
Board Chair Ciel Patenaude acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Northern Secwepemc People.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

OPEN HEARTS

Unfortunately, families in our school communities have gone through some tremendous tragedy, loss, and hardship this past month. The support from our schools and broader communities for those affected by the vehicular accident and the house fire have been remarkable. Important reminders to be grateful for what we have and kind to those around us.

As we get near Spring Break, please find the time to connect and care for each other. Let’s not take tomorrow, or others for granted.

SD 27 LEARNING SERIES

It was great to see the robust engagement from teachers in the February Pro-D offerings. I grade the opportunity to take in the multi-grade, all day numeracy workshop with Carole Fullerton. The energy was fantastic, and it was very exciting to see the expanded interest into secondary. Carole will be back in April for our final Pro-D where she will also work in schools on with teachers on the day before as she did this time at Horse Lake and Mile 108.



SD 27 NUMERACY ASSESSMENT

We have had a considerable focus on Numeracy for the past two years and have had staff engaged with renowned experts, Peter Liljedahl and Carole Fullerton. As classroom instructional practices continue to shift, we are also discussing ongoing assessment practices that reflect good classroom instruction. Recently, Principals Holly Zurak and Sari Small, along with Director Cameron, facilitated an SD ‘think tank’ on numeracy assessment (k-9) as part of Ms. Fullerton’s last visit. The group included elementary and secondary teachers from across the district as we begin the process towards implementing a numeracy assessment that also informs instruction.

NORTHERN INTERIOR BRANCH MEETINGS



Trustees from across the North Central and East gathered in Prince George January 20-21 to discuss key issues in education with a specific focus on our region. Of critical importance for the region and sector has been recruitment and retention. The Chapter (and NW) has partnered with Ministry on a pilot project to recruit for the hardest to fill areas. They are starting with Nisga'a, North and South Peace, SD 82 (Hazelton) and SD91 (Ft. St James). Despite our struggles, we have done remarkably well. Boards also were able to spend some time with Mike McKay

(formerly SD27 special advisor) as he discussed the importance of good governance and the perils of it done poorly. [See Trustee reports.](#)

MINISTRY PARTNER LIAISON MEETINGS

Chair Patenaude and Superintendent van der Mark joined trustees, Superintendents, Secretary Treasurers and Ministry to connect and focus on key issues. Key areas include the new reporting policy and the Indigenous graduation requirements. We continue to look more critically and deeper at specific indigenous indicators and despite significant improvements, we have a long way to go. Following the COVID years, it has been nice to be part of conversations that bring learning back to the forefront of the conversation in BC.

STAFFING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

We have submitted our projections for the coming year and are expecting fairly status quo enrolment. HR has continued to interview and hire for teaching and support staff positions. They are conducting 3-4 teacher interviews per week and are hitting career fairs across the country. Big thanks to the CCTA and its members for helping advertise and endorse the district and learning opportunities. This has been an all-around team effort!

SAFER SCHOOLS PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

On February 21, SD27 schools facilitated digital awareness sessions for students, staff, and parents. Schools organized grades group sessions and according to Ms. Darney, feedback from students was instant as there was A LOT of learning in these sessions. Look for these sessions to continue in the future.

Next Board of Education Meeting – March 28, 2023

To read full Board and Committee Reports, view the agenda on the [District Website](#).

“Learning, Growing and Belonging Together”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND FACILITIES

The Board did third reading of the Amended budget, and the budget passed. Finance and Facilities Committee recommended that the [DRAFT 2023-2024 / 2024-2025 Calendars](#) be sent for consultation, for the second time before it is passed and sent to the Ministry of Education. They have been posted on the district website and linked above for easy reference. Boards must approve a calendar by March 31st.

EDUCATION

District Achievement Update - Each year the Ministry of Education (MOE) releases key achievement measures for school districts including completion rates, FSA performance, provincial exam scores, and survey data. The data sets include district performance for a multiyear range with provincial average as a comparator.

SD 27 has worked with ministry to develop a single page infographic providing all these measures on one report. The SD27 report will be shared with the Trustees.

Indigenous Education Curriculum and Resources – The committee learned about the new Indigenous focused graduation requirement at the recent BCSTA Trustee Academy. SD 27 secondary schools have each planned how they will offer the courses in the coming year for all students to meet the graduation requirement. Dancing Water Sandy is the District First Nations Curriculum Teacher. She has created resource sets to support the local delivery of the provincial courses and authentic Indigenous resources to teach about local culture and history across the K-12 curriculum. Dancing Water collaborates with SD 27 language teachers and knowledge keepers from Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in and Dakelh Nations. She maintains the complete district resource collection and provides professional learning opportunities and support for classroom teachers.

Dancing Water shared some of the resources and her approach with the Education Committee.

POLICY

Policy committee recommended Policy 5142 Student Safety and Care be repealed.

Next Board of Education Meeting – March 28, 2023

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