



Media Release
Highlights of January 10, 2017 Board Meeting

Prince Rupert Graduates Video

Teacher Jeremy Janz and students Bailey Barton and Joshua Rouse of Pacific Coast School attended the Board meeting on January 10, 2017 to share a school video highlighting successful graduates of School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert). As part of the process of creating the video, students learned interviewing and recording skills, as well as the process of editing the video to create a finished product. Special thanks were offered to Gloria Macarenko and CBC Television for the introductory and closing clips of the video.

"It is exciting to recognize the many accomplishments of our students, both in Prince Rupert and outside the community," said Board Chair Tina Last. "As described by our graduates in the video, students in our district benefit from the diversity of our community and the dedication and skill of our teachers. Respect for the diversity in other people is a key skill to be successful in today's world."

Shelley Moore Visit

On January 5 and 6, 2017, Shelley Moore visited the district to work with teachers on the practice of inclusion. Ms. Moore is a recognized expert in the Province and an engaging speaker and educator.

A public presentation to parents in the Charles Hays Secondary School multi-purpose room was well attended.

School Calendar

At the meeting of the Board of Education on January 10, 2017 the Superintendent presented two possible school calendars for the 2017/18 school year. One of the possible calendars reflects a 2 week Spring Break, and the other calendar would result in a return to the traditional 1 week Spring Break. The district will consult with its partner groups and the community for 30 days, and expects to approve the calendar for next year at the regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

Approval of a calendar with a 2 week Spring Break is subject to reaching an agreement with the Prince Rupert District Teachers Union.



Graduation Rates

Superintendent Sandra Jones reported the graduation rates for 2015/16 to the Board of Education. The district saw a 3% improvement in the six year completion rate to 67%, and a 94% completion rate for students who began their grade 12 year eligible to graduate. Year to year fluctuations in rates are expected because of the small class cohorts in Prince Rupert.

The Power of Ideas

Prince Rupert has been selected as one of 60 communities across the country to host "The Power of Ideas." This event is one of the Canada 150 events to celebrate the 150th birthday of the country. According to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics' website, "Participants will discover the process of science through engaging hands-on, mind-expanding exhibits by having a science centre quality exhibition available to them."

The event will take place at Charles Hays Secondary School on February 15 and 16, 2017. Community members are welcome to attend between 5 and 7pm on the 15th.

Amended Annual Budget

The Board of Education approved the 2016/2017 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting on January 10, 2017. The total budget bylaw amount was \$27,830,885, a decrease of 1.2% from the original budget bylaw amount of \$28,165,497. The decrease is primarily in the operating budget.

Copies of the approved amended annual budget will be available soon on the district website, www.sd52.bc.ca.

2016-17 Capital Budget

The Board of Education approved its annual capital budget bylaw at its meeting on January 10, 2017. The bylaw summarizes all of the projects approved by the Ministry of Education for funding in this school year:

School water system enhancements	\$150,000
Conrad boiler replacement	\$130,000
Conrad HVAC system replacement	\$376,575
Bus for students with special needs replacement	\$ <u>87,562</u>
Total	\$ <u>744,137</u>



Annual Budget Consultation

The first meeting for this year's Annual Budget Consultation will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Hays Secondary School multi-purpose room. This meeting will include a "world café" discussion time to allow participants to share their thoughts in smaller groups.

Please come out to this meeting to provide your input to the Board of Education.

Policy Committee Work

3 policies were approved by the Board of Education to be sent to partner groups for their input:

- Employee Conduct and Political Activities Policy
- Making Policy
- Records Management Policy

Feedback from partner groups on draft policies is welcomed by the Board, so that approved policies will meet the needs of the district's students and staff.

Contact Persons:

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