



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for January 2025

Superintendent of Schools Report:

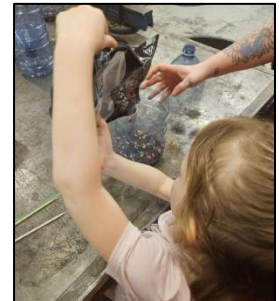
School/Student News

Literacy blitzes are happening at schools throughout the district. The targeted activity provides students a fun environment to practice literacy skills they have learned through previous literacy centre participation. The literacy blitz helps students to become fluent in their reading and writing skills.



Devereaux students had fun building inukshuks out of clay as part of their learning about Inuit communities.

The Tumbler Ridge StrongStart students were excited to visit the fish farm at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. The students got to feed the fish and learn how fish can provide nutrients to plants to help them grow.



Mr. Noronha's class used a 3D printer to create manipulatives to reconstruct the earth's continents to learn about how they were formed and broke apart. The students reconstructed the earth and moon which are being used in grade 7 science with the use of telescopes.



South Peace Elementary invited the RCMP for a visit. Students and families enjoyed learning about the RCMP and the services they offer.

Students at Ecole Frank Ross are learning Social Emotional Learning strategies by focusing on 'things in my control', which include learning about their own thoughts, emotions, reactions, behaviors, communication style, self-awareness, self-regulation, goal setting, decision-making, and how they choose to respond to situations and people around them.



Students are also studying local First Nations and have created a bulletin board with information about Saulteau First Nations.



As part of a school wide initiative, students at Canalta Elementary helped set the school's goal for 2025 - 'We have Drive in 2025'.

Canalta Elementary is part of the Classroom Champions program which partners the school with a world class athlete who provides mentorship to the students and encourages growth mindsets and inspire positive classroom culture. Canadian National Ski Cross Team Athlete, Antoinette Tansley zooms in with Mr. Haberstock's class.



McLeod Elementary and Little Prairie Elementary teamed up to play basketball. Each school hosted a basketball game allowing the teams to travel and play a game outside of their community.



Schools in all communities are enjoying outdoor activities, including snowshoeing, tobogganing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and skating.



The District is participating in Preventure Training, an evidence-based program developed by Clinical Psychologist and Professor Dr. Patricia Conrad. The program uses personality targeted interventions to promote mental health and reduce the risk of substance use for youth.

Dianne Lowe has been appointed as Vice-Principal at Central Campus in a temporary position from February 3rd to June 30th. Congratulations and welcome!

International Field Trip

The Board of Education granted final approval to Dawson Creek Secondary School for the international field trip to Europe from March 19th to 30th, 2025. The trip is for 16 students in grades 9 and 10 from Dawson Creek Secondary School. The final itinerary has students traveling to Berlin, Amsterdam, Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Paris, Normandy, and London where they will take part in guided visits to historically significant sites connected to world wars such as concentration camp memorials, museums, cemeteries, and palaces. The students will also participate in a panel discussion related to the Cold War and visit significant venues such as the Eiffel Tower, Westminster Abbey and more.

Early Years Health Fair

The District is partnering with local agencies to host an Early Years Health Fair on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The event is a project by the Ministry of Education and Child Care Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT).

2025-2026 Proposed School Calendar

Section 87.01 (7) of the School Act requires consultation on school calendars. A board must make public a proposed school calendar one month before submitting it to the Ministry. During the consultation period, a board must provide parents and board employees the opportunity to

comment on the proposed calendar before it is adopted by the Board of Education and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by March 31st.

The 2025 Proposed School Calendar is available for viewing on the school district website: [2025-26 Proposed School Calendar-for feedback.pdf](#). Written feedback must be sent to [Jan Proulx](#) before February 28, 2025 to be considered.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

Since the December 18, 2024 Board Meeting, the following have occurred:

- Two addendums added to the posting on BC Bid.
- Optional site visit for interested contractors of which two attended.
- Closing date of tender extended to January 20, 2025 as per multiple contractors' requests.

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

Since the December 18, 2024 Board Meeting, the following progress continues on the ChildcareBC New Spaces projects in Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek:

- Project team will review the final costing once it is received and integrate any necessary adjustments into the design plans - awaiting civil and structural drawings from Engineer.
- Continue with detailed design work to ensure all elements are resolved and ready for the next phase.
- Maintain open communication with city/district representatives to ensure regulatory compliance and alignment is met.
 - The proposed plans and design for Tumbler Childcare has been confirmed.
 - The project team is working with the City of Dawson Creek for confirmation.
- Finalize the Class A cost estimates for both construction options.

Capital project updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](#).

Trustee Items:

Upcoming BCSTA Events

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Provincial Council in February will be held online. The AGM will be held in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025.

Northern Interior Branch Advocacy Priorities

The Board of Education discussed advocacy priorities to bring to the Northern Interior Branch Meeting scheduled in Prince George on February 7-8, 2025.

Board advocacy discussion points:

- Letter of Permission to be district wide not specific to a designated school and to be approved for longer than a year.
- Representative from each branch on the BCSTA board and the member terms are staggered.
- Childcare facility maintenance funding.
- Increased capital bus replacement funding to cover 100% of cost.

- Accessibility upgrade funding.
- Move timeline of FSA's from fall to another time in the year.
- Alignment between MOECC career program initiatives such as dual credit, health career expansion/experiential projects, and other programs, and availability of post-secondary seats in related fields.
- StrongStart funding increase.
- Improving teacher education programs through transparency and process of BC Teachers Council.
- Approval of UNBC Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education Program Proposal.
- Funding for Northern Student Teacher Bursary Program.
- BCSTA board meetings open or available by recording; weighted voting on certain motions.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

The Chetwynd Indigenous Council met on January 21st. Council received a presentation on the grade 7 transition experiences, including testimonials from students. Windrem Elementary presented the ceiling tile designs they have been working on. Council also received an update on the planning for the May 5th Truth and Reconciliation non-instructional day.



The Dawson Creek Indigenous Council will be holding their meeting on January 28, 2025.

Policy Committee

The Board of Education adopted Policy 4270 District Authority Scholarship Award and Policy 4330 Dismissal of Students as presented.

All school district policies can be viewed on the school district website at [District Policies | School District 59](#).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
January 31, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
February 17, 2025	Family Day – schools are closed
February 19, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
February 26 & 27, 2025	Early Dismissal Days – students are dismissed 1 hr early
March 12, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
March 17-28, 2025	Spring Break – schools are closed