



# BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a summary of decisions and highlights from the Board of Education Meeting held December 14, 2021.

Board Chair Ciel Patenaude acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Northern Secwepemc People.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Superintendent van der Mark prefaced his report with the following message:

*"This has been a remarkable Fall. They all are, but this one has packed a little extra, it seems. I would like to take a moment to thank you all for working hard to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Despite the challenges, we continue to get our buckets filled by seeing smiling faces in schools, and we can tell they are smiling, even wearing a mask 😊 Thank you all for your continued efforts. Merry Christmas and the best of the holidays."*



- **COVID-19 Update** – We were delighted to see Interior Health relax some of the restrictions pertaining to school events. Public events are still limited to 50%. IH data indicates that informal gatherings (sleep overs) continue to be a significant origin of transmission. A reminder to everyone that as families gather over the holidays please make sure to do what is necessary to limit the spread of COVID and keep families and communities safe.
- **BCSTA Trustee Academy** – Trustees and senior staff attended the annual 3-day event in Vancouver. A key focus area was the ongoing need for improved outcomes for indigenous students. Sessions highlighted that there is much work for us to do in SD#27, but we are on the right track, and together will get there!
- **Interim Secretary-Treasurer** – While the District continues its efforts to find a permanent replacement, **Ms. Lynda Minnabarriet** will be serving as Interim Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Minnabarriet is recently retired from her position as Secretary-Treasurer of School District #74 (Gold Trail) and has also been the president of the BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO). Ms. Minnabarriet will work directly with Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Barrett Gaunce and the Finance/Payroll/HR Departments as they continue to work through the ATRIEVE re-implementation. We are delighted to have Ms. Minnabarriet's experience and expertise at this time!
- **Website and Portal** – Significant work has been completed on the new District and school websites as well as the staff portal. Improved access, along with centralization of information and resources make these sites more intuitive and organized. Thanks to Ms. Pratt for her work on this!

## COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY AND EDUCATION DID NOT MEET IN DECEMBER)

Trustee Delainey provided the report from the December **Finance and Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting**. The committee heard a COVID Update with a reminder that the 5-11 year old vaccine availability information was rolled out by the government and shared by school districts across B.C. Parents can visit the [BCCDC Website](#) for information on how to register their child.

The committee report also included information about Emergency Preparedness Planning work ongoing in the District and a report from Director of Instruction Sean Cameron on the District being featured at a recent technology conference where K-12 districts and vendors presented innovative practices happening around the province.

During an IT Optimization review in the 2020-2021 school year, IBM found that the District did not have a service management system that supported analysis for IT tickets. Following a critical needs assessment, the District chose SolarWinds and completed the implementation in August 2021. Troy Dyck, SD27 IT Tech Level II, provided a demo of the system at the conference and a condensed version to the committee.

## READING FILE

The Board correspondence included letters from the Board thanking community partners for their support of the recent childcare spaces application and a letter from the First Nations Leadership Council to Minister Whiteside.

To read full Board and Committee Reports, view the agenda on the [District Website](#).

Next Board of Education Meeting – January 25, 2022

***"Learning, Growing and Belonging Together"***