



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for November 17, 2021

Presentations:

Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark

Dr. Helm and Manda Maggs presented information to the board from the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Geopark. Education is one of the mandates of the geopark and they are very excited to work with schools to promote education, conservation and geotourism of the geopark. The new initiative, Health in Geoparks, focuses on the following themes: Move Well, Connect Well, Eat Well and Live Well. The program also includes a teacher resource guide with detailed unit and lesson plans. The team is looking to apply the program locally and then export the template to other geoparks. More information is available at: <https://tumbleridgegeopark.ca/Health/>.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

The District Leadership Academy is continuing to meet, the participants in this 18-month program include teachers, early career principals and vice-principals who are interested in building their leadership capacity. In the latest session participants completed the Change Game, it's a game that allows participants to explore systematic change and navigate challenges in a mock school district environment. It was great to see all the participants invested in the process!

At Parkland Elementary students are working on Social Emotional Learning goals in alignment with the district's strategic plan. They are using the Caring School Kit, doing cross-age buddy groups and establishing community among students and staff. The students are also enjoying the outdoor music club that meets with Mrs. Kurjata after school.

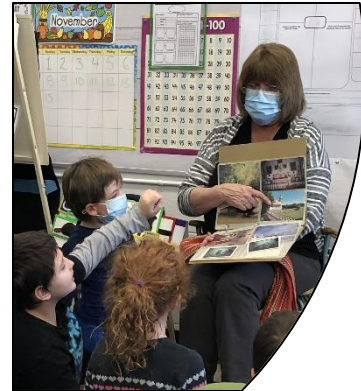


Remembrance Day ceremonies were held across the District. At Tremblay Elementary students created a gallery walk of artwork and at Canalta Elementary students made wreaths. Ecole Frank Ross recognized National Indigenous Veterans day on November 8th.

Louis Riel Day on November 16th was recognized in schools. All schools got kits from the Indigenous Education Department that included ideas for activities and reading about Metis history.

Some events included:

- Canalta Elementary had the privilege of a visit from Marlene Hebert who spoke to students about her Metis heritage which she can trace back to the Red River Colony in Manitoba.
- McLeod Elementary students built models of Red River Carts.
- Pouce Coupe Elementary students wove their own metis sashes, learned to play the spoons and the whole school jigged in the gym together.
- DCSS – SPSS Campus held short assemblies in recognition of the day.



Ecole Frank Ross celebrated their 60th Anniversary and did a reenactment of the grand opening, which included individuals dressing up in period relevant clothing and a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of their new mural.



Strategic Plan Review

Superintendent Christy Fennell presented a summary of year one of the district's Strategic Plan (2020-2024). An update was provided on each of the three main priorities: equity, foundational skills and core competencies and sustainable use of our resources. The first year of the plan was challenged with the pandemic which has impacted student attendance and ultimately student learning. Data and trends of student absences was reviewed over a three-year period.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Pouce Coupe Expansion Update

The Secretary Treasurer provided the board with an update on the expansion project and identified a revised goal of completing the expansion by the end of the Christmas break.

New Ministry Financial Policies

The Ministry of Education has adopted two new policies, a Financial and Reporting Policy and Accumulated Operating Surplus Policy. Both policies were part of Phase 1 actions from the K-12 Provincial Education Funding Model Review. The Board of Education must revise existing or develop new board policy that is in alignment with the new Ministry of Education policies. The goal of this process is to strengthen board processes in financial management.

Trustee Items:

Staff Vaccination Policy

The Board of Education is considering guidelines and is gathering data to inform their decision on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for employees in the education sector. Discussions of labour relations matters are held in meetings closed to the public, but the board will be reporting decisions publicly in open meetings.

The Board of Education thanks all staff, students, and members of the school communities for carefully adhering to the Communicable Disease Safety Plan and for following public health advice, to keep schools a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and work.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
December 15, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm
December 20 – 31, 2021	Winter Break – Schools are closed
January 3, 2021	New Year's Day stat in lieu Schools are closed
January 4, 2021	Schools re-open after Winter Break
January 31, 2021	Non-Instructional Day / Staff Pro-D students do not attend school
February 16, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm

