



Board Highlights for April 21, 2021

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News:

Schools continue to be busy across the district. Hatching chicks is a popular project in elementary schools right now.

Tumbler Ridge Elementary initiated a fundraiser for new library furniture. They were delighted when Peace River Coal stepped up and donated the total of what they required.

At Don Titus Montessori School students are growing seedlings for gardens, one class hiked Mount Baldy, and another class is hatching chicks. Students have also been power reading in the gym and engaging in STEM activities.



At Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus the engineering students have built trebuchets and model airplanes. Students were able to test their engineering skills and make modifications to improve their designs. Shop classes are busy creating interesting projects like pinball machines, while students in art classes designed and weaved Amulet bags. Great importance was placed on traditional Amulet bags and they were often decorated to match their contents. Today, the pouches are made using a variety of materials, including seed beads, leather, fur, suede, etc.

Students at Little Prairie Elementary School also built catapults and had fun testing out their designs. The school is celebrating the arrival of new benches for their outdoor learning space. The benches were built by a local chainsaw carver.

Windrem Elementary School Students took part in a science unit on friction where they took their learning outside and included playground equipment in their experiments. One grade 2 student initiated a school wide spring cleanup day that brought the school together in making their school grounds cleaner. The school also had students take home monthly family fluency activities which engaged the entire family in reading activities at home.



On the media front, Tumbler Ridge Secondary School students have created a podcast and in a recent recording they interviewed Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier.

At Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus students have designed a newsletter called the Coyote Quarterly. The newsletter is student driven and contains student writing, art work and photography.

Student Voice is active across the district with lots of students participating. At Central Campus students were doing an environmental scan (SOAR) and created a legacy project making coyote paws to be placed on the fence around the school. Central Campus students also made masks in grade 8 Art class and were busy using pallets to create outdoor garden spaces.

On the district professional development front, the Primary Literacy PLC met in April with over 55 participants. Margo Southal zoomed in to lead staff through a session on shared and guided writing. The Intermediate Literacy PLC also met and had their last session this year with Adrienne Gear.

School District No. 59 will be one of the pilot districts for the Literacy and Numeracy Performance Standards project launched by the Ministry of Education. The current performance standards were created nearly 15 years ago and are in need of an update to meet the new curriculum.

School District No. 59 will also be partnering with Concordia University (Edmonton) on a research study on Inclusion.

Another group of principals/vice-principals will be taking Compassionate Systems Leadership training in May.

COVID Protocols Update:

Increased provincial COVID protocols were announced on March 31, 2021. All K to 12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, this includes riding the school bus. The District has received a total of 26 exposure notifications, 15 of those have been since Spring Break.

FSA Update:

The Foundational Skills Assessments have been completed throughout the District. The overall participation rate was between 86-88%. The exams have been marked locally and selections have been sent in.

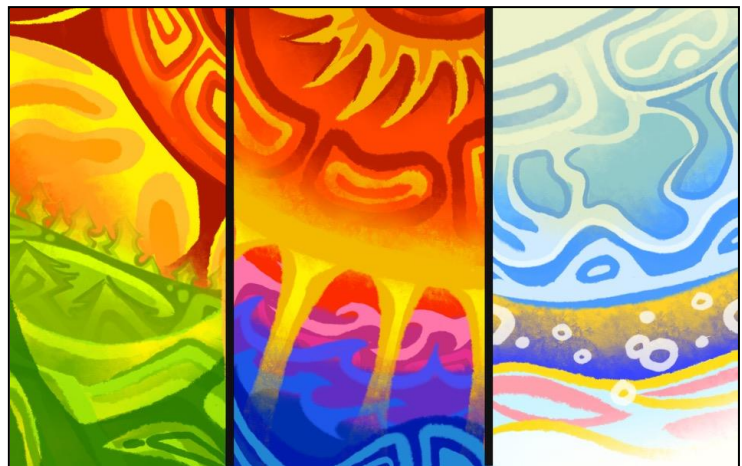
Indigenous Enhancement Agreement Update:

The Superintendent reported the goals for the next Enhancement Agreement which spans from 2021-2025 have been established. The Agreement is in the draft stage and will be presented in June.

Mural Request:

The board approved a DCSS-SP Campus request to put up a mural in the main hallway by the concession. Grade 12 student, Terry Ranero, is the creator of the Indigenous themed piece of art. The mural project contributes to Terry's Career Life Connections (CLC) Capstone.

The CLC Capstone project requires students to choose a focus area and Terry has chosen to give back to the school through revamping student space with Indigenous artwork.



Strategic Plan Posters:

Newly created posters outlining vision and priorities of the District have been created. They will be displayed and used in schools throughout the district.



Principal Announcement:

Jody Bougerolle has been appointed as the principal at Don Titus Montessori School in Chetwynd. Mrs. Bourgerolle is currently the acting principal and will move into the permanent position effective August 1st.

Secretary-Treasurer Reports:

Pouce Coupe Elementary School Expansion

The Ministry of Education has given final approval for the capital expansion project at Pouce Coupe Elementary School. The capital expansion will eliminate the need for the two portables currently in use at the school. The goal of the expansion project is to be completed in time to welcome students back to school in September.

2020-21 Operating Grant Holdback Funding

The Ministry of Education recently announced the 2020-21 public school grant “holdback”. The District received \$46,780 in holdback funds.

The Ministry has targeted the holdback funds to be used to address the learning impacts as a result of the pandemic. Areas of consideration may be:

- Assess learning impacts to students due to the pandemic;
- Develop and deliver additional resources to address learning impacts to students caused by the pandemic;
- Deliver learning recovery strategies.

Initial 2021-22 Capital Plan Response Letter

School District No. 59’s initial Capital Plan Response Letter identified the following SEP and CNCP capital projects for 2021-22:

- McLeod Elementary School – Roofing Upgrade (\$250,000)
- DCSS-SP Campus – HVAC Upgrade (\$750,000)
- CSS/Windrem Schools – HVAC Upgrade (\$500,000)

The *amended* Capital Plan Response Letter will follow in May and will identify any additional SEP and CNCP projects; the amended letter will also identify supported and approved capital projects for the other capital programs. The bylaw will be read at that time.

2021/22 Preliminary Operating Grant & Budget Recommendations

The board discussed the preliminary operating grant funding and received a presentation on the budget recommendations for the 2021/22 school year.

Trustee Items:

Outdoor Learning Spaces

The Superintendent reported the district has eight schools with dedicated outdoor learning areas. The district is looking at options to purchase outdoor picnic tables for school sites which will allow the spaces to be used for multipurpose activities.

As the weather get nicer, more teachers are taking their classes outside for different activities.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
May 19, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm
May 24, 2021	Victoria Day – Schools are closed
June 7, 2021	Non Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
June 23, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm
June 29, 2021	Last day of classes for students
June 30, 2021	Non Instructional Day – Students do not attend school



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OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

