



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

## Board Highlights for September 2024

The Board held its annual organizational meeting to elect a board chair and vice-chair and appoint committee representatives and school liaisons.

The Board congratulates Trustee Chad Anderson in continuing the position of Board Chair and Trustee Roxanne Gulick in the position of Vice-Chair.



The Board of Education toured South Peace Distributed Learning at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus and learned how the students are being supported in their programs.

### ***Superintendent of Schools Report:***

### **School/Student News**

A Leadership Retreat for Administrators and Senior Leadership was held at the District’s outdoor education site at Gwillim Lake in late August.

Schools recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with activities during the week leading up to Orange Shirt Day which was recognized on September 27, 2024 in schools.

Don Titus Montessori School was honoured to have Elders from Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations attend its assembly.





Schools throughout the district held their annual Terry Fox Run.



The Cops for Cancer tour is making stops at many of the schools in the district. Many schools hold fundraisers for this event and use this opportunity to present their fundraising efforts.



Peace View Elementary students are learning about working together and created a helping hands bulletin board with ideas about how they can help each other.

Moberly Lake Elementary held their annual welcome back pancake breakfast for students and families. The students are having fun learning about forest ecology encompassing land stewardship including tree planning, picking berries and preparing the berries to make jam.



Tremblay Elementary has started an after-school library club which has great attendance already! Students are getting outside and are having fun collecting items from nature to spell their names and intermediate students have already been on a field trip to the District's outdoor education site at Gwillim Lake.



Don Titus Montessori School participated in a Truth and Reconciliation assembly to recognize the week. Literacy centres are in full swing at the school and students have been on a field trip to Gwillim Lake to tackle the rock-climbing wall.



Little Prairie students are busy harvesting the community garden, participating in inclusive science units and holding a pajama themed day.

### **Enhancing Student Learning Report**

The 2023-24 Enhancing Student Learning (ESL) report was presented to the Board. This is a formal document that is used to set, create and maintain a strategic plan, annually report on student outcomes and put systems in place to focus on enhancing student learning and success. ESL combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the provincial K-12 public system, including Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities or diverseabilities. [Public Documents | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca/public-documents)

### **2024-2028 Operational Plan**

A draft Operation Plan was presented to the Board. The Operational Plan is an extension of the Board's Strategic Plan that sets operational initiatives to meet the goals in each priority of the over-arching strategic plan. Targets and fiscal responsibility (if required) are attached to each initiative and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

### ***Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:***

#### **Auditor Presentation – J. Neufeld, Sander Rose Bone Grindle**

Mr. Neufeld from Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP accounting firm presented the Audit Report to the Board. The auditor found the financial statements to present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with all required regulations.

#### **Audited Financial Statements**

The Secretary Treasurer presented the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements and provided further details in the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis report. The District reported the use of \$687,574 surplus for the June 30, 2024 year-end. The remaining operating reserve balance of \$8,806,098 is available, of which \$3.5 million is internally restricted.

The Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis report provides readers with a more comprehensive understanding of the financial activities of the district. The information contained in the report goes beyond what financial statements alone can provide. The report is available on the district website at [Financial Information | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/financial-information).

The Board of Education adopted the 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

### **Preliminary Enrolment**

Preliminary enrolment is showing at 3675 FTE (decrease of 60 FTE from projections). The final enrolment report will be presented at the October meeting after the 1701 data is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

### **2025-26 Minor Capital Amendment**

The Board of Education approved an amendment to the 2025-26 Minor Capital Plan, originally approved in the June board meeting, to include a bus in the transportation fleet that has now met the replacement criteria. The Minor Capital Plan is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **2025-26 Draft Budget Process**

The Board of Education approved the budget process for the 2025-26 budget year. The 2025-26 budget process is posted on the district website, [2025-2026 Budget Process | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/budget-process).

### **Capital Projects Update**

#### **Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion**

Ministry staff gave District approval to move forward with the tendering process for the expansion. Engineers and consultants are drafting the pre-tender package with target of end of September to post on BC Bid. Project plans are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

#### **Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities**

The project team selected Sahuri & Associates Architecture Inc. from Kelowna BC. The project team has been working with the architect to design childcare facilities that meet Ministry and licensing requirements. Costing for both modular and stick build will be considered. Draft facility drawings are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

### ***Trustee Items:***

#### **Upcoming BCSTA Events:**

- Northern Interior Branch Meeting & Leadership Series – October 4/5, 2024 – Prince George
- BCSTA Provincial Council – October 25/26, 2024 - Vancouver
- BCSTA Academy – November 21-23, 2024 - Vancouver

### **2024-25 Board Committee & Reps**

The Board assigned trustees to standing committees and schools for the 2024-25 school year, effective October 1, 2024 and can be found on the district website: [Board Representatives | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/board-representatives)

**Committee Reports:**

**Indigenous Education Councils:**

Dawson Creek Indigenous Education Council met on the evening of September 24, 2024. The Indigenous Education team welcomed the group to a new school year and presented the goals of the department for the upcoming year.

Chetwynd Indigenous Education Council will meet on October 8, 2024.

Both councils will hold their annual enhancement meeting in November. School principals and coach mentors will join each council meeting to review the school goals from last year and create new goals for the current year.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Date:	Event:
September 27, 2024	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events at all schools
September 30, 2024	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 14, 2024	Thanksgiving Stat – Schools Closed
October 23, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Chetwynd @ Little Prairie Elementary School.
October 25, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school

*Welcome back to school from the DCSS-SP Campus mascot!*

