

### **Presentation: After-School Programming**

Hannah Macdonald, program manager of community connections and healthy living, presented to the board on after-school programming in the Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows School District. The programs and services offered in the district support the four key community school threads: community development, lifelong learning, social and emotional learning, and health and wellness. The goals of the program include increasing access by expanding choice, reducing financial barriers, and raising awareness. Current offerings include soccer, taekwondo, the PLAY Society drama program, creative crafts, STEM Builders, coding, robotics, Forest Rangers, and more. For more information about after-school programs in the district, visit <https://www.sd42.ca/after-school-programs/>.

### **Delegation: Maple Ridge Montessori Society**

Montessori Society president Dawn Beavon presented to the board about the Montessori Program, hosted at Hammond Elementary School. The Montessori method is based on observing and supporting the natural development of children, focusing on the whole child, and fostering a student’s sense of self and connection to others through interest and choice. This hands-on, multisensory program engages students across all subject areas, with the ultimate goal of developing global citizens. Students learn at their own pace, motivate one another, and often become teachers to their peers. Learn more about the Montessori program at <https://www.sd42.ca/program/montessori/>.

### **Non-Resident Student Fees for 2026/27**

The board approved the following 10-month academic program fees for non-resident students for 2025/26 as captured in the table below.

| 10-Month Academic Fee Description                  | 2025/26<br>Approved Fees | 2026/27<br>Proposed Fees | Increase<br>(Decrease) |      |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------|
| Application  | \$200                    | \$200                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Annual Tuition – Elementary                        | \$16,000                 | \$16,200                 | \$200                  | 1%   |
| Annual Tuition – Secondary                         | \$15,500                 | \$15,700                 | \$200                  | 1%   |
| Annual Homestay Administration                     | \$350                    | \$350                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Annual Homestay – Elementary                       | \$14,000                 | \$14,000                 | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Annual Homestay – Secondary                        | \$12,000                 | \$12,000                 | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Custodianship (annual)                             | \$250                    | \$250                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Annual Medical Insurance                           | \$1,200                  | \$1,300                  | \$100                  | 8%   |
| Secondary Student Orientation                      | \$150                    | \$150                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Soccer Academy (\$550 per semester)                | \$1,000                  | \$1,000                  | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Basketball Academy (\$550 per semester)            | \$1,000                  | \$1,000                  | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| International Baccalaureate (per year for 2 years) | \$1,500                  | \$1,500                  | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| One-Year Graduation                                | \$2,000                  | \$2,000                  | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Special Diet Requests                              | \$200                    | \$200                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Validations  | \$200                    | \$200                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Summer Medical Insurance – Summer Learning         | \$120                    | \$120                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Summer Medical Insurance – MSP Extending Students  | \$240                    | \$240                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Refund Processing                                  | \$200                    | \$200                    | \$ -                   | 0%   |
| Deferrals and/or Cancellations                     | \$200                    | \$500                    | \$300                  | 150% |
| Airport Fee for Program Start and End              | Included                 | included                 |                        |      |

The board also approved the following course fees for non-resident students for 2026/27 for Continuing Education, Online Learning, and Summer Learning.

| 2026/27 Fees per Course |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Elementary              | \$800   |
| Secondary               | \$1,300 |

### **2022-2026 Operational Plan Updates**

The board approved operational plan updates for Board of Education, Education Division, Business Division, Human Resources, and Information Technology. Operational plans are developed to align with the district's mission, vision, and values, and are guided by the district's strategic directions. The updated plans are available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/strategic-plan/>.

### **Auditor Appointed**

The board approved the appointment of KPMP LLP as financial statement auditors for the board for each of the three fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

### **Board/Authority Authorized Courses**

The board approved Board/Authority Authorized courses *Black Studies 12* and *Volleyball Athletic Development 11*, effective the beginning of the 2025/26 school year.

