

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JUNE 21, 2022

June 22, 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/gVWRn816Oac>

Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson John Kerr started by acknowledging that it was National Indigenous Peoples Day – a day for all Canadians to celebrate the diverse cultures, unique heritage, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

One of School District 72's strategic priorities is a commitment to honour Indigenous worldviews and perspectives and Chairperson Kerr said that this is reflected in many ways throughout the district.

An example he mentioned was the Kwak'wala and Lik'wala language program at Ripple Rock Elementary, but stressed that while there has been progress, there is still work to do to ensure equity in learning and outcomes for all students.

Chairperson Kerr then shared that the Board of Education hosted North Island MLA Michele Babchuk and other members of the BC NDP Government Caucus for the Mid-North Island and Sunshine Coast on Friday, June 17.

In attendance with MLA Babchuk were MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard (Courtenay-Comox), Hon. Nicholas Simons (Powell River-Sunshine Coast and Minister of Poverty Reduction), MLA Adam Walker (Parksville-Qualicum), Hon. Bruce Ralston (Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation), Claire Edmonds (executive assistant to Minister Ralston), Ramesh Ranjan (director of outreach), and Laura Parent (research and communications officer).

He said that the board spoke with the MLAs about investments in childcare and playgrounds and again lobbied for the replacement of Cedar Elementary. Trustees also explained the financial difficulty of almost \$2 million in unfunded costs.

In closing, he mentioned that schools will be holding year-end festivities and graduation ceremonies and congratulated all the graduates on behalf of the board.

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Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow shared his gratitude for the positive relationship that the school district has with the local First Nations communities. He said that the district believes that all students have equal gifts and attributes but acknowledged that the district still has work to do to ensure that this is seen in student outcomes. He also thanked schools for the events that they have held to honour and celebrate Indigenous culture for National Indigenous History Month.

Superintendent Morrow has visited most district schools over the last six weeks and said he has been happy to see school communities once again coming together and the schools' focus on inclusivity during National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month.

As another school year ends, he thanked retiring staff members for their contribution and dedication, as well as parents for their patience and flexibility throughout another school year impacted by the pandemic.

To close, Superintendent Morrow said that the district looks forward to welcoming close to 400 new kindergarten students as we also congratulate the class of 2022 and wish them well.

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International Program Seeing a Return of Students

Travel restrictions and health concerns because of COVID had reduced student enrolment in the district's international program but that is turning around, according to program manager Mercedes Hayduk.

Next year the program is expecting 70 FTE students, the largest program enrolment to-date, and was already full for the 2022-2023 school year by March 10. Most students are coming from Western Europe, which continues to be the district's largest market.

SD72's international program connects people from around the world and builds intercultural competencies for students, staff and community. In addition to hosting international students, the program also encourages teacher exchanges and is looking to provide opportunities for Campbell River students to study abroad.

Recently, the district hosted three student teachers from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland for a three-week practicum at Pinecrest, Penfield and Sandowne Elementary Schools. These had been arranged in the past through the education faculty at the University of Vancouver Island but are now being coordinated through the international program. The program is also in the first stages of investigating a reciprocal exchange program for 1 or 3 months for Carihi French Immersion students on the west coast of France.

Hayduk also shared highlights from this year with the board, including how a couple international students have contributed to the Campbell River Whales Swim Club, CR Judo Club, and with a mural in Timberline Secondary.

The program is still looking for more homestay families for next September. If you would like to learn more visit the international program website at www.studyincampbellriver.ca or email the student wellness and homestay advisor at homestay@sd72.bc.ca.

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Board Changes Accumulated Operating Surplus Policy and Sets

New Policy on Financial Planning and Reporting

The Board of Education has adopted changes to the policy governing operating surplus funds and adopted a new board governance policy on financial planning and reporting.

The revisions and new policy are based on updated provincial guidelines for K-12 financial planning and reporting and provincial policy on accumulated surpluses. Although the district was already in compliance, these changes are to further clarify the board's process and provide greater transparency.

A notice of motion was given to allow for feedback at the board's May 31 public meeting. The new policies can be viewed on the district website under Board of Education/Governance Policies & Bylaws.

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Board Begins Preparations for October School Trustee Elections

The board addressed a couple housekeeping items in preparation for general voting day and school trustee elections on Saturday, October 15 by appointing the district's electoral officers and approving a bylaw revision to correct the description for two of the district's three electoral areas.

The board appointed Tom Yates as the chief election officer and Edith Watson as the deputy election officer for the 2022 School District 72 trustee elections. The district partners with the Strathcona Regional District and the City of Campbell River for the local election services.

The board also changed the board governance bylaw 2 – Trustee Elections to describe electoral area 3 more accurately, Discovery Islands.

Trustees elected through the October 15 general voting day will fill a four-year term on the Board of Education.

The nomination period for individuals interested in running for school trustee in the upcoming municipal election will open on August 30 and will close on September 9. Nomination information and submission documents will be available from the district website in the coming weeks.



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Trustee Remuneration Increased

Trustees voted to increase their compensation following the annual trustee remuneration formula. Based on current information on other Vancouver Island school districts and student funding, the formula recommended an annual increase of \$536 for the chairperson, \$377 for the vice-chairperson and \$432 for trustees.

The new annual compensation amounts will be \$16,597 for the chairperson, \$15,130 for the vice-chairperson, and \$14,097 for trustees.

The trustee remuneration formula was set by a community representative committee in 2005 and the board reviews the compensation levels for district trustees each year.

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District to Keep Meal Allowance Rates the Same but Increase the Mileage Rate for Excluded Staff

After reviewing the current rates used by other Vancouver Island school districts, the provincial government, and the BC School Trustees' Association the board decided to keep the district's meal allowance rates for out-of-district travel the same but to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for excluded staff.

Meal allowances are given when employees travel out-of-district for meetings or professional development and are set at \$12/day for breakfast, \$17/day for lunch, and \$26/day for dinner or \$55 for a full-day.

The mileage reimbursement rate, for instances where a trustee or excluded employee uses their personal vehicle for work travel, will increase to \$0.61/km as of July 1, 2022. The mileage rates for other staff groups is set by collective agreements.

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