

School District 72 Board News

MEETING OF
JAN. 12, 2021

January 13, 2021
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 the meeting by informing members of the public that, with COVID case counts rising, trustees will go back to meeting virtually until further notice. Direction from the local environmental safety officer has indicated that this is required to maintain compliance with the provincial health officer's order, which is in effect until February 5. If, at that time the order is rescinded, Chairperson Kerr said that the board will revisit this decision.

He continued his remarks referencing the board's advocacy for education workers to be given higher priority for the COVID-19 vaccine after the first prioritized group of people. According to Chairperson Kerr, the deputy provincial health officer has indicated that this will not happen because once the highest priority category is vaccinated at the end of March sufficient vaccine should be available that it will no longer be necessary to prioritize vaccinations.

He stated that the board continues to have concerns about the safety of education staff and, to bring this concern to the attention of other boards of education in the province, has submitted a resolution on prioritizing vaccinations for education staff as essential workers to the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council.

Chairperson Kerr shared that at the last board chairs' virtual meeting concerning funding the BCSTA president informed chairs that board of education will face difficult times over the next two years because of the \$13.8 billion provincial deficit incurred by costs associated with the pandemic. He stressed that nevertheless the board will make its best efforts to ensure that students' educational experiences are supported to the best of its ability.

He closed his remarks by thanking parents, staff, and management for all their efforts to continue to keep our schools safe and welcoming places for learning to support students' achievement and commended students who

continue to make academic progress during these uncertain times.

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

<https://youtu.be/904XP8YeK3A>

Superintendent Remarks

Superintendent Morrow started his remarks by acknowledging that a number of staff at our elementary schools found alternative and creative ways to celebrate the season with virtual concerts and performances.

He continued by sharing that Family Literacy Week will run from January 24 to 31 and grade 3, 4 and 5 students are beginning their reading for the Battle of the Books, the district's annual reading trivia competition organized by our teacher-librarians. The school and district level battles will happen in late February and early March.

The Ministry of Education is conducting their annual learning survey for students and parents in grades 4, 7, 10 and 12. The survey is open until April 30 and information, as well as the link to the survey is posted on the district website. The district has also recently received word that the ministry has postponed administration of the grades 4 and 7 Foundation Skills Assessment until February 15 until March 12.

Superintendent Morrow closed his remarks by sharing that the district received confirmation from Island Health that the COVID-19 exposure event at Carihi Secondary before Christmas break (dates November 30, December 1 and December 2) did not lead to any transmission or further cases of COVID-19. He asked parents and the community to continue to be vigilant in performing health checks before attending school.



Carihi Takes a Fresh Look at Careers Program to Focus More on Transition and Mental Health Support

The board heard a presentation from teacher Donnie Fitzpatrick about Tyee Transitions, a careers and personal exploration program at Carihi Secondary.

Developed and shaped largely in response to student feedback, the program is intended to help students build the skills to make life decisions with confidence and graduate with a clearer sense of purpose and direction for the next step on their own individual path.

There are two branches of the careers program, one for grades 11 and 12 students which includes dual credit, work experience, and university or a trades and apprenticeship focus. Thirty-five grade 11 and 12 students are participating in those programs this year. The second branch includes the Career Life Education and Career Life Connections courses that all students are required to take during their high school years prior to graduation.

Tyee Transitions takes elements of these courses and looks beyond the senior grades, getting students to explore their competencies, interests and start making connections to possible paths before their grade 11 and 12 years. The hope is to further support the majority of students who have not identified a specific career path and are often feeling overwhelmed and anxious by the pressures of the transition from school to post-secondary and/or work.

For example, the required careers interview that is usually in grade 12 has been moved to grade 11 and all students complete a capstone project to help identify their core competencies and individual plan. Students are also required to have contact at least once per semester with a counsellor, which was directly based on student feedback. Throughout the high school years, the program also focuses on developing and building an understanding of common transition language for students so that they have a greater sense of confidence when they are nearing their own transition and graduation from high school.

According to Fitzpatrick it is about honouring, hearing and seeing students and having them see themselves in different ways so that their achievement can rise.

Students have indicated an increased self-awareness, self-acceptance, confidence, resilience in dealing with prior challenges, confidence in their decision-making process, clarity about future direction, confidence in academic challenges, and more life balance because of the transitions program.

Notice of Motion for Changes to Policies on Role of Chair and Vice-Chair and Indigenous Education and New Policy on Student Leadership

Trustee and board governance representative Richard Franklin presented the board with a notice of motion for changes to board governance policy 6 (Role of the Chair and Vice-Chair) and policy 25 (Indigenous Education). He also introduced a notice of motion for a potential new policy on student leadership.

The recommended amendments to policy 6 (Role of the Chair and Vice-Chair) are to include a requirement that after the adoption of a new strategic plan the vice-chair and superintendent shall recommend committees to the Board of Education that would support the plan's successful implementation. This suggested change was in response to a board motion passed at the December 1 public meeting.

The recommended amendments to policy 25 (Indigenous Education) are to include a requirement that once a year the Board of Education and Indigenous Education Advisory Council meet to exchange ideas and information to enhance the basis and delivery of Indigenous Education, programs, and services.

In addition to these changes, Trustee Franklin also introduced a new draft policy on student leadership in response to another passed motion from the December 1 meeting that the board strike a committee to focus on student engagement at all levels of school and at the district capacity.

Notices of motion were given for feedback to be sent to the policy review committee through the superintendent's office before January 20 as the board will be considering the motions at their January 26 public board meeting.



Kindergarten Registration Coming Up First Week of February

Associate Superintendent Philip Cizmic shared with the board that kindergarten registration week will be February 1 to 5 at all district elementary schools. The district is planning how to welcome these new registrations safely and with consideration to COVID-19 protocols. Information will be shared through the Campbell River Mirror, district social media, as well as the district and school websites next week.

especially needed during the pandemic. He shared that having access to a technology lab within the classroom for writing instruction has positively and significantly impacted the level of engagement and interaction of his students.

Cross Catchment Transfer Deadline Approaching

Associate Superintendent Morgan Kyle informed the board that the deadline for cross catchment transfer requests for students wishing to attend a different school in September 2021 is Friday, February 12 at 4 p.m.

To request a school other than their neighbourhood catchment school, the student must register at the catchment school and then submit an application for cross catchment transfer. Approval will depend on space and staffing resources. Requests will also be considered based on the date and time that they are received.

The district is creating a process to allow cross catchment transfer applications to be submitted online to honour COVID-19 health and safety protocols at the schools.

Parents should note that if their application is approved, they will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the school they are applying to, in accordance with the district's operational procedure for student transportation.

Information on the cross catchment transfer process will be shared through the Campbell River Mirror, district social media, and district and school websites soon.

Technology Investment Having a Positive Impact Through COVID

Vice-Chair Kat Eddy shared a letter of gratitude sent to the board, technology department and Kai Taylor from Colin Riddell, an English teacher at Carihi Secondary. The letter specifically thanked trustees for having the foresight to invest in the technology budget given that technology has become

