

Public Board of Education Meeting Agenda



October 24, 2023
6:30 p.m.
School District Office

1. Acknowledgement that the meeting is being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Northern Secwepemc People

- 1.1. Call to Order

2. **Approval of Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the October 24, 2023, Public Meeting of the Board of Education be approved.

- 2.1. Adoption of Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the September 26, 2023, Public Meeting of the Board of Education be approved as presented.

- 2.2. Closed Meeting Report**

THAT the report of the September 26, 2023, In-Camera Meeting of the Board of Education approved as presented.

3. **Presentation(s)** - None

4. **Delegation** - None

5. **Reports**

- 5.1. Superintendent's Report**

- 5.2. Secretary-Treasurer Report**

- 5.3. Committee Reports**

- 5.3.1 Finance & Facilities and Transportation Committee**

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

- 5.3.2 Policy Committee**

No recommendations were brought forward.

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5.3.3 Education Committee

No recommendations were brought forward.

5.4. Trustees

- Trustee Forbes

5.5. Liaison / Representation

6. Information (Reading File) – none

7. Adjournment

THAT the public meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at _____ p.m.

8. Public Comments

Public Board of Education Meeting Minutes



September 26, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)

Trustees in Attendance: Ciel Patenaude, Anne Kohut, Mary Forbes, Michael Franklin, Angie Delainey.

TEAMS: Willow Macdonald, Linda Martens.

Regrets: Superintendent Chris van der Mark.

Staff: Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Directors of Instruction Sean Cameron, Cathy van der Mark, Anita Richardson, Wendell Hiltz, Director of Human Resources Taryn Aumond, Director of Operations, Patrick McCarron, Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

1. Opening by Chair

1.1. Call to Order

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) People.

2. Agenda and Minutes

2.1. Approval of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the September 26, 2023, Public Meeting of the Board of Education be approved.

O2023.09.26-01

Moved: Trustee Forbes
Seconded: Trustee Franklin
CARRIED

2.2. Adoption of Minutes

THAT the minutes of the June 27, 2023, Public Meeting of the Board of Education be approved as presented.

O2023.09.25-02

Moved: Trustee Forbes
Seconded: Trustee Macdonald
CARRIED

2.3. Receipt of In-Camera Meeting Report

THAT the report of the June 27, 2023, In-Camera Meeting of the Board be approved as presented.

O2023.09.26-03

Moved: Trustee Franklin
Seconded: Trustee Kohut
CARRIED

“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”

3. **Presentation:** - Denise Van Dalen – PSO Math and Science teacher gave the Board of Education a presentation on her experience while speaking at and attending the Peter Liljedahl “[Thinking Classrooms Conference](#)”, that took place in Franklin Indiana, June 2023.

4. **Delegation - None**

5. **Reports**

5.1. **Secretary-Treasurer Audit report**

5.1.1 Audited Findings Report – MNP

5.2. **Superintendent’s Report**

5.2.1 FESL - Enhancing Student Learning Report - draft

5.3. **Secretary-Treasurer**

5.4. **Committee Reports**

Finance & Facilities and Transportation Committee:

THAT the Board of Education send the proposed amended calendar for public consultation, moving the November Remembrance Day stat from Friday (November 10) to Monday (November 13) to better align with other community and sector agencies.

O2023.09.26-04

Moved: Trustee Patenaude
Seconded: Trustee Macdonald
CARRIED

THAT the Board of Education approve the proposed project allocations of operating surplus and local capital that are detailed in Note 22 of the Draft 2022-23 Financial Statements.

O2023.09.26-05

Moved: Trustee Patenaude
Seconded: Trustee Kohut
CARRIED

THAT the Board of Education approve the audited financial statements draft dated September 20, 2023.

O2023.09.26-06

Moved: Trustee Franklin
Seconded: Trustee Macdonald
CARRIED

THAT the Board of Education approve the five-year Minor Capital submission for 2024-25.

O2023.09.26-07

Moved: Trustee Patenaude
Seconded: Trustee Franklin
CARRIED

THAT the Board approve the School Foods Infrastructure Program submission for 2023-24.

