



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

## Board Highlights for January 20, 2021

### *Superintendent of Schools Report:*

#### **School/Student News:**

Students at Little Prairie Elementary have been busy creating calendars for a fund-raising project. The calendar theme was “Wisdom of 2021” and used animals to share words of wisdom for each month. Little Prairie students were also busy developing Applied Design and Technology skills as they took part in an egg drop challenge. The school is gearing up for a new Innovation Fair and the traditional Science Fair that occurs each spring.



At Tumbler Ridge Secondary School, 17 students recently took part in the Companion Avalanche Rescue Course. Through generous support from the local business community these students learned some very valuable skills that will make them safer as they venture out in the local mountains during the winter.

At Windrem Elementary, the Joyful Literacy framework is providing impressive student reading results. In a primary K/1/2 class, reading levels have collectively moved up 60 levels since September 2020. This is very exciting news! Windrem Elementary is also focusing on inclusion this year; students have been awarded inclusion cards by others because of their inclusive behavior and attitudes.

Students at Dawson Creek Secondary – South Peace Campus were busy building popsicle stick bridges. The students demonstrated impressive design skills and the strongest bridge held a 45 lbs weight!

School District No.59 has launched Wellness Wednesday for staff across the district. The first evening session happened on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The session was well attended, and the district is looking forward to offering more sessions for staff throughout the year.

#### **Leadership Academy**

The district has developed a Leadership Academy program with the intention to build leadership capacity within the district, focusing on developing knowledge, skills and strategies to support the growth of educational leaders. The program is comprised of 15 sessions, beginning February 9, 2021 and continuing through to June 2022.

#### **Ministry of Education Child Care Initiative**

Legislation in the School Act was amended in March 2020 to support child care through the Ministry of Education. The Policy Committee is reviewing the current policy that references supporting child care services and will be developing a policy specific to child care in response to the new legislation and Ministerial Order M326 (Child Care Order) issued on August 31, 2020.

The Ministerial Mandate letter to Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, the new Minister of Education, has directed the Ministry of Education to work towards implementing integrated child care into the broader learning environment and support universal access to before and after school care.

### ***Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:***

#### **Finance Reports**

The board reviewed the monthly finance reports as presented by the Secretary Treasurer.

#### **Amended Operating Grant**

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the amended operating grant funding which was announced on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The student base allocation decreased \$500,000 due to the decrease in enrolment of 67 FTE as compared to the preliminary budget. The decrease of the 67 FTE represents a 1.76% decrease in enrolment and therefore the district was eligible for Enrolment Decline funding of \$104,000. Additional funding of \$207,000 was received to support the additional 14 students claimed in Levels 1/2/3 and the district saw a drop in Salary Differential funding of \$180,000 due to an increased drop below the provincial average teachers' salary.

#### **Capital Expenditure Plan Update**

The board had a preliminary discussion regarding the amended capital plan expenditures. A finalized list will be presented for approval next month with the 2020-21 Amended Annual Budget.

#### **Disposal of Property Bylaw**

The first two readings of a property disposal bylaw were read for a 70.7m<sup>2</sup> area that holds a regulation station for PNG. The regulation station sits on the corner of the Pouce Coupe Elementary property. The third and final reading will be completed at the next regular board meeting.



A public consultation period is available until February 10, 2021 for anyone wishing to express concerns. Public feedback regarding the disposal may be presented by emailing the Secretary Treasurer, Melissa Panoulis at [mpanoulis@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:mpanoulis@sd59.bc.ca) to be considered by the board.

#### **Reserve Funding Allocation**

The Board of Education approved an allocation of \$485,000 from operating reserves to support the 2020-2024 Operational Plan, the funding will be spread out over the four-year period. The Operational Plan outlines how the main goals of the Strategic Plan will be carried out.

#### **Pouce Coupe Expansion Project**

Final approval for the Pouce Coupe Expansion Project from the Treasury Board and the Ministry of Education has not yet been determined. The district continues to support the project and looks forward to gaining clarity on project approval soon.

***Trustee Items:***

School bus safety is an issue that continues to be addressed. The Board would like to remind members of the public to slow down and use caution when sharing the road with school buses.

***Upcoming Events:***

Date:	Event:
February 15, 2021	Family Day Holiday (schools are closed)
February 17 & 18, 2021	Early Dismissal (school ends 1 hr earlier)
February 17, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)
March 10, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm (School Board Office – Dawson Creek)
March 15-26, 2021	Spring Break – Schools are closed
April 2, 2021	Good Friday – Schools are closed
April 5, 2021	Easter Monday – Schools are closed

