

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
DEC. 1, 2020

December 3, 2020
INFORMATION RELEASE

Please note these are not official minutes of the Campbell River Board of Education.

Minutes are available from the school district website at www.sd72.bc.ca.

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Chairperson Remarks

Chairperson John Kerr opened his first meeting as board chair by acknowledging that, with COVID case counts rising, the board has slightly modified the format of the public board meetings to further reduce the number of people gathering and in consideration to personal individual circumstances. Meetings will continue to be live streamed for members of the public to attend but presentations will be made remotely, and trustees will have the option to attend in person or from home through Microsoft Teams.

The board and district continue to take precautions and to make accommodations, where possible, to protect the health and safety of all members of our learning community.

He continued his remarks by congratulating the newly appointed Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside and highlighted some of the items from her mandate letter that stood out to him – the continued investment in new and modernized schools to meet seismic requirements and energy efficiency standards, work across ministries to move integrated childcare into the learning environment by 2023 and provision of before- and after-school care on school grounds, improvement of online and remote learning, creation of more local meal programs, targeted investments to make sure that students have the classroom supplies they need to succeed, incorporation of more Indigenous languages into the curriculum, and investment into mental health supports for students.

Chairperson Kerr closed by stating that while these goals will require significant financial support from the government that the board remains optimistic that progress can be made and wished Minister Whiteside the best in her new role.

As this was the last public meeting before the winter break, on behalf of the board, he wished everyone in the School District 72 community a happy, restful, and safe holiday season.

You can watch a recording of the meeting on the district's YouTube channel at:

<https://youtu.be/ZlgQ7Nte7Zo>

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by acknowledging the recipients of the prestigious Governor General's Medallion, Riley Sutherland (Carihi) and Chris James (Timberline). The medallion is awarded to one student from each secondary school through the province for achieving the highest, combined academic grade point average during their grade 11 and grade 12 years. He congratulated them on their hard work, perseverance and determination and wished them the best in their first year at university.

He continued by sharing that by the end of this week he will have visited every school in the district and that these visits have been an opportunity to observe the hard work of teachers, support staff, principals and vice-principals who have all done an admirable job despite challenging circumstances. Superintendent Morrow also said that he observed a tremendous respect and compliance from students towards the COVID health and safety protocols.

Speaking about COVID-19, he also shared that the district has not had a school exposure event since the last board meeting and once again encouraged all in attendance and those watching to continue to follow public health guidelines as schools will continue to reflect community COVID rates.

In closing, he wished staff and students a restful, safe, and positive upcoming holiday break.

Greenways Land Trust Asks the Board for Funding Support

Greenways Land Trust has asked the Board of Education to start discussions to see if a financial contribution from the



school district might be possible to enable greater stability for outdoor programs with schools.

In a letter to the board, Greenways Executive Director Cynthia Bendickson shared that Greenways has been running regular outdoor education activities with district schools for over five years through funding from Environment Canada and matching contributions from the City of Campbell River. However, with gaming revenues down the city funding may be at risk and the grant from Environment Canada requires 50 percent match funding for eligibility. Greenways' current funding will end in June 2022, but the organization must reapply in the fall of 2021.

The recent report on outdoor learning activities across the district highlighted that several schools get assistance from Greenways Land Trust to support outdoor educational opportunities.

After a short discussion the board directed Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Patrick to follow up with Greenways Land Trust to get more information so that the board could consider the request further.

Election of Trustee Representatives

Trustees held an election for their representation with the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council for 2021.

Trustee Daryl Hagen was named as the board's representative to BCPSEA and Trustee Susan Wilson was named as the BCSTA Provincial Council representative, both by acclamation.

Board Announces Committee Appointments

Vice-Chair Kat Eddy announced the board's committee appointments for 2021.

