

---

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

### **Happy New Year!**

The 2024-2025 school year has started with very intentional activities and changes to bring the Cariboo-Chilcotin School District community into the priorities of the next multi-year [District Plan for Learner Success](#): collective responsibility, instructional capacity, inclusive learning environments, Indigenous learning and culture, and place-based learning.

### **Leadership Retreat**

The District leadership team of senior staff, principals, vice-principals, and managers spent three days together this summer to build team and understanding and commitment to the District key focus areas and prepare for the year. We walked the talk and spent time in activities and meetings outside and exploring compassionate Systems Leadership practices. Topics included Ministry of Education and Child Care directions, SD27 District Plan for [Learner Success and Collective Responsibility Framework](#), restorative practice, professional boundaries training and school recycling and composting. We also opened the conversation in our district about education in an Artificial Intelligence world with a presentation by [Dr. Alec Couros](#) from the University of Regina. Highlights were the high level of shared leadership in presenting and leading sessions and experiential learning about local traditional culture and knowledge. This dedicated time together will serve us well moving forward as a leadership team.

### **New Teacher Support Program with CCTA**

We are very excited about the work done with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Teachers Association to create a comprehensive program of support for new teachers. We have a number of new colleagues, including teachers just beginning their careers, new to the Cariboo and BC, or teaching on a letter of permission. Many of them were able to join us for two days prior to the start of the school year to set them up for success with workshops led by CCTA, district staff, principals, and teachers. In addition to the valuable information and resources gained, there was the opportunity to build community and a network to wrap around our new team members and continue through the year.

The program also entails the assignment of in-school buddies, mentorship by retired teachers, release days for visitations and co-teaching, and funds for classroom resources. This collaboration between the District and CCTA enhances the experience for new teachers and their students and supports recruitment and retention.

### **District Day**

We held our [District Day](#) on September 3, which saw more than 800 SD27 staff, including educators, support staff, operations, transportation, custodial, human resources, IT, finance, payroll, and administrative staff gathered at schools with all sites connected virtually for the morning. We were welcomed to the traditional and unceded territories the school district is on by Williams Lake First Nation Chief Sellars, Xeni Gwet'in Chief William, and Ulkatcho Chief Price, who shared what they wanted staff to know as we began serving their children and families in this school year. [Monique Gray Smith](#) was the keynote speaker for the morning and emphasized Indigenous traditional knowledge and values, relationship with others and nature, and trauma-informed practice. Teams had time to talk during the morning and had lunch together (many outside for BBQs and picnics) before spending the afternoon preparing to bring the key themes to life in their schools and departments over the first days and weeks of the new year.

**First Days of School for Staff, Students, Families**

We couldn't be prouder of the way schools welcomed their staff, students, and families to the 2024-2025 school year. There was an intentional effort to slow down and take the time to build community, establish expectations and routines, and get to know everyone. There were many positive examples, including staff wearing their orange shirts on the first day, whole schools starting outside in a circle with drumming and song, smudging, name tags, school walks, grade assemblies, outdoor team-building games, family welcome barbecues and other events. The theme of *walking together for the success of all Cariboo-Chilcotin learners*, inspired by the book [Walking Together](#) by Dr. Albert D. Marshall and Louise Zimanyi, illustrated by Emily Kewageshig, permeated our start-up.

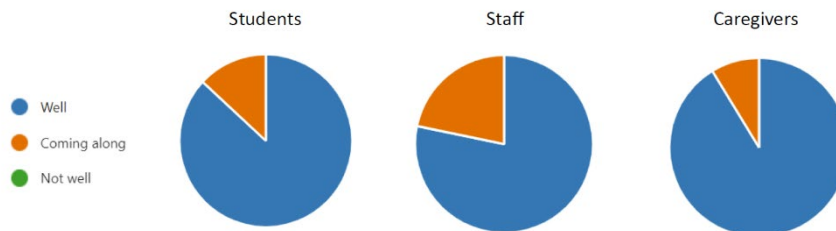
**Device Use in Schools**

A change for this school year is the [provincial policy](#) requiring school codes of conduct to explicitly address the restriction of cell phones and digital devices in schools. Our schools have each updated their codes of conduct, reviewed codes of conduct with students and staff, and distributed them to caregivers. Principals have provided feedback on the implementation of the changes in the first weeks of school:

**Overall, how is your implementation of the cell phone/device restriction at your school going?**



**How are students/staff/caregivers adjusting?**



**Helping Teachers Reimagined**

The District is working with learning series partners Faye Brownlie and Carole Fullerton to reimagine how helping teachers are utilized in the district. The work of helping teachers will be directly connected to the learning series and learning rounds. We started the year by administering a survey to collect data directly from teachers on their needs and comfort with district tasks and assessments. This will inform the support that is provided by helping teachers. Updates will be provided to the Board throughout the year as the model evolves and changes with emerging needs.

**Principal Leadership Series**

[Dylan William](#) will be joining the District three times this school year. During his visits he will be facilitating a 3-part leadership series, designed specifically SD 27 principals and vice-principals, on using research to guide school and system improvement. Dylan will lead principals through process of identifying an area of improvement, designing a plan for change, and process for monitoring impact. Improvement planning from the leadership series will be integrated into school plans. Principals will be sharing plans and results with the Board.

**Next Board of Education Meeting – October 22, 2024**

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

### Learning Series

The District and CCTA partner on providing an absolutely first-class professional learning series. We have exceptional BC, Canadian, and global educational leaders bringing their expertise to our staff through professional development days, classroom learning rounds, and other opportunities for engagement. This year is no different: [SD 27 2024-2025 Learning Series](#). We are investing thoughtfully in the instructional capacity of our educators to enhance student learning and success.

### Learning Rounds

Learning Rounds continue to be an exceptional opportunity for learning series partners to step directly into the classroom and work alongside our staff and students. Learning Rounds facilitators [Faye Brownlie](#), [Carole Fullerton](#), and [Bryan Gidinski](#) will be in the district this year. Working with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Teachers Association, we have revised the application process for teachers wishing to host a learning round. The new requirement is for hosting teachers to create a school team and commit to sharing learning with people inside and outside their school. The first set of rounds is September 24 and features Bryan and Carole in 100 Mile area schools.



### Data Warehouse Project – Cariboo Information Management System (CIMS)

The District worked with Softlanding to completely a design solution for collecting and presenting information to staff. The District now has a fully automated data warehouse that collects and creates displays of historical information on all key metrics in the district plan and utilized by our staff. The warehouse is connected to online reports created with PowerBI. Access to high-quality information will increase the knowledge we have about students and will also reduce manual data tasks, allowing time to be spent on higher-value tasks.

### School Security Upgrades

The District consulted with Safer Schools consultants in association with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to modernize school security based on best practices across the sector. Operations and IT have created a roadmap for school security upgrades. All schools were upgraded with new alarm and keyless access system for primary doors in phase 1. Phase 2 is underway with upgrading of PA systems, classroom communication solutions, and camera systems. All systems will be integrated providing staff and students the highest level of security with additional monitoring and alerts for proactive site monitoring.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

All motion recommendations from the committee meetings to be presented to the Board of Education were passed.

### Finance & Facilities and Transportation Committee

**THAT** the Board of Education approve the draft 2023/2024 Financial Statements and accompanying documents.

### Education Committee and Policy Committee’s

No recommendations were brought forward.

### Next Board of Education Meeting – October 22, 2024

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