



Media Release

Highlights of September 10, 2019 Board Meeting

Summer Read and Play

Lori Burger, the District Truth & Reconciliation Administrator and Roberta Edzerza, the District Principal, Aboriginal Education attended the meeting of the Board of Education. Ms. Burger described the summer read and play program which took place at Conrad Street Elementary School and École Roosevelt Park Community School for students in grades 2 and 3. Hartley Bay School also ran a summer read and play program. There was a noticeable improvement in reading skills demonstrated by the students in the summer read and play program.

“The willingness of district staff to run this program makes a tremendous difference in the learning of our students,” said Board Chair James Horne. “Our thanks goes out to these dedicated employees.”

Daycare Spaces

Michelle Kirby, Senior Manager, Partnerships and Engagement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, described the financial support that is available to increase the number of childcare spaces available in Prince Rupert. Money is available to support training with an Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma, to reduce daycare costs for families, and to support construction of new childcare spaces.

“It is always good news when the Board learns that there is money available to support the needs of our students’ families,” said Board Chair James Horne. “The Board of Education has directed the Secretary-Treasurer to examine opportunities for the construction of childcare spaces and report back to the Board.”

School Opening

Superintendent Irene LaPierre reported on a smooth first week in the district. Increased enrolment at Conrad Street Elementary School has resulted in a decision to add one division to that school. Official enrolment numbers will reflect the student count on September 30, 2019. These numbers will be available mid-October.



Early Development Index (EDI) and Middle Years Development Index (MDI)

Superintendent Irene LaPierre presented the results of the EDI and MDI reports for 2018-19. The EDI report confirms the continued vulnerability of our young learners. Students in Grades 4 and 7 are below the Provincial average in nutrition and sleep. The Board of Education discussed the importance of working with families and community partners to address the needs of vulnerable students.

Conrad Playground Grand Opening

On Thursday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m. there will be an official opening of the Conrad Street Elementary School new playground. The opening is organized by the Conrad Parent Advisory Council and one of the leading financial supporters of the playground, the Prince Rupert Port Authority. The Board thanks the Port Authority and the Ministry of Education for their financial support of the new playground.

Ivan Coyote Visit

Author, filmmaker and storyteller Ivan Coyote will visit the district on Thursday, September 12. At the Lester Centre at 9:00 a.m. they will present to students from Prince Rupert Middle School and Charles Hays Secondary School. On Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Ivan will have a public book reading at the Prince Rupert Library.

Calendar

The Board of Education approved a revised School Calendar. The change on the calendar was to move a non-instructional day for Pacific Coast School from January 24, 2020 to February 13, 2020.

World Suicide Prevention Day

At 8:00 p.m. during the Board meeting, the Board of Education recognized World Suicide Prevention Day. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of suicide prevention.



School Demolition

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the district's business plans for the demolition of Seal Cove Elementary School and Kanata Elementary School have been approved by the Ministry of Education. Demolition of these buildings is expected to be complete by March 31, 2020.

PRMS Replacement

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the district's progress on submitting a Project Development Report to the Ministry of Education. This report is required before replacement of the school can be approved. In order to submit the report the district must identify where the school will be built and demonstrate that it has access to that site.

The district is working with the City of Prince Rupert to finalize the selection of an appropriate site for the replacement school. This work has included a traffic study (in progress) and draft agreements, which must be completed before a Public Information Meeting can be held and the Project Development Report can be submitted.

Policy Committee Work

3 policies were approved for distribution to the district's partner groups for their review and comment:

- 1320 Communicable Disease and Immunizations Policy
- 1350 Student Medications Policy
- 1380 Anaphylaxis Policy

Upcoming Events

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| Thursday, September 12, 2019 | Conrad Street Playground Official Opening at 11:00 a.m. |
| Thursday, September 12, 2019 | Ivan Coyote Public Reading at Prince Rupert Public Library at 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday, September 27, 2019 | Non-Instructional Day (District Curriculum Implementation Day) |
| Tuesday, October 8, 2019 | Board of Education Meeting |
| Monday, October 14, 2019 | Thanksgiving Statutory Holiday |



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