

## Board Meeting Highlights

Summary of the Public Board Meeting, held April 10, 2024

### *District Meeting Safety Plan Recommendations*

[Bylaw No. 2 Board Procedures](#), adopted on February 14, 2024, now includes language concerning meeting safety and civil conduct. Discussions highlighted the importance of site-specific safety plans due to variations in meeting locations within the district. The board is poised to consider meeting times and venues with a focus on accessibility and safety.

### *Letter from Christina Zacharuk RE: Underspent Indigenous Education funding 2022/23*

This is a standard letter sent following any request to defer funds. Last year's unspent funds were carried forward into this year's amended budget.

### *Spring Vista Conference*

The Superintendent and Trustees participated in the spring VISTA conference in Parksville, providing a valuable team-building opportunity.

### *Strategic Plan Engagement Process*

The Board of Education is actively engaged in renewing its [Strategic Plan](#), with the Superintendent leading efforts to gather input from students, district staff, and school-based staff, about educational priorities and how to enhance and improve educational experiences. Results from this engagement will be discussed at the Board's April 24 In-Service. The district aims to have a draft ready for input from families and communities in May.

### *Staffing and Enrolment*

The Vice Principal position at the Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC) has been [posted](#) with a closing date of April 22. Staff configuration for the 2024/25 school year is currently underway.

### *Aboriginal How Are We Doing Report (AHAWD)*

The Board received the AHAWD report, noting significant progress in the six-year completion rate, which increased by 39.2% from 56.6% in 2018/19 to 95.8% in 2022/23. However, Grade 4 FSA Literacy results indicate ongoing disparities, with Indigenous students scoring 20 points lower than non-Indigenous students. Public versions of the provincial and local [2022/23 AHAWD](#) reports are available on the [Student Success](#) website.

### *Feeding Futures at SD64 – Dan Sparanese*

District Principal Dan Sparanese presented on [Feeding Futures](#) in SD64, covering how need is assessed, the evolution of school-specific programs, and future goals for infrastructure and program development. The program aims to be barrier-free and reduce stigma associated with food insecurity.

### *Financial Reports*

The monthly operating expense report reveals that expenses are within 2.1% of the amended budget. Additionally, the 2024/2025 Capital Plan was presented, with the bylaw receiving three readings and subsequent approval.

***Finance, Audit, and Facilities Committee***

The Board initiated discussions regarding estimated Operating Grants for 2024/2025 and budget priorities. With a projected decline in projected enrolment, the district will receive an increase in Funding Protection next year; however, the district will continue to receive 1.5% less in comparable Operating Grants each year until funding aligns with actual enrolment. Additionally, the Board reviewed extensive information regarding the GISS playing fields but postponed further deliberations until the return of Jesse Guy, Secretary Treasurer. The district is also undergoing a review of the [Strategic Plan](#), with recognition of the need for an updated [Long Range Facilities Plan](#).

***Policy Committee***

- Policies/Procedures 110 Ceremonial Protocols, 111 Representation at Board Meetings, and 115 Election of Board Positions were repealed.
- Notice of Motion was presented for the following draft policies: 1.40 Board Committees, Policy 1.41 Board Liaison and Representation, 1.20 Board Authority, Role, and Responsibilities, 1.21 Role of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and 1.22 Trustee Remuneration. These policies will be circulated for feedback and considered for adoption at the next Board meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

As the Board continues renovating its policy manual, it welcomes feedback on draft policies, which will be posted on the district [Bylaws and Policies](#) page.