



Board Meeting Highlights January 17, 2024

Presentation: French Immersion

French Immersion Program Principal and Coordinator Jennifer Simon and helping teachers Sandra Turbide and Pooja Pabari presented to the board on the French Immersion program in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 (SD42). Recent federal funding for the program through the Ministry of Education and Child Care has enabled the district to focus on further supporting the program through an emphasis on program growth, student and staff growth and retention, and the increase of cultural and authentic language experiences for students and educators.

More information about the SD42 French Immersion program is available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/program/french-immersion/>.

Presentation: Early Learning

Early learning helping teacher Melanie Scarcella and district principal of learning services Sue Dhillon presented to the board on the SD42 Early Learning program. The vision of the program centers on fostering a collaborative, community-driven early learning environment. The program aims to provide a space that supports diverse and playful experiences, in line with the Early Learning Framework. It values dedicated time for engaging conversations with parents and caregivers, strengthening their connection to the community and school district. The program includes the *Ready, Set, Learn* series; *Thriving in Kindergarten*; *Ready, Set, Kindergarten*; the *StrongStart* program; as well as the *Changing Results for Young Children Initiative*.

Learn more about SD42 Early Learning programs at <https://www.sd42.ca/early-learning/>.

Presentation: 2024 BC Summer Games

2024 BC Summer Games president Laura Butler and City of Maple Ridge staff lead Christina Balatti presented to the board on this year's summer games, which will take place in Maple Ridge from July 18 to 21, 2024. The games are British Columbia's biennial celebration of sport and community, bringing together BC's best emerging high performance athletes, trained coaches, and certified officials for four days of competition.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dhillon presented on the continued dramatic increase in English Language Learners (ELL) in the district. The number of ELL students in the school district has increased over the years from 446 in 2015/16 to 1472 in 2023/24. ELL students are those students who have been assessed and meet the Ministry of Education and Child Care criteria for ELL supports and supplemental funding. International students are not included in the ELL category.

Secretary Treasurer's Update

Secretary Treasurer Rennie provided the board with an update on three major capital projects (Eric Langton Elementary seismic replacement and expansion, Pitt Meadows Secondary seismic replacement project definition report, and Harry Hooge Elementary expansion and seismic upgrade project definition report) and the district's snow and ice control. Additional information about the Eric Langton Elementary and Pitt Meadows Secondary projects can be found on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/strategic-facilities-plan/>.

Trustee Motions

The board approved the following motions for submission to BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA):

First motion:

That BCSTA endorse and encourage Boards of Education to integrate non-voting student trustees on boards of education to enhance district-level decision-making processes;

AND FURTHER;

That BCSTA advocate for the amendment of the School Act by the province of British Columbia, granting school districts the discretion to establish student trustee positions, including an election process and full voting rights.

Second motion:

That BCSTA develop a process for the inclusion of non-voting student delegates at BCSTA annual general meetings, and that a report on progress be provided by the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Third motion:

That BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Child Care to address the critical funding shortfalls experienced by school districts in operating StrongStart BC centres by fully funding the StrongStart programs.

Fourth motion:

That BCSTA request the Minister of Education and Child Care and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide an update on the funding model review to examine the funding and resources required to support vulnerable learners in our correctional centres with life-altering educational opportunities.

The board also approved the following motion:

That the board of education direct staff to review the current district student governance model and explore the feasibility of implementing a student trustee in time for the 2026/27 review.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm on February 21, 2024.