



Media Release Highlights of March 12, 2019 Board Meeting

District Science Fair

Prince Rupert Middle School Vice-Principal Peter Scott, who promotes Applied Design, Skills and Technology (ADST) curriculum in the district, presented on the district Science Fair held on March 8, 2019 at Charles Hays Secondary School. There was another significant increase in the number of students participating in this local fair, many of whom will also participate in the regional science fair in April.

Owen Davis and Hudson Veldman of École Roosevelt Community Park School presented their project on the amount of sugar in a variety of popular drinks – which has led to their commitment to stop drinking these products because there is far more sugar than a student needs.

Kaylie Slocombe of Pineridge Elementary School looked to see what would help tulips stay fresh the longest. The answer was pennies – which of course are much harder to come by these days.

Cameron Sawka of Prince Rupert Middle School took on the global issue of carbon capture. The most effective solution to combat increasing levels of carbon is reforestation or other plants. Cameron built and programmed a robot to plant peas.

“The Board was fully engaged by these exceptional students,” said Board Chair James Horne. “Our thanks goes out to Mr. Scott for organizing the science fair, and to all of the teachers and parents who encouraged and mentored our young budding scientists.”

School Calendar

The collective agreement provides that the district calendar have a one week Spring Break. For the last two years, and the current year, letters of understanding have been reached with the teachers’ union and the Provincial bargaining parties (BCPSEA and BCTF) to allow for the two week Spring Break.

For the 2019-2020 calendar, there is no letter of understanding in place. The Board of Education indicated their willingness to entertain a letter of understanding to allow for a two week Spring Break next year. The deadline to complete this letter of understanding is March 28, 2019. If there is no letter of understanding by this deadline, the approved school calendar for 2019-20 will have a one week Spring Break.

NOTE: On March 14, 2019 the district and the teachers union signed a letter of understanding to allow for a two week Spring Break in 2020, subject to the approval of BCPSEA and BCTF.



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Cross-Boundary

24 applications for cross-boundary movement of students were received by the deadline at the end of February. Staff are in the process of reviewing these requests. Any late requests received will be considered in September, after taking into account actual enrolment in the district's elementary schools.

Ridley Terminals Inc. Donations

The Board of Education was pleased to approve the receipt of two generous donations from Ridley Terminals Inc. \$288,500 has been received for a Truth and Reconciliation implementation plan. Teacher capacity, student empathy, resources and curriculum will all be addressed in this plan.

Through the framework of the Coastal Pathways Partnership, the second donation from Ridley Terminals Inc. is for \$90,000. These funds will be used for the purchase of equipment for the Heavy Duty Mechanic Foundations course, which will be run by Coast Mountain College.

"The district is very grateful for the generous donations we have received from Ridley Terminals Inc.," said Board Chair James Horne. "We are thankful for the confidence Ridley Terminals Inc. has in the district to meet the needs of our students for the betterment of our community."

2019-2020 Capital Bylaw

The Capital Bylaw for 2019-2020 was approved by the Board, based on the projects approved by the Ministry of Education. The approved plan includes the following items:

Prince Rupert Middle School	Project Development Report for Seismic Project
Charles Hays Secondary School	Upgrades to Library
Lax Kxeen Elementary School	Boiler Replacement
Pineridge Elementary School	DDC Upgrade
Seal Cove Elementary School	Business Case for Demolition
Kanata Elementary School	Business Case for Demolition

The Board was particularly pleased to learn that assistance will be provided for the demolition of Seal Cove and Kanata Elementary Schools.



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Mental Health Literacy

Over \$37,000 has been received from the Ministry of Education to support mental health literacy for our students. District staff are working to finalize a plan for the use of these funds based on district data showing that many students, and Indigenous students in particular, are not feeling welcome in schools.

Policy Committee Work

2 policies were approved to be sent to partner groups for their input:

- 5110 Corporate Sponsorship & Access to Students Policy
- 5120 Naming Policy

1 updated policy was approved:

- 1210 Student Registration and Catchment Area Policy

1 policy was approved to be deleted.

- 6420 School Plans Policy

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