



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for October 21, 2021

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Truth and Reconciliation Week was recognized across the District during the final week of September, which included Orange Shirt Day on September 29th. Flags were lowered to half-mast across the district and every school planned events to honor Truth and Reconciliation Week. Some of the events included:

- Moberly Lake Elementary students using locally grown carrots to dye shirts orange. Each child put their own message of reconciliation on their shirt. Meaningful discussions about residential schools took place with students and one staff member shared historical knowledge specifically about how the Moberly Lake area was impacted by the residential school system.
- Windrem Elementary students read the “Orange Shirt Story” book and then created small orange shirts that they later hung on trees along the walking trail by the school.
- McLeod Elementary created a huge orange shirt that helped students to understand how important the reconciliation process is.
- DCSS-Central Campus students painted rocks to create a reconciliation image and then participated in a reconciliation walk.
- DCSS-SP students examined the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Tremblay Elementary students created a life-sized stained-glass apology to survivors and families of residential schools.
- Don Titus Montessori School student dancers performed a Metis jig at a community event held at the Tansi Friendship Centre with Bev Lambert. Bev Lambert was also welcomed into other Chetwynd schools during the week.
- Tumbler Ridge Secondary School did Truth and Reconciliation informational panels throughout the lobby area for students to learn more about Truth and Reconciliation.



Moberly Lake Elementary School students are learning with DiscoverE science kits. DiscoverE is a program that serves youth by inspiring and engaging students through fun, meaningful, and accessible science, technology, engineering and math programs. The science kits are energy focused – students are learning about open and closed circuits and creating current patterns.

Volleyball teams across the district have been participating in tournaments and doing very well. The DCSS-South Peace Senior Girls Volleyball team are currently ranked 6th in the province.

Canalta Elementary students held a successful potato harvest as a fundraiser; thanks to Mr. Red Merrick for supplying and growing the potatoes. The students ended up harvesting the potatoes during the first snow fall but that didn't slow down production! Thanks to the SD59 Maintenance Department for providing large fans to help dry the crop in the school gym.



Don Titus Montessori students are enjoying a new PE unit which is helping them learn to play outside; they are learning lots of interesting new games. They also enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch outside.

During the month of September, schools participated in the Terry Fox Run.

Covid-19 Communicable Disease Plan Update

The COVID-19 Communicable Disease Plan has been updated to reflect the new mask mandate that is inclusive of all students K-12. All schools have been provided with disposable and reusable masks.

Ratios, Class size, Composition and Remedies Report

The district has the following shortfalls in teacher ratio positions:

- Teacher Librarian – 0.669 FTE
- Secondary Counsellor – 0.068 FTE
- Combined Special Education Resource Teacher, Learning Assistance Teacher and English Language Learners - 1.413 FTE

Some of these shortfalls include vacant positions that are currently posted, the district is currently working to fulfill our obligations for meeting the ratio requirements.

There are 11 schools not in compliance with class size and/or composition maximums as described in LOU 17. The district met with the Peace River South Teachers Association and was able to demonstrate best efforts were given to resolve class size or composition issues. Remedies will be given to teachers in classes where the class size or composition issues were not resolved.

Ministry K-12 Student Reporting Policy for Public Feedback

It is important that students and parents receive regular, clear communication about student learning throughout the school year. To help ensure this information is consistent from

kindergarten through to grade 12, the Ministry of Education is replacing three different policies with one, unified K-12 Student Reporting Policy. A significant change is that letter grades may be removed for grades 4-9.

The Ministry is accepting public feedback on the policy until November 5, 2021. Once approved, the final policy is projected to come into effect for the 2022-23 school year.

Public feedback can be submitted online:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/studentreporting/>

Field Trip Request

The French Immersion program at DCSS-Central Campus has submitted a request to proceed with planning for a trip to Quebec in the spring/summer of 2022. The district will be assessing the risk of travel associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and have outlined the possibility of cancellation should the risk become too great. The Board received the request and had given approval to proceed with planning.

Unrestricted Operating Surplus Draft Plan

The district currently has \$6.5 million in unrestricted reserves, after the deduction of a 5% contingency balance there is \$4.3 million available to support future projects. The Superintendent presented ideas for financial support in the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention
- Technology upgrades
- Engineering environmental scan
- Succession planning and capacity building
- District level student voice council
- MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument)
- Implementing the K-12 Student Reporting Policy
- MyEd Training
- Staff Wellness
- Fireproof room
- Building capacity

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2021-22 Final Enrollment

The final enrolment for the district was reported at 3672.06 FTE, this represents an increase of 49.6 FTE from last year and 77.1 FTE from the preliminary budget.

Executive Compensation Disclosure

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2020-21 Executive Compensation Disclosure Report, the report will be posted on the school district website after it is reviewed by BCPSEA/PSEC Secretariat.

Ventilation System Improvements

The Secretary Treasurer summarized the changes that have been made to the ventilation systems within the district as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these include:

- Upgraded to MERV-13 filters
- Expanded HVAC operating hours to align with ASHRAE recommendations
- DDC (Direct Digital Control) upgrade at Moberly Lake Elementary
- Upholding regular inspection and maintenance of our HVAC systems
- Maximizing fresh air in our facilities at a rate that maintains the internal temperature at a comfortable level

All facility ventilation system information will be posted on our district website by October 26th.

Trustee Items:

Advisory Committee on Staff Vaccinations

The Ministry of Education has formed an advisory committee to review the issue of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for employees in the education sector. The advisory committee will be approving guidelines for the K-12 sector and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) will develop an operational framework and template document.

Since no Provincial Health Order has been issued on this matter, the decision on staff vaccination lies with each individual Board of Education, as the employer. The Board of Education of School District 59 will consider the guidelines and framework from the advisory committee and BCPSEA after they have been received.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
October 22, 2021	Non-Instructional/Professional Development Day – Students do not attend school
November 11, 2021	Remembrance Day – Schools are closed
November 17, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm
November 17 & 18, 2021	Early Dismissal Days – Students are dismissed 1 hour early
November 26, 2021	Non-Instructional/Professional Development Day – Students do not attend school
December 15, 2021	Open Board Meeting – 1:00 pm