

February 12, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

***This meeting is being held on the traditional and unceded territory of
the Secwépemc People.***

1. December 11, 2024, Education Committee Report
2. Learning Series Update
3. Indigenous Education Update
4. Review of School Calendar Feedback
5. Future Meeting Dates

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Education Committee	April 16, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office
Education Committee	May 15, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office
Education Committee	June 12, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office

“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”

Education Committee Meeting Report



December 11, 2024 (4:00 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.)

- Trustees in Attendance:** Anne Kohut (Chaired Mtg.), Mary Forbes, Michael Franklin,
- TEAMS:** Linda Martens, Willow Macdonald, Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker
- Regrets:** Director of Human Resources – Taryn Aumond.
- Staff:** Superintendent - Cheryl Lenardon, Directors of Instruction - Sean Cameron, Anita Richardson, Wendell Hiltz, Principal Heather Auger, Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action																													
Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory																															
1. November 13, 2024, Report	The committee reviewed the report and recommended no changes.	None.																													
2. Draft School Calendar	Superintendent Lenardon brought forward two draft calendars for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 School years for review by the committee. Once the calendars have been approved by the Board of Education, they will be sent for consultation to a wide group of stakeholders to ensure feedback is received by as many groups as possible.	Recommendation: <i>The Board of Education approve the draft 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars for circulation and feedback.</i>																													
3. Skyline Alternate School – Student Voice and Learning Update	<p>Director of Instruction Cameron introduced Principal Heather Auger and two students to showcase two of the school's projects. Students Mars and Drakus demonstrated how Skyline students created the decorations on display in the Board Office for the holiday season. They led the trustees through the creation of an ornament and toured the trustees to see the decorations on display.</p> <p>A second project described was Skyline students' weekly visit to Boitano Park to bring food and hot beverages to people in need. Students have enjoyed the community connections they have made and invite others to join them.</p>	None. Information only.																													
4. Proposed Future Meeting Dates																															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th style="width: 30%;">MEETING</th> <th style="width: 30%;">DATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;">TIME</th> <th style="width: 20%;">LOCATION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td>January 8, 2025</td> <td>4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Board Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td>February 12, 2025</td> <td>4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Board Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">No Mtg. in March</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td>April 16, 2025</td> <td>4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Board Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td>May 15, 2025</td> <td>4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Board Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td> <td>June 12, 2025</td> <td>4:00 p.m.</td> <td>Board Office</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Education Committee	January 8, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	Education Committee	February 12, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	Education Committee	No Mtg. in March			Education Committee	April 16, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	Education Committee	May 15, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office	Education Committee	June 12, 2025	4:00 p.m.	Board Office
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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Craig Munroe / Sean Cameron

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: Learning Series Update

BACKGROUND

Bryan Gidinski was added to the learning series lineup for the 2024/2025 school year. Bryan is an intermediate elementary school teacher with more than twenty-five years of teaching experience. He has also worked as a Faculty Associate and Sessional Instructor, teaching courses in Language Arts Methodology and Classroom Management and facilitating teacher education modules with Diversity and Literacy themes.

He holds a district leadership role as a Program Consultant, providing programming support for Literacy, Assessment, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). He has demonstrated a passion for writing and enjoys facilitating rich writing experiences for students so that they develop comfort and become experimental with language and composition. He strives to provide instruction that is highly motivating for all students and that allows students opportunities to achieve their highest potential.

DISCUSSION

Bryan has facilitated learning rounds and full-day sessions at each professional development day this year. On February 13, Bryan will work with the staff at 150 Elementary to facilitate learning rounds, and staff will attend his session on February 14, which will focus on a variety of literacy strategies to engage students in writing.

150 Elementary Principal Craig Munroe will share how this staff has embraced Bryan's strategies to get their students to write more and with better quality. Craig will also share how the yearlong partnership with Gidinski is bringing value to his school and the district as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information only.

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Grant Gustafson, Director of Instruction

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: Indigenous Education Update

BACKGROUND

Indigenous Learning and Culture are key focus areas of the District Plan for Learner Success. This ongoing work has resulted in intentional capacity building, improved structures and practices, and success.

INFORMATION

Director of Instruction Gustafson will share examples of initiatives and strategies implemented within the Indigenous Education Department over the past couple of years.

Director Gustafson will introduce Vice-Principal Dancing Water Sandy, who will outline some of the work she will do in her recent assignment to her district role. Trustees will also be given a tour of the Indigenous Learning and Culture Focus Area page and informed of future department directions.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information only.

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Cheryl Lenardon, Superintendent

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: School Calendar Feedback

BACKGROUND

The [School Calendar Regulation](#) sets out the requirements for school calendars and consultation required.

A board must make publicly available a school calendar that it proposes to submit to the minister at least one month before the date the school calendar must be submitted to the minister.

The board must provide an opportunity to

- (a) the parents of the students enrolled in each school to which the proposed school calendar is to apply, and
- (b) representatives of employees of the board assigned to the school to provide comments to the board with respect to the school calendar made publicly available as above.

