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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**

### **TAKE A MOMENT...**

It is amazing how fast the first two months of school have gone, and there are signs of students slipping into routines (mostly good). Please make sure communication between home and school is helping to keep student learning and attendance on track. We also have begun to see some alarming instances of behaviour and bullying on social media and through text exchanges. Take a moment to know what your child is engaged in online and how their actions can affect others or be affected by others. Take a moment to make sure that, as adults, we are modelling the kind of communication we expect to see. Take a moment to be kind, wherever we can.

### **MINISTRY MEETINGS:**

Superintendent van der Mark continues to enjoy the diversity of the combined School District and Ministry roles. This week, he is in Vancouver for continued work and development of the provincial Framework for Enhancing Student Learning before joining Deputy Superintendent Lenardon and Chair Patenaude in Victoria on Thursday.

### **LEADERSHIP SERIES**

We have started year four of our district series designed to engage informal and formal leaders in a broader discussion of leading in education. This group continues to grow, and it was amazing to have so many new faces join the group!



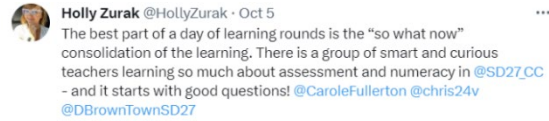
This year, the group is discussing Jo Chrona’s [Wayi Wah!](#) as well as other resources, including the learning series. I deeply appreciate how people are willing to spend three hours on a Monday evening (after a busy workday) to learn, laugh and share with each other in an environment where we all learners and colleagues, regardless of role. We continue to grow a culture of engaged professionals through these learning opportunities and the commitment of our people to learn and lead.

### **INNOVATION GRANTS**

The call has gone out for staff/schools to submit proposals for projects that enhance teaching and learning. Successful applicants can get up to \$2000. Projects are then presented at the Education Committee at a later date. These presentations have been a highlight for the Board. We look forward to this year’s inspirations.

### **NUMERACY ASSESSMENT:**

Teachers from a number of elementary schools continue to engage in a numeracy assessment for k-9 as part of our ongoing work to better align instruction, assessment and outcomes. A number of schools have worked closely with Carole Fullerton on this work as part of our learning series. Most recently, Principal Holly Zurak (Nesika) took the initiative to extend a learning opportunity specifically around assessment and invited other schools to observe and join.



### **BCSSA FALL CONFERENCE**

Most of the Senior Team will be gathering in Vancouver for the annual conference (Nov 16-17). This session will focus on justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization through an intersectionality approach.

### **BCSTA TRUSTEE ACADEMY**

SD27 trustees and senior leadership will join trustees from around the province in Vancouver Nov. 23-25, where they help set the stage for a better understanding of governance and how their work helps guide the education system.

### **FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

There has been some debate over the years regarding the inappropriate and inaccurate use of the data to “rank” schools, however the assessment (designed by teachers) provides key information that can be used to inform instruction, especially since the assessment is now done early in the year.

First Nations rights-holders, Indigenous organizations, and many education partners have expressed the importance of FSA results in supporting our most vulnerable learners and advancing our commitment to reconciliation. The FSA provides an important line of sight into the learning trajectories for Indigenous students and other student groups. With multi-partner consultation, the FSA aligns with BC’s redesigned curriculum and the components of literacy and numeracy are measured in all provincial assessments.

It is important to realize that the FSAS is a “snapshot” of a moment in time, reflecting expected performance based on the previous year. In SD#27, staff have been working hard to better align the FSA with the regular, ongoing assessment that teachers do every day, providing a far more rounded picture of the literacy and numeracy.

**Next Board of Education Meeting – November 28, 2023**

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Holly Zurak reposted  
**Caitlin Currie** @eh\_caitlin · Oct 14  
 Really enjoying today's collaborative work around assessment with @SD27CC teachers and admin colleagues Maria Telford and Murray Helmer. Grateful to see the enthusiasm to come out on a Saturday to move our practice forward!



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Our district, through the hard work of teachers and administration (with the support and guidance from Director Cameron) continues to approach this work collaboratively and from the lens of aligning practice to inform instruction while enhancing opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning successfully. We should be immensely proud of the professional learning and conversations our educators are having as part of this discussion.

### **ENROLMENT UPDATE**

Our HR team has done a phenomenal job working with schools to fill positions, with all enrolling classes being filled. HR also continues to hire to build capacity in the casual ranks of TTC's and support staff. Ms. Amund also continues to work on a taskforce focused on the growing workforce shortage issues that exist across the province, specifically, but not limited to, the North.

The District has also been able to meet or is in the process of meeting non-enrolling ratios as set out in the Collective Agreement.

Grade Max	Actual Average 23-24
K = 20	K = 18.1
Gr 1-3 = 22	Gr 1-3 = 20.6
Gr 4-7 = 30	Gr 4-7 = 24
Gr 8-12 = 30	Gr 8-12 = 25.3

Category	Ratio	FTE	Actual
Teacher Librarians	552.2	8.388	<b>8.371</b>
Counsellors	693	6.684	<b>9.714*</b>
Learning Assistance	432	10.933	
Special Education Resource	268.7		
ELL	59.5		
Total LA, Spec. Ed., ELL		28.078	<b>28.576</b>

- It should be noted that our actual includes postings we still have open (3) but does not include a service contract we utilize to augment counselling needs, specifically for rural.
- We still have some pieces of assignments that we are working to fill.

Classes were built with best efforts, and once again we see the improved efforts through planning resulting in better use of staff.

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## **FINANCE AND FACILITIES**

The October Finance and Facilities Committee meeting was as busy as the September meeting. Highlights include: A Look Back and Ahead, Disposal of the 100 Mile Jr. Secondary site, Accessible BC Act, Multi-Year Plan, and an update on the 2023-2024 district Calendar. One recommendation was brought to the Board:

***THAT** the Board of Education leave the statutory holiday placement for Remembrance Day on the 2023-24 Calendar as FRIDAY, November 10, 2023.*

## **EDUCATION**

The following highlights came from the Education committee meeting. Update on the Learning Series from Big Lake Elementary Principal, Ms. Small. A wonderful Orange Shirt Day presentation from District Principal – Indigenous Education Mr. Grant Gustafson. Deputy Superintendent Lenardon walked the committee through the districts Mental Health Support planning and a snapshot review of the FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment). No recommendation was brought forward from the Education Committee.

## **POLICY**

Policy committee brought forward Draft Policy 665 Financial Planning and Reporting. This policy will be posted on the district website until November 10<sup>th</sup> to ensure that anyone wishing to provide feedback has the opportunity. No recommendation was brought forward from the Education Committee.

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*“Learning, Growing and Belonging Together”*