

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
NOV. 15, 2022

November 16, 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/JveaxV7CWL8>

Chairperson Remarks

In her first opening remarks as board chairperson, Kat Eddy reflected on her attendance at the Campbell River Remembrance Day ceremonies and how the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of community. She drew a parallel to how schools are their own community with their own identity and shared her belief that schools should serve as places where every child can feel safe enough to be themselves and provide a network of safe, caring adults should a child need them. She continued by saying that she felt that those who fought did so to allow us the freedom to participate in community, the knowledge that neighbours known or unknown will be there to help, and that every child be given equitable opportunity.

In closing she announced that the board will be beginning the consultation process to inform the development of the district's next strategic plan and that more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Watch: 0:00:49

Superintendent Remarks

Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmick delivered the superintendent's comments in Superintendent Morrow's absence and shared that schools held their own Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 10 ahead of statutory holiday, in compliance with the School Act. While a solemn occasion, Remembrance Day assemblies were an opportunity to welcome parents back into schools as we continue to get back to normal school operations after the pandemic.

He also highlighted that elementary and middle school families will be receiving a written learning update on literacy, numeracy and learning behaviours ahead of the first student-led conference on November 24.

Watch this segment: 0:03:45

District Uses One-Time Student and Family Affordability Fund to Expand School Food Programs, Offset Fees, and Remove Barriers to Participation

Based on consultations with Indigenous groups, school communities and parent advisory councils, the district will use a multi-pronged approach to spend the \$607,563 SD72 received as part of the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help students and families struggling with rising costs.

Director of Learning Support Services Brenna Ewing provided trustees with an overview of the strategy that was developed in consultation with Indigenous groups, school communities and parent advisory councils.

School food programs, such as Backpack Buddies and the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program, will be expanded and new community partnerships will be offered with the Salvation Army, Campbell River Food Bank, and Emergency Food Program using approximately \$200,000 of the fund. Another \$75,000 will be used to offset fees for school supplies, consumable course materials, and field trips for families in need.

Schools will also be able to apply for funds out of a pot of \$300,000 to help them best address needs within their school community. This could include additional food security, school supply or fee relief needs.

Lastly, another \$30,000 will be used as an emergency fund by counselors and youth care workers connected to the district's Learning Support Services and Indigenous Education departments to help respond to significant



hardships that may unexpectedly arise for families during the school year.

In August, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help students and families struggling with rising costs due to inflation. SD72 received \$607,563 under this one-time funding for use during the current school year.

School districts were required to consult with Indigenous groups, school communities, and parent advisory councils about how best to use this money. The funds are to be used in as flexible, private, and stigma-free manner as possible and districts are required to track and report back to the Ministry on how the funds were used.

Even before this funding, the school district provided breakfast/snack/lunch programs, clothing, transportation, a summer reading program for vulnerable learners, youth care workers, prescription medication and eyewear, and subsidized field trip costs.

[Watch this segment: 0:09:19](#)

Board Announces Committee Appointments

Vice-Chair Craig Gillis announced the board's committee appointments for December 2022 to December 2023.

Core Pro-D:

Craig Gillis, Alternate Janice Gladish

Board Communications:

Dave Harper, Janice Gladish

Board Governance:

Joyce McMann, Craig Gillis

Audit/Risk Management:

Dave Harper, Shannon Briggs

Calendar:

Daryl Hagen, Alternate Shannon Briggs

City of Campbell River Liaison:

Kat Eddy, Craig Gillis

North Island College Liaison:

Dave Harper, Janice Gladish, Alternate Daryl Hagen

Strathcona Regional District Liaison:

Janice Gladish, Shannon Briggs, Alternate Daryl Hagen

CUPE:

Daryl Hagen, Kat Eddy

CRDTA:

Kat Eddy, Craig Gillis, Alternate Dave Harper

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC):

Joyce McMann, Alternate Shannon Briggs

Equity:

Joyce McMann, Janice Gladish, Alternate Dave Harper

Student Leadership:

Shannon Briggs, Alternate Joyce McMann

VI Labour Relations Council:

Daryl Hagen, Alternate Kat Eddy

Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA):

Craig Gillis, Alternate Dave Harper

Board Review:

Kat Eddy

[Watch this segment: 0:35:54](#)

Eddy and Gillis Elected to Represent the Board on Provincial Associations

Trustees elected their representation with the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council for the upcoming year.

Chairperson Eddy was named the board's representative to BCPSEA, and Vice-Chair Gillis was named as the BCSTA Provincial Council representative, both by acclamation.

[Watch this segment: 0:36:57](#)

Board Asks for Monthly Updates on Attendance and Health Guidance

Following a discussion of recent media coverage concerning rising incidents of respiratory illness across the country, started by Trustee Hagen, the board asked Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmic to provide a monthly update on attendance rates and whether Vancouver Island Health has provided updated health guidance.

Associate Superintendent Cizmic shared with trustees that the district regularly watches student and staff attendance, and that the health authority is also able to access the district's attendance information. When schools notice an increase in absenteeism, the district deploys enhanced cleaning at that school or office, including spray machines that were bought during the pandemic. Staff absence rates also continue to be watched by the senior management team



and there are plans in place to address staffing shortages, should they arise.

While masks are optional, they are still welcome as personal choice in all our schools and offices and masks continue to be available should students or staff wish to wear one. Associate Superintendent Cizmic shared that the district has adequate supply to be able to act quickly should the provincial public health officer reinstate a mask mandate.

Watch this segment: [0:40:23](#)

Quarterly Finance Report Shows Deficit Due to Start-Up Costs

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick presented the board with a quarterly financial report as of September 30, 2022. Revenues were up because of the district's receiving of one-time Ministry grants, but expenses were overspent by \$711,580 because of summer work and preparation for school start-up. The district reported a deficit of \$1.6 million For the quarter, but this is expected to be reduced during the year as we move past the seasonal expenses of school start-up.

Watch this segment: [0:47:20](#)