### **Chairperson's Update**

Chairperson Yamamoto provided a verbal update on the January 23, 2025, BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch meeting, at which the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District Board of Education brought forward three motions. At the meeting, trustee Liosis was elected as branch president.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Downs provided an update on the 2023/24 completion data. The district's five-year completion rate for 2023/24 is 93.0%, comparing favorably with the provincial average of 86.6%. The district's six-year completion rate is similarly strong at 97.4%, compared to the provincial average of 91.4%. The six-year completion rate for non-Indigenous learners is 97.4%, reflecting only a marginal decline from the 2022/23 rate of 98.1%. Meanwhile, the six-year completion rate for Indigenous learners is 93.2%, showing a slight improvement over the 2022/23 rate of 90.3% and significantly exceeding the provincial average of 75.5%. A closer examination of the six-year completion data for Indigenous learners reveals that students living off-reserve have significantly higher completion rates (94.9%) than those living on-reserve (73.8%). The 2023/24 completion rate for students with disabilities or diverse abilities is 88.3%, marking a slight decline from the 2022/23 rate of 91.4%. Finally, the completion rate for children and youth in care dropped significantly in 2023/24 to 66.1%, down from 90.8% in 2022/23. However, due to the small cohort sizes in this category, shifts in completion rates tend to be more pronounced.

### **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: Report Feedback**

The board received for information the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report Feedback, which focuses on the strengths, considerations, and proficiency levels within five focus areas and is intended to support the district in its efforts for continuous improvement. The full annual review feedback document is available in the [February 12, 2025, public agenda package](#).

### **Annual Review: Continuing Education and Ridge Meadows College**

Tricia McCuaig, principal of Riverside Centre, and Diane Wadden, vice principal of Riverside Centre and English language learning, presented on continuing education. The program offers day, evening, and online classes for students aged 16 and older. Under the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Education

Guarantee, courses are tuition-free for non-graduates, while graduates can upgrade their skills for career changes or post-secondary opportunities. Continuing education also supports two full-time teachers who deliver educational programs at local correctional centres.

Will Carne, manager of programs and operations for Ridge Meadows College, provided an update on new initiatives and program developments. The college has secured two new contracts with the province for teaching and corrections and signed an affiliation agreement with Fraser Health, allowing Medical Office Administration students to complete practicums in hospitals and health facilities. A carpentry apprenticeship program is awaiting approval from Skilled Trades BC, and efforts are underway to become a training partner with the Canadian Red Cross. Program enrolment is strong, with the Early Childhood Educator program surpassing 1,000 students, steady numbers in the Education Assistants program despite recruitment challenges, and growing interest in Building Service Workers and administrative programs.

Learn more about Ridge Meadows College at <https://rmcollege.sd42.ca/>.

### **Enrolment Projections for 2025/26 to 2028/29**

The board received for information enrolment projections for 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29. Kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolment is projected to increase by 94 FTE in 2025/26, 261 FTE in 2026/27, 161 FTE in 2027/28, and 173 FTE in 2028/29. The full report, including projections for summer learning, inclusive education representing students with disabilities and diverse abilities, English Language Learners, Indigenous education, and international education, is available online in the [February 12, 2025, agenda package](#).

### **Policy Development Committee**

The board received for information and continuation of the consultation process *Policy 5400: Student Transportation Provided by the Board*. The draft policy has been posted to the district website for public input at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policies-procedures-public/>.

### **Trustee Motions**

The board approved the following two motions for submission to the 2025 BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting:

- 1. That the BCSTA conduct an environmental scan of best practices for incorporating student voice in board governance across all school districts and develop resources to support boards of education in building capacity within their student voice structures.*
- 2. That the BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) for a revision to the Substance Education curriculum, ensuring that it addresses the ongoing opioid crisis with a focus on harm reduction, substance use prevention, and mental health support and that a review be conducted to assess whether this education should remain solely within Physical and Health Education or be integrated across multiple areas of learning;*  
*And further that the BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) for sufficient funding to support the timely and effective implementation of this revised curriculum, ensuring that it reflects current public health realities and equips students with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the challenges of substance use.*

The first trustee motion listed above represents the revised wording of a trustee motion approved at the January 15, 2025, public board meeting and subsequently repealed.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on March 5, 2025.**