



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for April 23, 2020

Reports from the Superintendent:

School/Student News

Tumbler Ridge Elementary School has partnered up with their local dinosaur museum to build community connections with the resources available in their own neighbourhood. The school challenge this week is to build a recycle-a-saurus (a dinosaur out of recycled materials). Staff from the Dinosaur Museum will judge the contest.

Foods and shop class teachers throughout the district are finding creative ways to engage students and keep them active in classes that are traditionally taught in the classroom or shop and require hands on learning. The students are also finding innovative ways to continue learning at home, often with the support of family members. Students have cooked dinners, baked goodies, installed flooring, built garden beds and helped at the family sawmill. Students at DCSS-Central Campus are being given challenges to build and design projects like pinball machines and puck games.

Videos and pictures from Little Prairie, DCSS, and Don Titus were shown outlining all the different ways students are learning at home. Highlighted student learning activities included lessons in literacy, numeracy, physical education, STEM activities, woodworking activities, and cooking.

COVID-19 Update

The school district will be focusing their efforts in the following four areas:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
2. Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

Protocol has been implemented at all school district sites to ensure the health and safety of all staff. Procedures have been established for parents or students to pick up education materials at the schools.

Child care is being offered for Tier 1 essential workers in all three communities. Four sites are currently being used. The district will continue to work with parents/guardians identified as essential workers to provide child care if required.

Meal support is being provided in all three communities. Breakfast and lunch kits are being delivered to families each week. Kits are assembled at Chetwynd Secondary, Tumbler Ridge Secondary, and Tremblay Elementary.

Staff have been working diligently to transition to a new way of learning for students. The focus has been on the social emotional well-being of students, support of meaningful curriculum and setting reasonable expectations for the amount of time each child spends learning at home each week. There are many innovative solutions happening as we navigate this new type of education. Students and teachers are being creative in the way they present learning.

The district also recognizes this is an incredibly difficult time for many families and encourages anyone that is having difficulty to reach out to their school teacher or principal for support.

The Ministry has announced new assessment requirements. Report cards for students in the primary grades will be much the same with teachers using different ways of assessing learning.

Students in Grade 4 to Grade 9 will be receiving, at minimum, a final letter grade for Language Arts/English, Math, Science and Social Studies. There may be anecdotal or letter grades for other areas of learning like PE, Art, French etc. Third or fourth term marks will be primarily through anecdotal comments.

Students in Grades 10-11 will receive final grades for courses in second semester and will receive at a minimum, anecdotal comments for third term. Grade 12's will receive third term marks as post-secondary institutions still require them for early admissions. Students who are on track to graduate need to complete sufficient requirements for the courses in which they are registered in order to complete requirements for graduation.

The Ministry of Education has launched a new website to support B.C.'s K-12 students while in-class education is suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Keep Learning website is a central place where families can find ideas for everyday educational activities, annotated links to free learning resources, as well as how to help children learn and how to ensure their well-being while they are at home. Keep Learning BC is available at: www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/.

Principal Appointments

The Superintendent announced the following appointments, effective August 1, 2020:

- Shane Mould, Principal of Chetwynd Secondary School
- Dianne Bassendowski, Principal of Windrem Elementary

French Immersion Program at Chetwynd Secondary School

With the declining number of students enrolled in the French Immersion program at Chetwynd Secondary School, the program is no longer feasible academically or financially. The Superintendent will be bringing forward a recommendation in the May board meeting to discontinue the program.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed current school, revenue and expense reports with the board and discussed preliminary operating grant funding for the 2020/21 school year.

Trustee Items:

BCSTA Update

With the cancellation of the BCSTA AGM, the election process for the BCSTA's 2020-21 Board of Directors will be held electronically. The board chair will submit the vote electronically on behalf of the board by 3:00 pm on April 24, 2020.

Board Meetings

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the board discussed alternative options for holding public board meetings. The board voted to allow open board meetings to be offered in an online format if necessary.

Joint MLA Meeting

School District 60 (PRN) has invited the board to participate in a joint meeting with the MLA. The meeting will be in an online format.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The board read the final reading of Bylaw 3-08 Student Appeal Procedure and the bylaw was adopted as presented.

The board repealed the following policies as they were combined into other policies that were previously adopted.

- Policy 2155 Board Authority and Responsibility (Combined into Policy 2150)
- Policy 2200 Trustee Stipend (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2230 Trustee Reimbursement of Expenses (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2231 Trustee Benefits (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2235 Trustee Recognition (Combined into Policy 2205)
- Policy 2270 Delegations to Board Meetings (Combined into Policy 2260)
- Policy 2280 Participation by the Public (Combined into Policy 2260)

Current policies are posted on the school district website at <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/policies>.

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Event:
May 1, 2020	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
May 21, 2020	Victoria Day Holiday – Schools are closed
May 28, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm
June 1, 2020	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
June 24, 2020	Open Board Meeting – 1 pm
June 25, 2020	Last day of learning for students
June 26, 2020	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school