



Media Release Highlights of January 14, 2020 Board Meeting

District Literacy Program

District Literacy Teacher Jennifer Pottle updated the Board of Education on the district literacy program. Levelled Literacy Intervention is one of the tools being used in the district to improve the reading abilities of students. Collaborative Early Literacy Intervention enables the district to meet the needs of every student. Observations are used to provide a consistent assessment method for all students. As the majority of early learners have been identified as “at risk” for literacy, targeted interventions take place to meet the needs of each student.

“The Board was pleased to be provided with data demonstrating the value of the district literacy program”, said Board Chair James Horne. “Consistent application of this program over the coming years will ensure that many more students are reading at their grade level by grade 3.”

School Calendar

The Board of Education distributed proposed calendars for the next three school years – 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. There are draft calendars with both one-week and two-week Spring Breaks. In order for calendars with two-week Spring Breaks to be approved, the district and the Prince Rupert District Teachers’ Union must reach agreement to amend the collective agreement.

Annual Budget Consultation – NEW LOCATION

The first meeting for the Annual Budget Consultation for the 2020-2021 Annual Budget will take place on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in a new location, on the second floor of the Booth Operations Building. Access should be available from the 5th Avenue parking lot of Lax Kxeen Elementary School to the back of the Booth building.

This meeting will begin with a presentation from district staff. There will then be a Talking Circle, which allows each person in the circle the opportunity to speak without interruption.



Staff Wellness

Staff wellness activities are now underway in the school district. Organized by Pam Groves, the Mental Health Literacy Specialist Teacher, these activities will help all staff to maintain Gyeksm Goot (Calm Heart). Yoga, drumming and wellness exercises will take place after school on different days of the week.

Conrad Street Elementary School – Seismic Status

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that Conrad Street Elementary School has been added to the Seismic Mitigation Program list. It is one of 248 schools where no formal work has started for seismic mitigation of the building.

Water Testing Update

The allowable limit for lead in water has been cut in half. Following a number of tests, the district has confirmed that flushing of water lines is not effective to reduce the amount of lead in water to this new limit at most sinks in schools and other district buildings. All staff and students are advised to use the filtered water fountains for all drinking water, as the filters continue to be effective for the reduction of lead in water.

There is also a new limit for copper in water. The district is consulting with the Northern Health Authority on the steps to be taken to meet this new requirement.

Policy Committee Work

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

3410 Security and Protection of Buildings Policy
3420 Video Surveillance Policy



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 22, 2020	Equity Scan Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020	FNESC Regional Meeting
Friday, January 24, 2020	Non-Instructional Day (Elementary and Middle Schools)
January 30-31, 2020	BCPSEA Annual General Meeting
February 9-16, 2020	All-Native Basketball Tournament
Tuesday, February 11, 2020	Board Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020	Non-Instructional Day (Secondary Schools)
Friday, February 14, 2020	Curriculum Implementation Day (Indigenous Focus)
Monday, February 17, 2020	Family Day Holiday
February 21-22, 2020	Provincial Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2020	Breakfast Club of Canada Official Opening at Prince Rupert Middle School
Monday, March 2, 2020	BCSTA Professional Development Day in Prince Rupert

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