The Board passed the following motion at the December 16, 2024, Board Meeting:

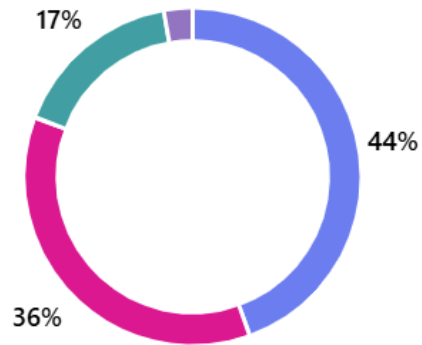
***THAT** the Board approve the draft 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School calendars for circulation for feedback.*

DISCUSSION

The district received:

- feedback from the CCTA and IUOE executives
- three emails from the public, and
- 218 survey responses.

● Parent	97
● Staff	79
● Student	36
● Community Member	6



General Feedback

IUOE provided comments about the difference between the format of the school calendar reflecting days in session for students versus days of work for union members, including 12-month employees, and BC statutory holidays versus stats recognized in the Collective Agreement. They said their members preferred pro-d days on Fridays rather than Mondays.

CCTA shared that members wanted to see a fall break explored.

Surveys and email:

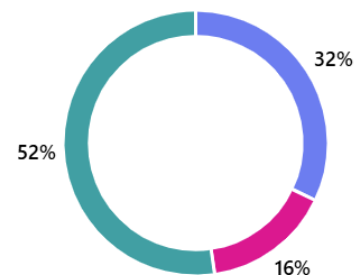
Please note there is no weighting or priority order to the presentation of the feedback noted.

General

- Some requests for clarification on the coding of days such as statutory holidays, vacation days, and administrative days.
- Requests for a break in the fall
- Turn around day between semester 1 and 2 (day not in session)
- More breaks between January and March
- Keep breaks the same – don't change every year.

Feedback on 2025-2026 Calendar

● I support the calendar as presented	70
● I support the calendar as presented but have feedback on the placement of the pro-d days...	34
● I would like to see changes to the calendar (include suggestions in comments below)	114



Pro-D days

- Like /fine as is
- Like adjacent to long weekends for 4-day weekend
- Avoid creating 2 or 3-day weeks
- September pro-d suggest on Friday before Labour Day
- Move Nov stat from mid-week
- More pro-d days
- Move Oct pro-d day to adjacent to Thanksgiving.
- 4 pro-d days the week of Remembrance Day
- November pro-d day with stat
- Prefer Fridays for pro-d
- Prefer Mondays for pro-d
- Move September pro-d to May
- Do not put pro-day adjacent to TRC Day in September
- Like pro-d day adjacent to TRC Day
- Jan 5 pro-d day

Other

- Move the admin day from the start of the year to Dec 19

Spring Break

- Move to March 30 to April 10 and include Easter (add 2 days in Nov)

End of Year

- Go to June 30 (add 2 days off in Nov)

Feedback on the 2026-2027 Calendar

Pro-D days

- Like /fine/keep as is
- like adjacent to long weekends for 4-day weekend
- Don't put near other days off
- Pro-d days June 29/30
- Feb 13 move to weekend without a stat
- More pro-d days (May-June)
- Move Nov 23 NID to mid-Nov or early Dec
- Move Sep pro-d to Jan, Feb, or May
- Like pro-d days on Fridays, not Mondays/Like pro-d days on Mondays, not Fridays
- Keep pro-d days as Mon or Fri
- Pro-d day on Jan 4 or end of semester 1
- Move pro-d from Sep and Oct to later in year
- Move pro-days to the middle of other days off for students
- Appreciate Pro-d not adjacent to TRC Day
- 4 pro-d days week of Remembrance Day
- Pro-d day not adjacent to Family Day
- Move Oct 23 pro-d to Oct 13

Winter Break

- Wed to Wed Dec 23-Jan 6
- Move to week earlier for start
- Start one day earlier

Spring Break

- Not connected to Easter
- Week earlier
- Week later
- Skip stat on March 29

End of Year

- End on Fri, Jun 25 for students
- End on June 24 for students

Other

- Students start the week before Labour Day
- Students start Tue, Sep 8
- Move Sept admin day to Dec
- Stop cutting out days
- Should be fewer days in session

There were different suggestions, often contradictory, for the placement of pro-d days. We will review the feedback with the CCTA to determine the final placement of these days.

Approximately 50 respondents requested a fall break. This was a historical feature of the local calendar discontinued by the Board a number of years ago. Other BC school districts do not have breaks other than winter and spring. The Board had compelling reasons to end this practice and has not asked for a calendar draft incorporating an additional break. With the bookends of Labour Day and the end of June and two-week winter and spring breaks, an additional break does not provide a total number of days of instruction within the standard range of the province.

Many respondents suggested that in the 2026-2027 school year, the last day for students should be the last Friday in June rather than having students come for two days the following week. Having the last day for students on Thursday or Friday of the last full week would reduce the number of days to 176 or 177 (compared to a typical number of days in excess of 180). Not all school districts have 2026-2027 calendars available. Of the calendars available and reviewed, only two districts have school years ending prior to June 29.

Another suggestion made by a few respondents was to separate Spring Break and Easter in the 2026-2027 school year. Calendar constraints for bookends in September and June are restrictive this year, creating limitations on adjustments. Moving spring break would put us out of alignment with the breaks in other districts and further reduce the number of days.

Considerations:

2025-2026 – Draft Calendar

- No changes to breaks suggested (181 days)
- Review placement of Pro-d days with CCTA

2026-2027 – Draft Calendar

- No changes to breaks suggested (179 days)
- Review placement of Pro-d days with CCTA

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Education approve 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars as presented.