



## **Media Release**

### **Highlights of October 8, 2019 Board Meeting**

#### **Mental Health Literacy**

Pam Groves is the district Mental Health Literacy Specialist Teacher. This is a halftime position focused on promoting mental health wellness in the district. Funding is provided in part from an Early Action Initiative Grant. Ms. Groves described the programs being used for secondary and middle-school students. Dr. Linda O’Neil from UNBC will make a number of trips to the district to support the school mental health teams that are being formed as part of this initiative.

“The Board was pleased to hear that students, staff and parents will all benefit from this mental health initiative,” said Board Chair James Horne. “We are hopeful that these programs will continue in subsequent years with the additional funding announced by the Minister of Education.”

#### **Communities on the Move Declaration**

Chris Lightfoot is an organizer of the Complete Streets for Prince Rupert group. Mr. Lightfoot described the Communities on the Move initiative, which is seeking increased Provincial spending to improve transit, walking and cycling infrastructure. There is a commitment to equity to address the needs of people with mobility challenges.

“Improvements to infrastructure for walking and cycling will have a direct benefit in allowing students to come to school more safely,” said Board Chair James Horne. “The Board of Education is pleased to add our name to the Communities on the Move Declaration.”

#### **Partner Group Engagement**

A letter from the District Parent Advisory Council requested a non-voting seat on the Board of Education. Trustees considered this request, as well as the needs of other district partner groups. The Board of Education passed a motion asking district staff to investigate forming a quarterly committee meeting with all partner groups in attendance.



## **Professional Training Opportunities**

Superintendent Irene LaPierre announced that Simon Fraser University has confirmed a Professional Linking Program for teacher training will commence in Prince Rupert in January 2020. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2019.

The district has received a significant number of expressions of interest for an Education Assistant Certificate program. Conversations with are continuing to get a commitment from a post-secondary institution to offer this training in Prince Rupert.

## **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning**

The Ministry of Education provided a presentation on addressing continuous improvement in student achievement across the Province. The Superintendent shared this presentation which outlines a process that will begin with Ministry policy and continue to allow districts to focus on the specific needs of their students. Nine districts have been identified as early adopters for 2019-2020. School District No. 52 will implement this model in 2020-2021.

## **Annual Budget Consultation Process**

The Board will write to stakeholder groups seeking input on the annual budget consultation process. This feedback will inform the process to be approved by the Board for the 2020-20201 Annual Budget.

## **Change to Date – Next Board Meeting Monday, November 4, 2019**

The Board of Education open meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019 has been re-scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2019. The agenda for this meeting is the election of Board Chair and other positions.

## **Policy Committee Work**

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

1410 District Code of Conduct Policy  
1430 District Discipline Committee Policy

## **Upcoming Events**



Monday, October 14, 2019	Thanksgiving Statutory Holiday
Friday, October 18, 2019	Ministry Partner Liaison Meeting
Thursday and Friday, October 25-26, 2019	Provincial Council Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2019	Board of Education Meeting
Friday, November 8, 2019	BCPSEA Representative Council Meeting
Monday, November 11, 2019	Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday
Tuesday, November 12, 2019	Board of Education Meeting
Thursday to Saturday, November 28-30, 2019	BCSTA Academy

Contact Persons:

James Horne, Chair  
Board of Education  
James.Horne@sd52.bc.ca

Irene La Pierre  
Superintendent  
Board of Education  
(250) 624-6717,  
Extension 2104