

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
MAY 3, 2022

May 5, 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.

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You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:
<https://youtu.be/Jn2gEXKYDY8>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson Kerr started the meeting with comments about the district's 2022-2023 budget development process. The budget process has been underway in the district for more than a month and the district is facing a \$2.2 million deficit (the deficit increased from \$1.9 million to \$2.2 million with the recent unfunded announcement of five annual sick days for TTOCs).

The board has sought input on next year's budget from various groups with the understanding that there will need to be some cuts to services, as boards of education are legally required to deliver a balanced budget. Throughout this process, the underlying goal of the board is to keep these reductions as far away from the classroom as possible and to continue to support the values of the board's strategic plan.

Senior management is now preparing a budget for the upcoming year that will consider the ideas presented by stakeholders and will present a draft of the budget at the special public board meeting on May 17, with potential adoption on May 31.

Chairperson Kerr continued his remarks by highlighting that last month three trustees attended the BC School Trustees' Association annual general meeting in Vancouver. He shared that the emphasis of the education sessions at the meeting were the consequences of First Nations' experiences in residential and day schools and the resultant intergenerational trauma and impacts of racism. He stressed that there is still a lot of work to do regarding student success and improving the graduation rates of Indigenous students in the district and that the board continues to work to address this inequity.

In closing, he expressed his hope that everyone takes the opportunity to look back at what they have accomplished this school year, acknowledge the difficulties, and resolve to finish the year as strongly as possible.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow highlighted that May 7 is the National Child and Youth Mental Health Day, which he acknowledged was timely because the board was going to hear a presentation from Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing and Health Schools Coordinator Drew Williams on the district's mental health framework.

He continued his remarks by sharing about his recent visits to Pinecrest Elementary and Southgate Middle School and spoke to the love and dedication and reciprocal energy that these staffs exhibited.

Superintendent Morrow ended his remarks by once again highlighting the annual musical theatre productions at both Carihi and Timberline that happen because of the tremendous dedication of staff and students and their talents. Carihi Secondary's production this year was Matilda, and this weekend is the final performances of Timberline's production of Shrek, which is now sold out.

He recognized the additional pressures and stresses that staff and students faced in maintaining these annual productions for the last two years and their perseverance in finding creative ways to present the productions without the joy of a live audience.

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Students Share with the Board What Music Education Means to Them

On behalf of the Campbell River Music Educators, Helen Van Spronsen Ripple Rock Elementary's music teacher gave a presentation to the board to show their appreciation for the board's support of music programs in the district.

Through a video presentation, the board heard directly from students about how music in school provides connection, community, and confidence, amongst other benefits. It was also shared that School District 72 students will premier a commissioned work composed by an Indigenous composer for the CRMEA and Kodaly Society choral festival and music education conference in February 2023.

The presentation also spoke to how important music is to the human connection and the role that it plays in mental health, as well as shared some of the ways that district music teachers learned how to use online tools to continue to provide music education to students through the pandemic.

Watch this segment: [0:09:26](#)

Mental Health Framework to Help Identify and Promote Mental Health & Wellness

As part of the second strategic priority of building a culture of learning and wellness, a framework has been created to help identify, clarify, and promote mental health and wellness across the district and, by extension, the community.

Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing and District Healthy Schools Coordinator Drew Williams presented the board with an overview of the mental health and wellness framework, which outlines four priority areas, objectives, actions, targets, and data that the district will use to support student and staff mental health and measure progress within the district.

The four priority areas outlined in the mental health and wellness framework are: mental health promotion to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and reduce the stigma of mental concerns or illness; understanding mental health (mental health literacy); supporting caring school communities; and community and connection to

strengthen and extend partnerships with parents and community agencies.

The framework sets a multi-tiered approach that identifies mental health and wellness education for all students and more targeted supports depending on increasing need, including when community agencies are to be involved. The focus for this school year has been on the first tier, general education for all students.

They continued by providing a brief description and snapshot of some of the work that has been happening in the district around mental health and wellness, speaking to compassionate systems leadership, professional development on mindfulness and movement, the Phoenix Wellness Journal, and programs such as Second Step, Kids in the Know and Zones.

The mental health framework will be available for download from the district website within the next couple of weeks.

Watch this segment: [0:27:07](#)