actively looking for homestay families. He encouraged those that might be interested in hosting an international student to see the district website for more information and to consider attending the upcoming information session on April 11.

With the reduction in pandemic protocols, Carihi and Timberline are once again able to share their musical theatre productions with the community. Carihi is presenting Matilda starting this week and Timberline will be presenting Shrek starting towards the end of the month. Tickets for both productions are now available through the schools.

Also speaking about the district's 2022-2023 budget development process, Superintendent Morrow stated that, while we are facing an estimated deficit of approximately \$2 million, the district will be working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to minimize direct impact to students while continuing to move forward with the goals of the board's strategic plan. He invited interested staff and members of the public to view the budget development toolkit on the district's website and encouraged those with feedback to make a submission through the secretary-treasurer's office by emailing natalie.crawshaw@sd72.bc.ca. All feedback will be considered and there will be a final budget presentation to the board at a public meeting on May 17 with potential adoption of the budget at the May 31 public board meeting.

In closing, Superintendent Morrow shared that schools are returning to traditional transition events – being able to again hold Welcome to Kindergarten events, school tours for incoming grade 6 and 9 students, and commencement ceremonies at Strathcona Gardens for graduating grade 12s.

Watch this segment: 0:04:45



Educational Assistant Mentorship Program Supports EAs and Students

Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing and Educational Assistant Peer Mentor Sandra Maxwell provided the board with an update on the educational assistant peer mentorship pilot program that started in November.

The board approved the pilot program as part of the 2021-2022 budget to help build skills and confidence for our educational assistants in responding to and supporting students' emotional, academic, and behavioural needs.

To-date, Sandra Maxwell, the EA peer mentor, has visited 12 schools and conducted 16 direct mentorships with a direct impact to approximately 30 students.

Formatted similarly to EA mentorship programs in lower mainland school districts, the program is voluntary and educational assistants meet with the EA mentor at their school site to work on one-on-one goal setting and strategy building over a period of three days. The first day is observation, with the EA mentor offering feedback and resources on the second and third day, and a follow-up the next week.

The EA peer mentor works alongside the educational assistant to collaborate, observe, set goals, encourage, review, model strategies, and introduce resources and connects with the school team as needed. There is no additional EA coverage to support mentoring sessions as the peer mentor and the EA find natural opportunities within the workday to discuss and review goals.

By the end of the school year, the pilot program is hoping to offer two professional development workshops on setting healthy professional boundaries and how to support increasing student independence.

[Watch this segment: 0:09:02](#)

Ministry Approves Funding for Capital Plan Projects

The Ministry of Education has approved \$2.5 million in projects from the district's five-year capital plan request

under the school enhancement program, carbon neutral capital program, and bus acquisition program.

The following items have been announced to receive capital funding by the Ministry of Education: heating and ventilation upgrades at Quadra Elementary, Ripple Rock Elementary, Southgate Middle School, and Robron Centre; a roofing upgrade at Southgate Middle School; three replacement buses; and one new school bus.

The Board of Education held all three required readings and unanimously passed the required capital plan bylaw to allow the district to receive the funds and proceed with these projects.

[Watch this segment: 0:28:16](#)

District to Address \$1.9 million Deficit without Draw on Surplus

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick shared with the board that the budget development process is underway and that the district is facing a \$1.9 million deficit as a continuation of impacts from COVID-19, increased illness absence costs, and inflationary pressures. Given continued uncertain cost increases, the district will be looking to balance the budget without a draw from surplus reserves.

Historically, the board has approved a draw of up to one-third of the district's unrestricted surplus to help balance the budget and minimize reductions, however a similar draw this year would not leave the board with enough surplus to carry forward into next year in anticipation of continued cost increases.

According to Secretary-Treasurer Patrick, the intent is to balance the budget through reductions at the start of the year, continue to have some surplus funds to allow the board to respond to further cost increases without facing mid-year reductions, and allow an opportunity for costs to stabilize. It is important to note that inflationary costs are not factored into the grant from the Ministry of Education.

Budget consultation meetings begin this week, and the priority will be to minimize the impact on students while continuing to support the board's strategic priorities. All feedback will be considered, and Secretary-Treasurer Patrick stated that while it is a difficult budget year, he is confident

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
APR. 5, 2022

that the district will deliver a balanced budget while continuing to meet the needs of students.

The budget toolkit and information on the development process is available on the district website. Staff and members of the public with feedback are invited to submit it to the board by emailing natalie.crawshaw@sd72.bc.ca in the secretary-treasurer's office.

Watch this segment: 0:35:35

