



**Media Release**  
**Highlights of February 10, 2015 Board Meeting**

**Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement 2013/14 Annual Report**

At the February 10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education, District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Roberta Edzerza and District Aboriginal Elementary Program Resource Teacher Tina Demings presented a draft of the Aboriginal Education Partnership Agreement Annual Report for 2013/14. The report includes many of the highlights of improved student achievement last year.

Trustees were informed that staff are continuing to focus on early learning, grade transitions and attendance, with the expectation that these efforts will lead to further improvements in student achievement. The Partnership Agreement is due for renewal at the end of this year.

"These improvements in student achievement are a testament to the work of the retired District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Debbie Leighton-Stephens," said Board Chair Tina Last. "We look forward to further successes through the hard work of the new team that is now in place."

**School Calendar**

The Board of Education has approved a draft school calendar for 2015/16. This calendar will be provided to partner groups for their review and input for the next month. The board will then consider and approve the final calendar in March.

In the proposed calendar, classes will begin on September 8, 2015 (following Labour Day on September 7). The Christmas break will run from Saturday, December 19, 2015 to Sunday, January 3, 2016. Spring Break will commence on Saturday, March 19, 2016 and run through the Easter Weekend, with classes resuming on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. The last day of the school year will be Thursday, June 30, 2016.

## **2014/2015 Amended Annual Budget**

The Board of Education approved the 2014/2015 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting on February 10, 2015. The total budget bylaw amount was \$29,322,552, which is down slightly from the original budget bylaw amount of \$29,484,829. Operating funding from the Ministry of Education is down slightly, primarily as a result of teacher strike savings held by the Ministry. Decreases in operating spending have resulted in a decrease in the amount of prior year surplus being used to balance the budget. This will leave the district with more surplus funds available to balance the 2015/2016 annual budget. Copies of the approved amended annual budget will be available soon on the district website, [www.sd52.bc.ca](http://www.sd52.bc.ca).

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration is currently underway and will run until Friday, February 13, 2015. Registrations received by the deadline will have priority in placement in the school of choice. Registrations received after the deadline will be accommodated in the school of choice if there is sufficient space in the kindergarten class(es) in that school.

## **Cross-Boundary Applications**

Cross-boundary applications are currently underway and will run until Friday, February 27, 2015. Cross-boundary applications are required for parents/guardians who wish their students to attend a different elementary school, and for parents/guardians who are registering their students for the first time in the district and who wish their students to attend a different school than their catchment area school. Further details on the cross-boundary process are available in Regulation 1210-10 in the district policy book, available at [www.sd52.bc.ca](http://www.sd52.bc.ca).

## **Appointment of Auditors**

Following a tendering process, the Board of Education has approved the reappointment of Carlyle, Shepherd & Co. as the district's auditors for the 2015/16 fiscal year.

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