
Board Meeting Highlights

Unofficial Summary of the Public Board Meeting, held October 11, 2023

Delegations: District Principal of Early Learning, **Amy Dearden**, and Early Learning Coordinator, **Samantha Creech** presented an inspiring summary of the Early Learning Program. For more information on the program and initiatives including StrongStart, Ready, Set, Learn, SEY2KT, Roots of Empathy, Seamless Day, ECEs in Kindergarten Classrooms, and all the Resources for families, please check out the Early Learning webpage on the SD64 website.

Board Chairperson's Report

- **Superintendent Recruitment:** The Superintendent posting closed on October 10. In-person interviews will be conducted on November 1 and 2.
- **School Calendar Consultation Schedule:** The Board presented a School Calendar Consultation Schedule and Notice of Motion to consider adoption of school calendars for 2025/26 and 2026/2027 as part of the district's 3-year calendar. Links to the draft calendars and feedback form will be posted on the Instructional Calendar webpage.
- **District Playing Fields:** The Board requested that staff prepare a report, for the February 14 public meeting, on annual maintenance costs for the GISS playing fields and the feasibility of contracting an expert opinion on how to improve the use of the fields.
- **2023 BC Active Transportation Grant Support:** The Board passed a motion to write a letter of support for CRD application to the 2023 BC Active Transportation Grant Application for the Schooner Way Trail.

Superintendent's Report

- **Enrolment – 1701:** The District reported a headcount enrolment of 1508 students (1515.75 FTE) on this year's September 30th. 1701 funding report to the Ministry.
- **Staffing:** SD64 will be participating in a Job Fair on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SSI WorkBC Centre.
- **Capacity of Elementary Schools on Salt Spring Island:** Based on the Ministry's adjusted design capacity numbers, there is currently room for 45 more students in SD64 Salt Spring Island elementary schools, not including Phoenix Elementary School.
- **Programs and Initiatives relating to Diversity, Anti-Racism, Equity, Inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation** Boe Beardsmore presented an overview of the district's collective work in equity and anti-racism. In 2020 the Board committed to dismantling racism through anti-racism learning and diversity training, deepening our awareness and understanding of individual, institutional, and structural racism. The activities and initiatives in the district over the last three years are evidence of our commitment to the work, including but not limited to professional development for staff; engaging experts in the field for presentations and discussions with staff and students; new and revised policies and procedures; updating the strategic plan; renewed codes of conduct; training for staff; equity scans in all schools; restorative justice training for PVPs, teachers and EAs; Indigenous Ed programs; new resources in libraries, and the hiring of an Equity and Anti-Racism Coordinator for K-12. This is just the beginning. The next steps include a follow-up teacher survey to better understand evolving perceptions and pedagogical practices; a survey for PVPs to provide baseline data regarding comfort and integration, concerns and challenges, and perceptions and practices in school culture and climate; pro-d for teachers and PVPs for development and training in the areas outlined in the K-12 AR Action Plan; an inclusion calendar; and a parent info guide on how to report acts of racism and discrimination.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

- **Monthly Financial Report:** The monthly operating expense report indicates expenses are currently within budget.