



Media Release

Highlights of September 9, 2014 Board Meeting

Strike Update

The Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Sandra Jones, provided an update on the impact of the strike on the district and its students. Trustees have received regular updates on the status of bargaining and support the BCSTA “Back to School Action Plan” as a way forward to resolve this dispute. The Board of Education wrote letters in July and August which are available on the district website.

School websites are providing information on activities students can complete at home while the district waits for schools to reopen. In particular, grade 12 students can work on their Graduation Transitions course which is a self-directed 4 credit course required for graduation.

The district remains hopeful that the British Columbia Public Schools Employers Association and the British Columbia Teachers Federation will successfully conclude a new collective agreement as soon as possible.

Summer Maintenance Work

At the September 9, 2014 meeting of the Board of Education, the district’s new Director of Operations, Mr. Dave Garcia, was introduced to the Board. The Director of Operations updated the Board on the maintenance projects completed over the summer. These projects included lighting and energy control upgrades in 5 schools, new gym floors in École Roosevelt Park Elementary School and Conrad Street Elementary School. The public announcement systems at Prince Rupert Middle School and École Roosevelt Park Elementary School were replaced and the fire panel at Conrad Street Elementary School was also replaced.

“The trustees are very appreciative of the quality work completed by district staff,” said Board Chair Tina Last. “Our thanks go out to the maintenance, custodial and information technology crews for all of the good work they completed over the summer.”

Achievement Contract

The Director of Instruction, Ken Minette, provided the highlights of the 2014-2015 Achievement Contract for the school district. This contract is the beginning of a new 3-year cycle, and builds on the success achieved in the previous 5-year contract.

The district's foundational principles have grown from 4 to 5 and are:

- Aboriginal Ways of Knowing
- Assessment for Learning
- Differentiated Instruction
- Inquiry
- Social Emotional Learning

Goals and targets have been set that focus on the need for further improvement in literacy, numeracy, grade transitions and school completion.

Capital Budget

The Board of Education of School District No. 52 has approved a capital budget reflecting 3 items. The priority request continues to be the replacement of Prince Rupert Middle School with a new building. The district is also requesting funds for the upgrade of the closed Westview Elementary School to house the Board office and for the replacement of a bus for students with special needs.

LUCID Research Partnership Report

Ms. Roberta Edzerza, the District Principal of Aboriginal Education, presented the highlights of the LUCID Research Partnership Report to the Board of Education. This project has seen Simon Fraser University and the district work together for long-term research on the effectiveness of LUCID (Learning for Understanding through Culturally Inclusive Imaginative Development) to improve student outcomes. This research has a strong focus on honouring Aboriginal values, knowledge, history, culture and perspectives.

Highlights of the programs and supports provided throughout the district were provided to the Board. A continued focus on professional development of teachers to implement the LUCID philosophy is an important part of this work.

Policy Committee Work

6 new policies were approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014:

- Annual Budget Policy
- Audit Services Policy
- Disposal of Land and Improvements Policy
- Disposal of Assets Policy
- Delegation to the Superintendent Policy
- Purchasing and Tendering Policy

1 draft policy was approved to be sent out to partner groups for comments:

- District Parent Advisory Council Policy

The Board is grateful for the feedback it receives 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.

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