
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

CONGRATULATIONS

As we move towards the end of another school year, there is much to celebrate. We have seen schools and students fully return to the engagement opportunities that we perhaps took for granted. Similarly, we have seen adults return to and access engagement opportunities. It matters, and you will see some of those highlights below. Most importantly however, June is a month where we get to celebrate and recognize the Indigenous Role Models and the Grad classes of 2023. Thank you to all who contribute to this learning journey. The Grad ceremonies will occur before our final Board Meeting, and we want to wish you all a safe and joyous celebration.

COLUMNNEETZA FIRE UPDATE

Big thanks to the administration and staff of Columneetza for managing the events following the fire in the cafeteria. Special thanks to the Williams Lake Fire Department for their quick response, as well as to Cool Clear Water, FreshCo and Save On Foods for their support on a very hot day.

ROLE MODEL CELEBRATION

The SD 27 annual Indigenous Role Model Celebration will begin at 4:30 pm on Thursday, June 1 at Lake City Secondary. All the student candidates will be recognized, and current Role Models Paige Romaniuk and Angus Paul will crown the new 2023 Role Models. This program has a long history with SD 27 and the First Nation Education Council, and the celebration is a very special event for the role models, their families, and invited guests.

CULTURAL WEEK AT NAGHTANEQED

District Principal Grant Gustafson, Director Anita Richardson, and Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon had the pleasure of attending a day of Naghtaneqed School’s 36th annual Culture Week. Language and Culture Teacher June Williams was the lead in organizing a very full week of hands-on learning opportunities including beading, medicine bags, rope making, archery, survival skills, sweat lodge, wild potato harvesting, gill net fishing, gaff hook making, traditional cooking, smoking, and preserving deer meat, medicine hike, lehal, drumming, singing, and other hands-on learning opportunities with Xení Gwet’in First 2 Nation community members. Thanks also to our tech department (Matt Abel and Shubham Vaghela) who were out at Naghtaneqed as well during cultural week.

BCCAISE (BC Council of Administrators of Inclusive Support in Education)

A team of educators and admin joined Director Cathy van der Mark at this yearly conference. Feedback has been tremendous as much of the learning re-enforced the work SD27 has been doing as we continue to become a more inclusive and supportive learning community.

BC MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Principals Kimberley Ikebuchi and Holly Zurak joined Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon at the Ministry of Education’s Mental Health in Schools Conference in Richmond May 2 and 3. The theme was connection and speakers included [Monique Gray Smith](#), [Kimberly Schonert-Reichl](#), [Michael Ungar](#), a Student Voice panel, and [Dr. Bonnie Henry](#) among others speaking to social-emotional learning. The team looks forward to sharing their learning with colleagues and contributing to planning for future mental health initiatives in the district.

BC SUPERINTENDENTS’ ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE

The senior team were joined by teachers, admin, and members of the FNEC table (including trustees). The Keynote was [Jo Chrona](#) (our speaker next year) who shared highlights from Wayi Wah, as well as a guided a conversation around the new indigenous graduation requirements.

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES AGM

SD27 trustees joined colleagues from the other 60 districts for a multi-day conference that culminated in their Saturday working session where they debate and pass motions to ultimately guide and help system improvement. Their reports are attached.

NETWORK OF INQUIRY AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

A large team of teachers and admin from across the district were in Richmond from May 11-13, learning from provincial leads examining best and promising practices. Keynotes included [Dustin Louie](#), [Leona Prince](#), [Jo Chrona](#) and [Monique Grey Smith](#). Participants were really engaged and energized with good purpose and intent. As always, Monique reminded us to go forth with gratitude and hope. Members of this group will share with the Board at a later date, as well as at their year-end celebration with their colleagues.

UBC COMMUNITY FIELD EXPERIENCE

Five teacher candidates from the UBC Teacher Education Program secondary cohort have completed the first of three weeks experiencing what it is like to live and work in SD27. They are engaged in activities at Scout Island, and Tatla and Alexis Creek Schools where 3 they are contributing their talents, passions, and work. This is a recruitment opportunity for us, not just with these students, but also through the presentation to the full cohort on campus leading up to the CFE. Six candidates from the elementary cohort will be with us in June.

NEW SPACES/DAYCARE PROJECT HAS BEGUN

There is lots of work happening both inside and outside at the former dorm site. Outside, ground prep for the play areas. Inside, work has been ongoing for abatement, prior to the construction phase. Massive thanks to all partners for helping make this project a reality for the School District and the communities we serve!

Next Board of Education Meeting – June 27, 2023

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

NEW CCTA EXECUTIVE

Congratulations to those members elected to the CCTA executive for the coming year in the respective roles. Thanks, and congratulations to Ms. Jessica Hill (President), Ms. Anna Donaldson (Vice-President) and Ms. Nara Riplinger (Pro-D) for returning to their key roles, not only within the local union, but also in the partnerships with SD27.

Thanks to Tracy Walton, Marianne Okrainetz, Robert Fahoum, Marissa Ball and Sandra Scott for their previous work on the executive.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES

The committee covered a lot this month. 2023-2024 Budget, Proposed School Fees, Emergency Planning, the Districts Intrusion Systems, and an update on Capital Projects: Marie Sharpe. The District continues to work with the Ministry and has been engaging with community partners in hopes of being able to bring forward a plan that will be of benefit to the whole community.

EDUCATION

Ms. Beulah Munson gave a presentation on Changing Possibilities for Young Children. This project was introduced provincially in 2017. The Early Learning Framework, which is the foundational document for the project, was re-worked in 2018.

District Principal David Corbett gave a presentation on the 2023 Heavy Metal Rocks and showcasing the support and enthusiasm we have for this event within the Cariboo-Chilcotin Communities in the North and South ends!

Director of Instruction, Inclusive Education Cathy van der Mark - provided updates on Early Learning, and the Accessible BC Act. As a district, we can expect to see changes related what Accessibility means in our schools.

POLICY

Policy 5125 Students Record, will be renamed **Policy 365**, to be brought inline with the rest of the Districts policy naming configuration, and the revisions reflect current requirements.

Policy 330 Enrollment in an Educational Program was reviewed and updated in January 2020. A review of the actual catchment areas and bussing is currently under way and the Board will receive an update on that process. In the meantime, there are changes required to the policy to reflect Nature Kindergarten not running as a School of Choice program and provide some annual flexibility in the application due date for School of Choice.

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“Learning, Growing and Belonging Together”