

Media Release Highlights of October 14, 2014 Board Meeting

PRMS "Love of Reading" Inquiry Project

At the October 14, 2014 meeting of the Board of Education, teacher Dawnn Thorson reported on this inquiry project she had undertaken with fellow teacher Sheryl Proskiw. This project was based on a book called, "Book Love" by author Penny Kittle.

This project focused on developing a love of reading amongst Ms. Thorson's grade 8 students. This goal was based, in part, on the passion for reading which Ms. Thorson and Ms. Proskiw share. The project was also designed to help the students be better prepared for their transition to high school.

By developing a comfortable, quiet place to read and providing students with measures that demonstrated their improvement in reading, the project met its goals.

"Reading is a fundamental skill that all our students need in order to be successful learners," said Board Chair Tina Last. "The Board was thrilled to learn of the success of this pilot project, and hopes that this will be used to help many more students in the years to come."

Election Underway

Election of trustees for the Board of Education will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Nominations closed on Friday, October 10. There are 10 nominees for the 6 trustee positions in area 1 (City of Prince Rupert), and 1 nominee for the trustee position in area 2 (rural communities).

Student Enrolment Decline

As expected, enrolment at the start of the school year is slightly lower than last year. The official student count for the 2014-2015 school year will take place on October 17, 2014. Preliminary student numbers, as of October 10, 2014, indicate there are 2,073 students in the district. This is a decline of 27 students from the official headcount on September 30, 2013 of 2,100 – with a full time equivalent number of 2,089.625.

Learning Improvement Fund

Superintendent Sandra Jones reported on the use of the Learning Improvement fund in the school district for the 2014/15 school year. In accordance with the new collective agreements with the district's teachers and support staff, 80% of the Learning Improvement Fund is identified in the teacher collective agreement as the "Education Fund," which is dedicated to teaching staff. The remaining 20% of the Learning Improvement Fund is used to provide additional hours to education assistants and similar support staff.

The Education Fund has been utilized to reduce class sizes or to provide additional co-teacher support in most schools in the district. As additional funds for support staff were only recently confirmed, the district is meeting with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 882-B, to discuss how these funds will be used.

Policy Committee Work

One new policy was approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014:

District Parent Advisory Council Policy

2 draft policies were approved to be sent out to partner groups for comments:

Security and Protection of Buildings Policy School Funds Policy

The Board looks forward to receiving feedback from its partner groups on draft policies, in order to ensure that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and employees.

Contact Persons:

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