O2023.09.26-08

Moved: Trustee Macdonald
Seconded: Trustee Kohut
CARRIED

Policy Committee:

THAT the Board of Education accept and send draft policy 665 for public consultation.

O2023.09.26-09

Moved: Trustee Franklin
Seconded: Trustee Macdonald
CARRIED

THAT the Board of Education approve updated Policy 630 for adoption.

O2023.09.26-10

Moved: Trustee Patenaude
Seconded: Trustee Macdonald
CARRIED

Education Committee:

THAT the Board of Education receive and submit the Enhancing Student Learning Report.

O2023.09.26-11

Moved: Trustee Forbes
Seconded: Trustee Franklin
CARRIED

5.3 Trustees - None

5.4 Liaison / Representation - None

6. Information (Reading File) – None

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46p.m.

8. Public Comments

An opportunity was provided for public comments pertaining to the agenda.

Brenda Hooker
Secretary-Treasurer

Ciel Patenaude
Chair

DRAFT

In-Camera Meeting Notes provided pursuant to Section 72 (3) of the School Act:

"A board must prepare a record containing a general statement as to the nature of the matters discussed and the general nature of the decisions reached at a meeting from which persons other than trustees or officers of the board, or both, were excluded, and the record must be open for inspection at all reasonable times by any person, who may make copies and extracts on payment of a fee set by the board".

DATE:	September 26, 2023
TRUSTEE PRESENT:	Ciel Patenaude, Angie Delainey, Anne Kohut, Mary Forbes, Michael Franklin.
TRUSTEE ATTENDING VIA TEAMS:	Willow Macdonald, Linda Martens.
REGRETS:	Superintendent Chris van der Mark
STAFF PRESENT:	Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Directors of Instruction Sean Cameron, Cathy van der Mark, Anita Richardson, Wendell Hiltz, Director of Human Resources Taryn Aumond, Director of Operations Patrick McCarron, Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

1. Opening by Chair
 - 1.1. Call to Order – 5:00 p.m. and acknowledgment of traditional territory.
2. Agenda and Minutes
 - 2.1. Approval of Agenda
 - 2.2. Adoption of Minutes
3. Action Items
 - 3.1. Exempt Compensation
4. Discussion Items
 - 4.1 Briefing Note 1
 - 4.2 Briefing Note 2
 - 4.3 Briefing Note 3
 - 4.4 Briefing Note 4
 - 4.5 Briefing Note 5
5. Information Items
 - 5.1. Ministry Liaison visit
 - 5.2. Staffing Update
 - 5.3. Property Update
6. Adjournment – 6:15 p.m.

“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Chris van der Mark

DATE: October 24, 2023

RE: Superintendent's Report

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.

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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.



Holly Zurak @HollyZurak · Oct 5

The best part of a day of learning rounds is the “so what now” consolidation of the learning. There is a group of smart and curious teachers learning so much about assessment and numeracy in @SD27_CC - and it starts with good questions! @CaroleFullerton @chris24v @DBrownTownSD27



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.

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.



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 TTOC’s and support staff. Ms. Aumond 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	8.371
Counsellors	693	6.684	9.714*
Learning Assistance Special Education Resource	432	10.933	
	268.7		

ELL	59.5		
Total LA, Spec. Ed., ELL		28.078	28.576

- 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.

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Brenda Hooker

DATE: October 24, 2023

RE: Secretary-Treasurer Report

OVERVIEW

It's been a very busy few months as I settle into the flow of the District. I continue to be extremely appreciative of the quality and dedication of the existing staff in SD#27. There is a great team here and I am so thankful to be part of this team who keeps the center of its focus on improving outcomes for kids.

COLUMNEETZA FIRE UPDATE

Facilities staff are working with the Ministry capital branch and School Protection Program to restore the affected cafeteria and classrooms. Phase 1, which is winterizing the building, is almost complete. We are working on finalizing the permit and design for Phase 2 which will replace and construct the assets lost in the fire.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

The District has hired Ross Kendell as Director of Operations. Ross started with the District on October 23, 2023, and is looking forward to the challenge of leading the busy Facilities and Transportation departments.

