
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

Superintendent van der Mark reported on the following:

THE IMPORTANCE OF GRATITUDE...

As we have come through the Fall season, we have had the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving and to remember those who have sacrificed for us to have these opportunities as a society as part of the Remembrance Day ceremony. Both of these days start with gratitude. In a time where social media seems to have usurped acceptable norms of civility and some people feel empowered to attack others on social media threads without ever speaking to an actual person, perhaps we should take a moment to think about the examples we are setting for the children in our communities. They will follow our example, even if it is a poor one. Find some time to start with gratitude and share that gratitude. It will fill your bucket, and you get more back. We all have much to be grateful for.

As a district, we continue to be grateful for the engagement by staff in the opportunities we are providing to help provide engaging teaching and learning engagements. Let's keep building from here.

FOUNDATIONS SKILLS ASSESSMENTS (FSA):

Grade 4 and 7 students completed these across the district this past month. We continue to see good participation rates as we have worked to de-mystify some of the mythology surrounding these assessments (not standardized tests) and how we can better align them with effective instruction and assessment. Thanks to Mr. Cameron for his leadership on this on for the ongoing work with the CCTA and admin to see the value in this process. Last week, 50 teachers and admin worked and laughed together at both ends of the district as part a collaborative marking session to further our understanding and better represent student learning.

LEADING & LEARNING SERIES:

Last week SD 27 was joined by our critical learning partners, Faye Brownlie, Leyton Schnellert, and Carole Fullerton. They provided session on the Monday Pro-D and continued learning rounds in schools with teachers on the Tuesday. We were also fortunate to be joined by Dylan William, the leading international expert on assessment for the past 25 years. Dylan provided a keynote over dinner Sunday night to a packed house (at Signal Point) of our teacher leaders, administration, and guest from districts across the province. It



was a captivating and provoking evening! He also provided concurrent sessions on the Monday which, according to some...blew their minds.



We continue to see amazing uptick and engagement in professional learning. Much of the credit for this surge comes from the collaboration, focus and purpose on pro-D being emphasized by the CCTA.

MINISTRY MEETINGS:

Superintendent van der Mark spent large chunks of the last 6 weeks working through the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning reports of 60 districts. This includes strategic plans, How Are We Doing

Reports, data... you name it. It is valuable to look at bigger picture and how SD 27 fits. While the work is not quite done, it is encouraging to know that the work we are doing in SD27, through Deputy Lenardon's incredible work and leadership, clearly aligns with best practice and how effective organizations function.

IT CONFERENCE:

SD 27 was asked to present with IBM at the Focused Education IT4K12 Conference November 14. The District was recognized for its journey moving from a district at the bottom tier of technology in the province to being a leader. Success was possible due to the support of the Board and the incredible work of the IT technicians in the district.

DPAC:

Had its first meeting on November 13, 2023. Director Richardson led these discussions and noted the progress PAC's shared with regard to food programs in schools. We continue to see some concerns regarding associated fees for custodial following events (including PAC's). It would appear this has not been historically discussed but folks appear to understand the need for cost recovery. Ms. Richardson shared the key learning priorities of the district and there was specific interest in the Framework and upcoming strategic planning led by Deputy Lenardon. Ms. Richardson also shared the video from the Premier's Awards and our DPAC was appreciative of this reflection on the district and the progress we are making.

FEEDING FUTURES:

On November 8, Director Hiltz attended a session hosted by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. More information will be coming, including a food survey in the new year.

Next Board of Education Meeting – December 19, 2023

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

Deputy Lenardon has also been engaging our schools and community in this conversation and hosted a community food forum at the Gibraltar Room on November 8.

PREMIER’S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

On October 26, a team from SD27, including Trustee MacDonald, Deputy Lenardon, WLFN Coordinator Pam Kozak and Director Cameron joined Superintendent van der Mark for the recognition of the Excellence in District Leadership Award. It reflects the tremendous work of the team.

[Chris van der Mark Award Recipient - Excellence in Education – District Leadership](#)

Committee Reports

All motion recommendations that were brought from committee meetings to the presented to the Board Of Education were passed.

Finance & Facilities and Transportation Committee

THAT the multi-year financial plan be referred to the November 28th, 2023, Public Board meeting for the Board to receive, publish, and submit the plan to the Ministry of Education.

THAT the Board of Education for School District #27 approves an application of surplus towards the Columneetza Childcare project in an amount not exceeding \$800,000.

Policy Committee

THAT the draft policy 665 be referred to the November 28, 2023, Public Board meeting for adoption.

THAT the Board of Education approve the Amended POLICY 610 – PRIVACY, FOIPPA and PIDA with a name change reflective of the additions to the original policy.

THAT the Board of Education approves the Repeal of Policy 430 Whistle Blower Protection as this policy now falls within POLICY 610 – PRIVACY, FOIPPA and PIDA.

Education Committee

THAT the Board of Education approves the Columneetza volleyball team trip to Hawaii March 19-27, 2024.

Next Board of Education Meeting – December 19, 2023

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