



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

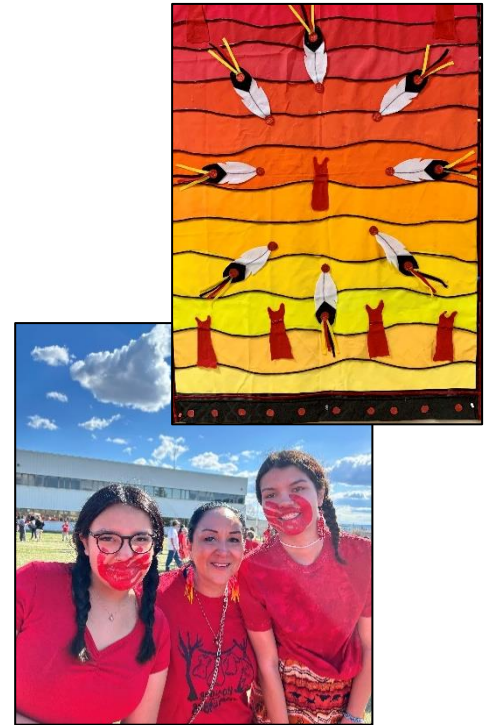
Board Highlights for May 2024

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Dawson Creek Secondary South Peace Campus students created a wall mural to honour Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and participated in a walk to city hall.

South Peace Student Council visited the Dawson Creek City Council. Fourteen students completed the Youth Explore Trades program at Northern Lights College and another group of students participated a 3-day program highlighting Adventures in Health Care – a program organized in partnership with the local Rotary Club, UNBC, NLC, Northern Health, SD59, SD60, and SD81



Students at Dawson Creek Secondary School have been immersed in Project Based Learning. The students have been studying cells, types of energy, hydraulic arms, seismology and plate tectonics, electricity and circuits, and dissection. The grade 9 students visited Northern Lights College to tour the campus and learn about all the programs offered. English classes learned the art of storytelling with Wayne Lariviere. An online and social media safety presentation by Safer Schools was well attended by students.





Many schools are participating in community clean-up activities during the month of May.

Parkland Elementary celebrated with an outdoor music concert!

Crescent Park Elementary enjoyed the smile cookies donated by Ovintiv.



Don Titus Elementary students are loving the Pokémon themed cooking program.



Chetwynd Secondary School held a Lucky Charms cereal eating contest and Hungry Hippos challenge with local RCMP members participating. The drama class presented an interpretive dance, the Food's class is busy preparing snacks for the Feeding Futures program which has been a great success at the school.



Canalta Elementary students are learning about digestion. Based on reviewing the school's SOAR data the school determined students wanted access to non-sport extra-curricular activities, so a Lego Club was started – a structured club where students are challenged to complete specific Lego designs.



Ecole Frank Ross students visited Rotary Manor as part of the grandbuddies program. The students are learning how to play disc golf. A local female hockey athlete Morgan La Fleur-Hamann, shared her experience of training, trying out and playing in the National Aboriginal Hockey Tournament and then the class made Indigenous themed hockey pucks.



Devereaux Elementary students are enjoying harvesting crops of lettuce to make into salads. A delivery of smile cookies was a big hit and the students had fun getting creative about the spirit themed day to use “Anything but a Backpack.” Students got creative using wagons, toolboxes, purses, buckets, cereal boxes, and bags.



Tremblay Elementary school had a presentation from Ms. Danica Spittal to learn more about the MMWIG campaign. Students are also participating in Jump Rope for Heart.



MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN
CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE

May 16th is Moose Hide Campaign Day - a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for a collective journey of reconciliation.

Integrated Child and Youth Teams

The District was selected to implement an integrated Child and Youth (ICY) program. ICY is a provincial strategy for improved mental health and substance use care in BC. The program is a team approach that has collaboration and support from team members employed through health authorities, school districts, Ministry of Children and Family Development, as well as other organizations. The multi-disciplinary approach expands the diversity of mental health supports and provides a wrap-around approach, so children and youth have access to services when needed.

Childcare BC New Spaces

A media release was published on May 6th, 2024, announcing the District was successful in its application to the ChildcareBC New Spaces Fund. The District has secured \$7.95 million through the federally and provincially supported fund for the creation of 74 new childcare spaces in Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge. The district has started the planning for new spaces and will post updates throughout the process. The full media release and updates can be viewed on the district website at [Child Care Facilities | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/child-care-facilities).

