



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

## Board Highlights for September 21, 2022

### **Superintendent of Schools Report:**

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

Many schools in the district are supporting the RCMP Cops for Cancer tour and have been busy already this year to help fundraise for this event. Schools have had special visits from the members of the RCMP that are participating in the tour and raising funds for cancer research.



Don Titus Elementary has started up their breakfast program and are excited to have a ukele group this year.

Schools are celebrating the start of a new school year by hosting welcome back and meet the teacher events. Moberly Lake Elementary hosted a pancake breakfast for students and their families, Ecole Frank Ross had a record number of families come out to enjoy a BBQ, while Don Titus Elementary hosted a family dance already!



Students at Devereaux and Little Prairie elementary schools are busy harvesting their gardens and enjoying the fruits of their labour.



Tumbler Ridge Secondary School has painted window murals to celebrate back to school and to recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

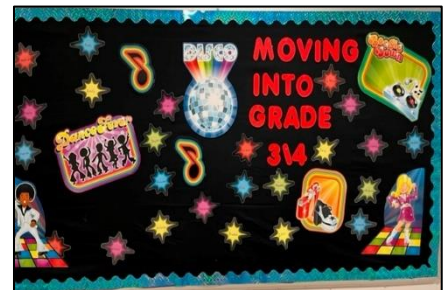


Ecole Frank Ross has started their cross country running club and the students are excited about their first race coming up. Students in a grade 5/6 French Immersion class are thinking of ideas of how to make their town better, some ideas include having a pump track, recycling, having more police officers and building a swimming pool by the school.

Grade 4/5 students had fun creating "Two-Faced" Picasso portraits.



Students at Crescent Park Elementary School are welcomed back with some amazing bulletin boards created by the staff.



Students and staff have taken advantage of the Pat O'Reilly Education Site at Gwillim Lake already this year. The Leadership Team held a retreat at the site at the end of August to prepare for the new school year. Many new upgrades have been done to the site, the highlight being new solar powered LED lighting in the main Young building.



The Superintendent announced the following Principal Appointments, effective August 1, 2022:

- Joanne Dueck – Principal at McLeod Elementary
- JoAnne Malkinson – Vice Principal at DCSS – Central Campus
- Heather McInnis – Vice Principal at Crescent Park
- James McKechnie – Vice Principal at Tremblay Elementary

PRSTA will be hosting an Aiming For Excellence Conference during the Non-Instructional Days on October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Early Learning Initiatives**

The province is offering school districts funding to expand their early learning initiatives and child care spaces on school grounds.

One of the first initiatives the district will be starting is a pilot project in 2023. The “Just B4” Early Childhood Education Child Care Program is specifically designed for 4-year old children to attend “Just B4” Kindergarten. Just B4 is a licensed pre-school program and therefore parents do not need to attend. More information will come out in the next few months.

### **Mental Health Funding**

The district has received \$55,000 in grant funding from the Ministry that will be used to continue to support Social Emotional Learning initiatives, trauma-informed practices, mental health literacy, and compassionate systems leadership training for SD59 staff including mental health wellness.

### **Student Affordability Fund**

The province has announced that \$60 million will be provided to school districts through the Student and Family Affordability Fund to support students, parents, and guardians with affordability concerns. The one-time funding will be provided directly to school districts to help expand school meal programs and offset costs for school supplies and other cost pressures. The district will be utilizing a targeted approach to reach those students most in need.

### **Enhancing Student Learning Ministry Cooperate Group**

The Ministry of Education and Child Care started a support program to assist school districts in their strategic planning process. As the school district is in year three of a four-year strategic plan, the district has been placed in the Cooperate Group. The group will focus on the district planning process using the Enhancing Student Learning report. Participants in the Cooperate Group will include a variety of leaders including Board Chairs, Superintendents, Secretary Treasurers and other district leaders.

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

#### **2021-22 Audited Financial Statements**

The annual audit was completed by Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP accounting firm. Mr. Jaron Neufeld presented the audit report and findings to the board. The financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, and no major concerns were identified.

The district reported an operating surplus of \$1.5 million for the 2021/22 school year. As of June 30, 2022, an operating reserve balance of \$10 million is available, of which \$3.6 is internally restricted.

The Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis report provides additional details on the 2021/22 financial statements and is available on the district website along with the Audited Financial

Statements under District Info – Financial Information tabs (<https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/financial-information>).

### **Preliminary Enrollment**

Preliminary enrollment was reported at 3673 FTE (an increase of 18 FTE from projected enrollment). Canalta Elementary and Crescent Park Elementary schools have seen significant increases to their enrollment. Final enrollment will be presented at the October meeting after the September 29<sup>th</sup> 1701 process.

### **2023-24 Minor Capital Submission**

The Board of Education approved the Minor Capital Plan as presented. The plan is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care as a request for funds. The Ministry reviews all submissions and will notify the district the following spring if they were successful on any of their submissions.

### **Portable Update**

The District was able to secure two refurbished portables over the summer to help relieve some of the capacity pressure at both Crescent Park Elementary School and Canalta Elementary School. The portables are expected to be delivered and set up by the end of October.

### **Long Range Facilities Plan - DRAFT**

The Secretary Treasurer has completed a draft report of the Long Range Facilities Plan. The plan gives a long range outlook on enrollment, facility conditions and capacity utilization and is used to guide future decisions and present a vision for the use of the district's current and potential future inventory of capital assets.

The plan is still in draft phase as consultation still needs to be completed.

### ***Reports from Trustees:***

The Board Chair presented Certificates of Recognition on behalf of BCSTA to Trustee Ziemer for serving 4 terms and Trustee Hillton for serving 2 terms for their positions as school trustee.

The Board Chair congratulated Lynne Brissard in becoming a finalist for the 2022 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education. Lynne was nominated by a colleague for her outstanding contribution to students at Chetwynd Secondary School.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

Date:	Event:
September 30, 2022	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – schools are closed.
October 10, 2022	Thanksgiving – schools are closed.
October 15, 2022	General Voting Day for School Trustee Election
October 19, 2022	Regular Board Meeting – Chetwynd
October 24 & 25	Non-Instructional Days – students do not attend school. Pro-D - Aiming For Excellence Conference
November 9, 2022	Inaugural Meeting of new Board of Education.
November 16, 2022	Regular Board Meeting – Dawson Creek