2023-2024 ACCOUNTING CYCLE

The new fiscal started on July 1, 2023, with the Board approved 23-24 Annual Budget. The September 30th enrollment count will trigger revised funding from the Ministry on December 15, 2023. The revised revenue and staffing will be incorporated into the development of the 23-24 Amended Annual Budget. The initial 2023-24 1701 submission indicated that the student enrollments were lower than forecast last winter. This will translate into reduced funding in the amended budget. However, there are other items within the block funding calculations that are being positively affected so we are confident that the increases and decreases will be offset, and the forecasted revenue will not be significantly changed from the preliminary budget submission. An update will be provided at the November Finance and Facilities committee meeting.

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THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

TRU donated a number of surplus items to the District including tables and chairs. We are very appreciative of these items and will put them to good use for kids.

NORTHERN INTERIOR BRANCH

I was pleased to accompany Trustees and staff to Prince George for the joint NIB/NWB meeting. Excellent pro-d was provided and in particular the session on Assessability delivered by former Director Cathy van der Mark was very well received. I also enjoyed reconnecting with Trustees and staff from the Northern part of our province.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Work is progressing on the Childcare project. We are almost to the lock-up stage which will then entitle us to draw additional capital dollars from MOEC. An update will be provided at the November Finance and Facilities committee meeting, as to the status of the project and the overall revised budget.

The Facilities team is also initiating the Board projects that were approved when the 22-23 Financial statements were adopted. The mini-busses have been ordered, the alarm/PA project are well underway, accessibility at Mile 108 started and RFP's are in development for the roofing and building wrap projects.

Finance and Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting Report



October 10, 2023 (3:00 p.m. – 4:40p.m.)

Trustees in Attendance:	Angie Delainey (Chaired Mtg.), Mary Forbes, Ciel Patenaude (3:08).
TEAMS:	Linda Martens, Willow Macdonald.
Regrets:	Michael Franklin, Anne Kohut.
Staff:	Superintendent Chris van der Mark, Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Directors of Instruction, Wendell Hiltz, Anita Richardson, Director of Human Resources, Taryn Aumond, Director of Operations McCarron, new Dir of Operation Ross Kendell. Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory		
1. September 12, 2023, Committee Report	The committee reviewed the report and recommended no changes.	None.
2. A Look Back and Ahead	Superintendent van der Mark provided the committee with his annual Look back and look ahead for the district. Over the past 4 years, the Board had seen a tremendous amount of change.	None. Information only.
3. Disposal of the 100 Mile Jr Secondary site	Secretary-Treasurer Hooker reviewed the process the district will take to disposal of the 100 Mile Jr Secondary site. This is a lengthy process, and Ms. Hooker will bring updates to the committee and Board along throughout the process.	None. Information only.
4. Enrolment and Staffing	Superintendent van der Mark provided the committee with an update on staffing and enrollment. Kool School – out of Kamloops is a group that we are using for assisting our DL students.	None. Information only.
5. Accessible BC Act	Director of Instruction Hiltz provided the committee with an update on the work that the district has been undertaking to bring us in compliance with the Accessible BC Act.	None. Information only.
6. Multi-Year Plan	Secretary-Treasurer Hooker provided background and an update to the committee on the district’s new multi-year plan.	None. Information Only.
7. Calendar Update	Superintendent van der Mark provided the committee with an update on the progress of the calendar consultation. Though the consultation remains open, early indications are that it is unlikely the SD will be making a change.	None. Information Only.

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Agenda Item	Notes	Action	
8. Proposed Future Meeting Dates			
MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Finance/Facilities Committee	November 7, 2023	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	December 5, 2023	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	January 9, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	February 6, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	February 28, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	April 9, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	May 14, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office
Finance/Facilities Committee	June 11, 2024	3:00 p.m.	Board Office

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Chris van der Mark/Anita Richardson

DATE: October 24, 2023

RE: Calendar Update

BACKGROUND

It was brought to our attention in September that SD#27 Calendar was recognizing the stat for Remembrance Day on Friday, November 10th, while much of government is taking Monday the 13th.

Historically, the thinking with regards to statutory holiday placements has been, if the holiday falls on Saturday, the stat is observed on Friday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the stat is recognized on Monday.

Irrespective, from a learning perspective, our placement was consistent and helps schools engage in learning ahead of the recognized holiday.

