



## **Media Release**

### **Highlights of September 15, 2020 Board Meeting**

#### **Summer Read and Play**

How do you run the Summer Read and Play program during a pandemic? Lori Burger, the District Truth & Reconciliation Administrator and Roberta Edzerza, the District Principal, Aboriginal Education presented highlights of this summer's program and described the changes made to the program as a result of the pandemic.

This summer's program included two sets of students in half-day programs. , Maintaining physical separation was a priority when students were indoors, along with regular hand hygiene. While the students did not stay for lunch, the morning students were provided with a packed lunch to take home, and the afternoon students received a healthy snack.

The program succeeded in improving the reading skills of the participants. For students, their favourite activities included kayaking at Kloiya Bay, and meeting and learning from Russell Mather, the artist and carver of the Truth and Reconciliation Pole commissioned for the Learning Commons at Charles Hays Secondary School.

"It is exciting and gratifying to hear how much the students and their parents enjoyed and appreciated this year's program," said Board Chair James Horne. "The Board extends their thanks to all of the staff who made this program possible for our students."

#### **District and School Restart Plans**

Superintendent Andrew Samoil presented the plans that have been implemented for the restart of schools in Phase 2 of the pandemic response plan. These plans are "living" documents, as they are regularly updated as more information is provided by the Ministry of Education and Public Health officials.

A key part of the plans is the creation of "cohorts", or "learning groups" for all students. Cohorts allow students to continue learning with reduced exposure to other students and staff, and are identified by Public Health as a key aspect allowing a safe return to school.



For families whose children are not returning for face-to-face instruction in schools, there are two options available: home schooling and distributed learning. If a student is enrolled at a school but cannot attend school for medical reasons, the district will provide lessons and support for that student.

## **School Opening**

Director of Instruction Sandy Pond reported that approximately 90% of students have returned to in-school classes as of September 15, 2020. The district is reaching out to families of the remaining students to ask what their plans are for their student's education. Official enrolment for the year is determined as at September 30, 2020, and should be available for the October Board meeting.

## **Federal Funding**

The district's share of the first half of the Federal funding for school re-opening is just over \$345,000. The annual amount is therefore expected to be approximately \$690,000. District staff are preparing a plan for the use of this money, which will be brought to a future Board meeting.

## **Carbon Neutral Action Report**

The Board of Education received the 2019 Carbon Neutral Action Report. As directed by the Province, the information on tonnes of carbon offset was repeated from the prior year. Actual results will be reflected in the 2020 report. The district continues to complete energy efficiency projects to reduce carbon production.

## **Policy Committee Work**

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

6130 Role of the Board Policy

6140 Role of the Trustee and Trustee Code of Conduct Policy



## **Upcoming Events**

Monday, September 28, 2020	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 12, 2020	Thanksgiving Statutory Holiday
Tuesday, October 13, 2020	Board of Education Meeting

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