Core Pro-D: Susan Wilson, Alternate Joyce McMann
Communications: Susan Wilson and Richard Franklin
Board Governance: Richard Franklin and Kat Eddy
Audit/Risk Management: Shannon Briggs & Joyce McMann
Calendar: Shannon Briggs, Alternate Daryl Hagen

BCPSEA: Elected Daryl Hagen, Alternate Kat Eddy
BCSTA Provincial Council: Elected Susan Wilson, Alternate Joyce McMann
City of Campbell River Liaison: John Kerr and Kat Eddy
North Island College Liaison: John Kerr and Richard Franklin, Alternate Shannon Briggs
Strathcona Regional District Liaison: Susan Wilson and Shannon Briggs, Alternate John Kerr
CUPE: Kat Eddy and Daryl Hagen
CRDTA: Susan Wilson, Richard Franklin, Alternate John Kerr
DPAC: Joyce McMann, Alternate Daryl Hagen
VI Labour Relations Council: Daryl Hagen, Alternate Kat Eddy
VISTA: Susan Wilson, Alternate Shannon Briggs
Board Review: John Kerr

Trustees Joyce McMann and Kat Eddy with alternate Susan Wilson will represent the board on the district's Equity in Action Committee.

Vice-Chair Eddy presented a motion that the board create policy to require the committee structure be re-evaluated upon the creation and adoption of any new strategic plan to ensure that committees reflect the spirit and core beliefs of the strategic plan. She also put forward a second motion to strike a committee to focus on student engagement at all levels of school and at a district capacity. Both motions passed.

Scholarships Awarded for the 2019-2020 School Year

A report was presented to the board from Superintendent Jeremy Morrow on the results for students receiving the Governor General Award, the BC Excellence scholarship, the Dogwood/Authority awards, the district scholarships, district vocational scholarships, and the Joan Bunting scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year.

The district takes great pride in recognizing the many students who receive scholarships and bursaries each year and has historically named these students. However, privacy legislation has become even more stringent in requiring the express permission of parents/guardians to release any personal information pertaining to students within the district. As such and with respect to privacy wishes, we cannot name



some of the students who were awarded scholarships and bursaries.

The Governor General Award, established in 1873, recognizes students from each secondary school who have achieved the highest average for all grade 11 and grade 12 courses as listed on the student's official transcript from the Ministry of Education. The Governor General Award winners for 2019-2020 were Riley Sutherland (Carihi Secondary) and Chris James (Timberline Secondary).

After reviewing applications received, and considering grade point averages, teacher references, and students' areas of interest and plans, 51 students are conditional recipients of the Dogwood District/Authority Award from the Ministry of Education in the amount of \$1,250 each. Congratulations to Carihi graduates: Sandrine Daniels, Chloe Dobrinsky, Maria Griffith, and Olivia Grzesiczek. Congratulations to Timberline graduates: Lucas Draper, Brenna Francis, Shelby Kennedy, Brayden Patrick, Shanti Stein-Gagnon, Taylor Swim, and Stefan Van de Vlasakker.

The board and the district scholarship committee congratulate all award recipients and wish them all the best as they pursue their educational goals.

Georgia Park Forest School Teaching Students Lessons and Valuable Life Skills

Trustees heard a presentation from Georgia Park Elementary Vice-Principal Sheila McGrath on their Forest School which intentionally gets students learning outside and incorporates lessons on Indigenous language and ways of knowing and doing, as well as mindfulness.

Each division spends 50 minutes each week learning outdoors in the forest area beside the school and in the school garden with Vice-Principal McGrath, the school's teacher librarian and the school's language and culture teacher.

In addition to learning about elements of the outdoors, investigating and being curious, Forest School also allows collaboration time for classroom teachers as their classes go out in groupings, for example both kindergarten classes go outside for Forest School at the same time.

According to McGrath, the intent of Forest School is to give students tools to help balance anxiety and nurture an appreciation for nature that will continue as students get older. She shared that often students that may need accommodation in the classroom do not need the same accommodations when they are outside, and that Forest School is another way to engage students in their learning.

Activities in Forest School are often student centered. One day it may be talking and learning about snails prompted by a student discovery, other days it may be journaling their observations in their quiet spot. No matter what activity Forest School routinely supports all three goals of the district's strategic plan, connects to core competencies, and encourages working together.

The school is pursuing funding from Tree Canada and is fundraising to help create more outdoor learning spaces on the school grounds.

Teachers Creatively Ensuring that Music Continues Safely

Trustee Hagen asked for information on music programs during COVID. Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmic shared that he has met with the head of the Campbell River Music Teachers' Association and everyone is being cautious with regards to health and safety protocols. Schools are not doing performance singing now, but instead are using percussion instruments, humming, etc. to find creative ways to continue to have music education while taking necessary precautions. The district is having ongoing conversations with music teachers on programming needs during the pandemic.