At the time of calendar construction, there were no expressed concerns. Perhaps because other entities had not created theirs yet, and also because it seemed appropriate.

DISCUSSION

As noted last month, this misalignment may create additional issues for childcare. It should be noted that local businesses are also not universal in their application of the stat.

Currently, we have had 46 requests to move to the Monday. We have also had 16 requests to stay, largely from employees who have made travel plans based on our approved calendar. There is also one impassioned request from the family of a service member speaking to the importance of it being the day before.

It should be noted that most of the independent community schools also follow our posted calendar.

Through the consultation window, it is apparent there will be limited/if any benefit to the school district adjusting its calendar. Any move will simply negatively impact those who prepared based on the spring consultation and approved calendar.

The issue of statutory holiday alignment will be more explicitly examined in the calendar consultation process going forward.

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RECOMMENDATION

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

Policy Committee Meeting Report



October 10, 2023 (5:00 p.m. – 5:04 p.m.)

Trustees in Attendance: Mary Forbes (Chaired Mtg.)

TEAMS: Linda Martens, Willow Macdonald, Ciel Patenaude.

Regrets: Michael Franklin, Anne Kohut.

Staff: Superintendent Chris van der Mark, Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Director of Instruction Wendell Hiltz, Director of Human Resources, Taryn Aumond. Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action		
Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory				
1. September 12, 2023, Committee Report	The committee reviewed the report and recommended no changes.	None.		
2. Draft Policy 665 Financial Planning and Reporting	Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker provided an update on Draft Policy 665 - It appears there was an error in the posting process and as a result the public has not yet had the opportunity to review and provide feedback. The Draft will stay will remain posted until November 10th with an update provided at the November 7th committee.	None. Information only.		
3. Proposed Future Meeting Dates				
	MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
	Policy Committee	November 7, 2023	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	December 5, 2023	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	January 9, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	February 6, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	February 28, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	April 9, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	May 14, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office
	Policy Committee	June 11, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Board Office

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Education Committee Meeting Report



October 11, 2023 (4:02 p.m. – 5:04 p.m.)

Trustees in Attendance: Anne Kohut, (Chaired Mtg.) Mary Forbes, Ciel Patenaude.

TEAMS: Willow Macdonald, Linda Martens.

Regrets: Michael Franklin.

Staff: Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Directors of Instructions Sean Cameron, Anita Richardson, Wendell Hiltz, Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory		
1. September 13, 2023, Committee Report	The committee reviewed the report and recommended no changes.	None.
2. Learning Series	Big Lake School Principal, Sari Small, presented the committee with highlights from the school's day of learning with Carol Fullerton. Math challenges were given to the meeting attendees to demonstrate how different ways of looking at a problem can bring the same outcome. Staff from 150 Mile, and Likely joined the Big Lake school for the day.	None. For information only.
3. Orange Shirt Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Principal, Grant Gustafson, presented highlights from the September 28th events, and activities leading up to Truth and Reconciliation day. Having 28 buses full of district students arrive at the Stampede grounds dressed in orange shirts was something to see and required a lot of coordination but was well received by all. - Mr. Gustafson also updated the committee on the 22/23 audit, it's findings and subsequent changes. - Indigenous Education 2019 (review) Departmental findings and outcomes. 	None. For information only.
4. Mental Health Support Planning	Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon reviewed the District Mental Health Support Plan and how opportunities for learning about mental health, building community, outdoor learning, and District and CCTA supports for staff, contribute to a healthy learning and working environment.	None. For information only.
5. Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses – Hockey 10 – 12	Moved to the November 8, 2023, agenda	
6. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) as a Snapshot	Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon discussed district and provincial student assessments and the information they provide to support learning and equity.	None. For information only.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action		
7. Proposed Future Meeting Dates				
MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
Education Committee	November 8, 2023	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	December 6, 2023	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	January 10, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	February 7, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	February 27, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	April 10, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	May 15, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	
Education Committee	June 12, 2024	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mary Forbes

DATE: October 24, 2023

RE: Trustees Report

NIB 2023 Prince George

FACILITATOR: Lee Brain former Mayor of Prince Rupert “Coming together as one” Lee asked the Audience of Trustees “What is the big systemic problem that will bring all of us together, worth your time? It may not be there at the end of it all. Whatever your issue is, don’t give up and stick together as a team.” He then proceeded to lead the group through FEEDBACK FRAMES to identify and unifying topic that was decided was “Hiring and Retention” and a unifying topic and many members of all districts signed up to be a working group.

