



Media Release Highlights of September 12, 2017 Board Meeting

Summer Read & Play

Roberta Edzerza, the District Principal, Aboriginal Education attended the meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, September 12 accompanied by Teacher Bea Skog and StrongStart Coordinator Ann-Marie Helin. Ms. Skog and Ms. Helin directed the Summer Read & Plan program on the west side of the city and other district staff directed programs on the east side, in Metlakatla and in Hartley Bay.

Fiona Morrison and Debbie Leighton-Stephens assisted the district with a renewal of the program, focusing on the Daily Five reading program and the culturally relevant Strong Readers program. Staff were able to spend time reading with each individual participant, which allowed the program to address the needs of each student to become more confident readers. Students were out and about, visiting many places around the district.

"The Board was excited to hear about the successful return of the Summer Read & Plan program," said Board Chair Tina Last. "On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to publicly thank Pacific Northwest LNG for their generous funding that allowed the district to proceed with this summer program and with another year of Camp Jupiter."

Transportation Funding

Secretary-Treasurer Cam McIntyre reported that the planned transportation funding for 2016-17 was utilized as planned. \$85,000 was distributed to the District of Port Edward to operate a yellow bus service for students from Port Edward and Metlakatla. \$15,000 was utilized to reduce the cost of a student bus pass from \$40 to \$30, with over 100 passes subsidized per month. The remaining funds were utilized to support families in need of bus passes and school field trips.

For the 2017-18 school year, funding will continue to support the yellow bus service operated by the District of Port Edward, the discount of student bus passes, and support for families in need of bus passes and school field trips.

School Opening

The Superintendent updated the Board of Education on the start of the school year. Students in all Kindergarten to Grade 9 classes are learning from the Ministry of Education's new curriculum. Grade 10 to 12 classes are trying out parts of the new draft curriculum for those grades. The Board of Education agreed to increase the number of Department Heads at Charles Hays Secondary School from 8 to 10 to provide additional support for the implementation of the new grade 10 to 12 curriculum.

Enrolment in the district has, as expected; declined from last September. Movement of students between schools and the enrolment of new students is resulting in very full classes in some locations. Those issues are being addressed.

The application of the class size and composition language restored by the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada has resulted in the hiring of 14 new teachers in the district.



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This funding is subject to review by the Ministry of Education based on actual enrolment and staffing at September 30, 2017.

The custodial, maintenance and information technology staff were publicly thanked for their tremendous efforts over the summer to have all of our schools looking shiny and clean for the start of the school year.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

The district's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for 2017-2020 was formally approved by the Board of Education and will soon be available on the district's website, www.rupertschools.ca. This document is built on the Thoughtexchange survey done in 2016 and the contributions of the many members, from all of the district's partner groups, on the Framework committee.

"The Board is very pleased to approve the first Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for the district," said Board Chair Tina Last. "On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to publicly thank all of our staff, parents and students who contributed their time and ideas in the development of the Framework."

CHSS Bleachers

Work is scheduled to be completed next week on the construction of sheltered bleachers by the CHSS track. This project was made possible by the generous donations received from the last two grad parent committees.

Policy Committee Work

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be sent to partner groups for feedback:

- 3520 Disposal of Land and Improvements Policy
- 3530 Disposal of Surplus Assets Policy
- 6250 District Parent Advisory Council Policy

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be updated in the policy book:

- 1440 Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- 6310 Role of the Superintendent Policy
- 6315 Delegation to the Superintendent Policy

Feedback from partner groups on draft policies is welcomed by the Board to ensure that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and staff.

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