



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for November 2017

Organizational Meeting

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair:

Congratulations to Tamara Ziemer and Crystal Hillton on their appointments of Board Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Presentation:

Brad Booker (VP of Career/Environmental Ed and DCSS) and Michelle Neis (Gwillim Lake Educational Site Facilitator) presented information to the Board about the use of the Gwillim Lake site and outdoor education and experiential programs. They highlighted the value of the physical activity and experiences for students at the educational site. The possibilities are endless for connecting students to the natural environment and each other; activities at the site include hiking, canoeing, climbing, fire building and team building activities.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

FSA's have been completed with a participation rate of 96%. Data is returned to districts much more quickly than in the past. One highlight is in Grade 4 reading, the results have exceeded the provincial average.

Student Discipline

There were 17 suspensions in total for the month of October with the majority of suspensions connected to safety of others.

Remedy and Ratio Update

The Superintendent reviewed the current ratios of student FTE to specialty positions in the district (Learning Assistance Teachers, Teacher Librarians, and Counsellor positions). Overall, the combined ratios for the district is below the expected average by 0.58 FTE. The district will create a 0.6 FTE resource teacher position to provide literacy support. Once this position is hired, the ratios will be met.

In regards to remedies, arrangements have been made in the situations where composition or class size has exceeded the expectations of the restored language. Teachers are receiving remedies of additional prep time.

Parkhill/Tremblay Shuttle Bus

Tremblay Elementary School was named as the receiving school when Parkhill Elementary School closed in June 2010. A shuttle bus has been operating since the school closed to transport the students that chose to attend Tremblay Elementary. Currently the shuttle bus only has one student that was part of the original agreement using the service. A motion was put forward to cease the operation of the Parkhill/Tremblay Shuttle Bus effective June 30, 2018 (motion carried).

International Field Trip Update

The board received notice that the Me to We group has cancelled their request for an international field trip to Costa Rica in the spring of 2018 due to lack of interest from students.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

The 1530 Report and the SOFI Report were presented to the board. The SOFI report describes the financial information in the district including assets, liabilities, remuneration and expenses. The 1530 report describes the number of employees across the district in specific categories of Instruction, District Admin, Operations & Maintenance and Transportation & Housing.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee

The following policies are being circulated for feedback:

- Policy & Regulation 2050: Inaugural Meeting
- Policy & Regulation 2051: Organizational Meeting

Any concerns or feedback may be made in writing to Candace Clouthier at cclouthi@sd59.bc.ca before January 15th, 2018.

A motion was made to approve Regulation: 6070.5 School Bus Transportation – Operating Procedures as presented.

Trustee Electoral Areas:

The Board of Education of School District No.59 voted unanimously to send a request to the Minister of Education requesting a variance of Trustee Electoral Areas IV and V.

The reasoning behind amalgamating the two electoral areas is to evenly distribute the trustee responsibilities among the rural areas. Two schools located in Electoral Area IV have recently closed (Tate Creek Elementary and Rolla Discovery School) leaving only one school located in the Village of Pouce Coupe. Electoral Area V is comprised of five schools (Devereaux Elementary, Parkland Elementary, McLeod Elementary, Peace View Colony School, South Peace Colony School). The number of trustees representing the district will continue to be the same; however, by combining the two areas, the rural areas surrounding Dawson Creek would be shared by two elected trustees.

If the request is approved by the Minister the new areas would be effective for the 2018 General School Election.

Date:	Event:
Dec 18, 2017 – Jan 1, 2018	Winter Break – schools closed
January 24, 2018	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm @ School Board Office
February 2, 2018	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
February 12, 2018	Family Day – schools closed