“We often come together and make a list of all the things that are wrong, can we come together to do one thing well? It’s fun to do something big and keep us with eyes on the prize.”

PRESENTER: Cathy Van der Mark

BC Accessibility Act applies to everyone, school districts are required to be compliant this year.

Disability: Established corridors, institutions and public gathering spaces were not created to include these people. Definition from the Act: *An inability to participate fully.*

Barrier: physical, mental, social construct that prevents everyone from participating fully in society. Definition from the Act: *Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment.*

Impairment: lack of equality. Im pair ment. Lack of balance, dysregulation
Definition from the Act: *Physical sensory mental intellectual or cognitive impairment, which is permanent, temporary, or episodic.*

Not race, not SOGI, not religious freedom, not bullying.

School Districts are required under the act enforced Sept 1, 2022. All districts in the North working together, it’s all on each website.

1. An accessibility committee
 - a. Develops a plan to remove barriers with this lens; inclusion, adaptability, diversity, collaboration, self-determination, and universal design. People with

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lived experience need to guide this work. Receive comments and update the plan every 3 years.

2. An accessibility plan
 - a. Ensure all members of our community are treated with dignity. Need voices at the table to enact this plan. School board policies need to align with the Act. Results in improved access to everywhere for everyone.
3. A mechanism to receive feedback on the accessibility plan and how accessible the organization is generally.
 - a. Review feedback and respond by improving accessibility.

Systemic: when policies, practice and procedures result in exclusion.

Technology: when technology can't be accessed by people with disabilities.

Sensory: when sensory information such as lights, sounds, smells, etc. prevent participation in the environment.

Meetings “are there any dietary needs and are anything we can ensure is proved to ensure everyone is included and comfortable.”

Universal design that does not make someone stand out to have to ask for assistance or special considerations.

- Accessible seating, counter heights, parking should be available at every event or venue whether or not is specifically requested in advance.

From compliance to vibrance. We are now compliant and now putting it into action.

As boards you will develop ideas and ask staff what is happening and engage in stakeholder conversations.

THEMES- ask yourself and as a board these questions on projects.

1. Break down barriers.
2. Advancing human rights
3. Promoting Fairness and equity

Heather from Spinal Cord Injury BC 1-800-689-2477

Physical Disability & Language

Person First vs. Identity First (when in doubt use person first)

- Person with disability vs. disabled person
- Person who is blind vs. blind person

Avoid using;

- Crippled, physically challenged, handicapped, differently abled.(OK: Person with disability)
- Wheelchair bound or confined to a wheelchair (OK: wheelchair user)
- Suffers from (OK “HAS” e.g., Has cerebral palsy)
- Special Needs (we all have ordinary needs)
- Avoid asking “what’s wrong with you?” because this question assumes disability is a problem.

New buildings need always accessible, not stairs with ramp besides that is only option for older building. CLEAR RAMPS FIRST STAIRS SECOND.

Choose architectural and contractors who actually know the accessibility aspects of the CODE. (and preferably exceed.)

Make space for wheelchair users to move around the room ***without asking for assistance.

- Enforce parking restricting and snow clearing on accessible route.
- Locking elevators and accessible washrooms create more barriers. Places accessible washroom near conventional washrooms while ensuring privacy.
- Rainbow carpet looks like stairs and carpet is poor for wheelchair users. Hotels have busy carpets that are very disorienting, looks like a hole in the floor.
- Glass and plastic walls need to be made visible, use Arial and big font on contrasting colours.
- Field Trips need to be for everyone. If cannot go to museum-come to school. Ski Trips-do something else snow based.
- Choice of seating in auditoriums or bleachers and evacuation procedures, need accessible stages.
- Avoid flashy solutions when a low tech one will suffice. Lifts are break, are hard to work and complex. amps are the best.
- Ensure Path of travel is accessible, gravel is not, recycled tires are.