“Child care on school sites assist working families with getting their children to and from school while managing busy schedules. When we extend child care options in our schools, our schools become even more valuable community hubs.” - Chad Anderson, Board Chair

“We are very excited to announce our new spaces for Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek, which will help families access affordable, quality, and inclusive child care. This helps youth develop their early cognitive and social skills to prepare them for success in learning.” – Christy Fennell, Superintendent

Truth and Reconciliation District Day



SD59 participated in their second Indigenous Focused Non-Instructional Day. Last year, staff had the opportunity to unpack where they are in their journey of Truth and Reconciliation. This year, staff continued the journey and came together to listen, to learn, and take action towards our own



personal commitments toward Truth and Reconciliation. The District was honoured to have Jo Chrona, author of *Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education* and

Denise Augustine, Superintendent of Indigenous Education for the Ministry of Education and Child Care join us for the day, sharing their wisdom and knowledge.

Graduation Ceremonies

In planning for graduation ceremonies, it was noted the graduation ceremonies and events would conflict with National Indigenous Peoples Day that is recognized on June 21st. The high schools connected with the local Indigenous Councils to ask for permission to hold graduation ceremonies on National Indigenous Peoples Day, in result, the Indigenous Councils moved their celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day to June 25th.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

2025-2026 Five Year Annual Capital Plan-DRAFT

The Board reviewed the draft plan of the major and minor capital projects for the 2025-2026 school year. The major capital submission includes an addition of a school gym at Moberly Lake Elementary, and three school replacements (Chetwynd Secondary and Windrem Elementary schools as an amalgamation into a K-12 school, and full replacement of Canalta Elementary). The minor capital submission includes Carbon Neutral Capital Projects, Playground Enhancements, and School Enhancements projects. The plan will come back to the Board in June for final approval.

NEW! Capital Projects Web Page

For more information on the District’s major capital projects, a new web page has been created. Progress updates and latest developments can be found here:
<https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/capital-projects> .

School Trust Account Handbook

A new handbook has been issued to schools. The purpose of the School Trust Account Handbook is to make administrators of the school trust accounts aware of their roles and responsibilities and to standardize the treatment, operation and oversight of school trust accounts across School District No. 59. It is the intention of the Handbook to clarify expectations of the day-to-day

accounting for the trust account, the reporting requirements and the audit of the trust account by District Finance Staff.

Trustee Items:

UNBC Teacher Program

In September 2023, the Board supported UNBC in its application to create a Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education Program. The Board is disappointed to learn the application was denied by the BC Teachers Council as the Board has been advocating for an online and locally accessible teacher education program in BC. The Board unanimously passed the following motion to express their disappointment and seek clarification as to what the BC Teachers Council is doing to address the teacher shortage.

“THAT, the Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) write a letter to the BC Teachers’ Council in regard to the denial of the Northern Cohort Bachelor of Education program through UNBC to express the Board’s disappointment with the Council’s decision and the impact the decision has on northern school districts in efforts to staff our schools; AND FURTHER, to seek information on what the BC Teachers’ Council is doing to address the teacher shortage in BC through its approval process.”

BC Human Rights Commission Report

The Board is aware of a Community Brief report published by the BC Human Rights Commission specific to the community of Chetwynd, including education. Concerns were brought forward about the misinformation in the report.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

The Indigenous Councils debriefed the Truth and Reconciliation Day that was held for district staff on April 29th. Northern Lights College presented on the programs and services available to students. Coach Mentor staffing updates were provided and information about the new Integrated Child and Youth Care program and ChildcareBC New Spaces Fund announcements.

Councils discussed year end celebrations which will be held on June 25th in honour of National Peoples Day (June 21st). The celebration was moved to an alternate date because of graduation events around the district on the June 21st weekend. The celebration will include a barbeque, cultural events, and student achievement awards.

Policy Committee

The Board approved to circulate Policy and Regulation 5190 Use of School Facilities for review. Feedback will be accepted in writing to cfennell@sd59.bc.ca until June 15, 2024.

Regulation 2205 Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Recognition was provided to trustees for information. The maximum allowance for tipping was changed from 15% to 18-20%.

The Policy Committee will be developing a policy to address use of digital devices by students as per the ministry guidelines that were issued to school districts.

District policies are available for viewing on the district website at [District Policies | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](#).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
June 7, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
June 19, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek School Board Office @ 1:00 pm
June 27, 2024	Last Day of School
June 28, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
September 4, 2024	First Day of School – school starts 2 hours late and end 1 hour early

Trustee tour of TRSS Project K.A.R.T.S



The Board of Education was in Tumbler Ridge for the May Board Meeting.

Trustee tour at TRE

