

### **Presentation: Student Voice**

Vice Principal Lisa Kania presented to the board on Student Voice, highlighting the district's commitment to ensuring that students have meaningful opportunities to share their perspectives and influence decision-making. She provided an update on recent student engagement efforts, including the BIPOC Student Forum, where students shared input on responding to racist incidents, strengthening anti-racism education, and fostering student-led change. She also highlighted student participation in the budget process, where student voice representatives presented to the board on student priorities for the 2025/26 Preliminary Budget. At the close of the presentation, Kania noted that the district continues to explore ways to strengthen student engagement and leadership development through a more structured and inclusive approach.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

The board received a presentation from Superintendent Downs on proposed updates to the district's Strategic Plan and directed staff to engage with the Indigenous Education Community Gathering Table and each partner group on the proposed changes. Feedback from these discussions will be presented to the board at an upcoming public meeting. The district's strategic priorities are designed to support every learner and enhance the effectiveness of the system.

### **Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2025/26**

The board approved the following regular board meeting schedule for the 2025/26 school year:

2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR	
September 17, 2025	March 4, 2026
October 15, 2025	April 15, 2026
November 12, 2025	April 29, 2026
December 3, 2025	May 13, 2026
January 14, 2026	June 17, 2026
February 11, 2026	

### **Facility Rental and Licensing Fees for 2025/26**

The board approved facilities rental rates and licensing fees for 2025/26. Rental rates for classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, libraries, and gyms under the cost recovery model applicable to non-profit organizations (NPOs) are set to rise to recover increased costs, while the rates for private and commercial businesses are set to decrease to align with market rates for such businesses. Rental rates for filming remain unchanged, while the licensed child care rental rate will rise to recover increased costs. The board also approved new rental rates for parking lots and for the Garibaldi Secondary Theatre. The approved 2025/26 rental rates have been posted to the Facilities Rentals page at <https://www.sd42.ca/facility-rentals>.

## Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Statements

Secretary Treasurer Rennie presented the 2024/25 Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Statements to the board, noting that while the operating budget is balanced overall, a structural deficit of \$0.89 million remains, with ongoing expenses exceeding ongoing revenue. Addressing this shortfall will require either expense reductions, revenue increases, or both to ensure long-term sustainability. The full report and analysis are available for review in the [March 5, 2025, agenda package](#).

## Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Downs provided an update on recent school events and activities, including Lunar New Year celebrations on January 29. A highlight of Albion Elementary's Lunar New Year celebration can be found here: <https://www.sd42.ca/district-highlight/elementary-students-lion-dance/>.

In athletics, the Maple Ridge Ramblers won the provincial wrestling championship, while both the senior boys' and senior girls' basketball teams at Pitt Meadows Secondary advanced to the provincial championships. Theatre productions included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Thomas Haney Secondary and *The Wizard of Oz* at Westview Secondary.

Superintendent Downs also highlighted various Pink Shirt Day initiatives, including the "You're Not Alone" kindness card project by a Grade 7 Glenwood Elementary student in support of the Salvation Army. More on this initiative can be found here: <https://www.sd42.ca/district-highlight/glenwood-kindness-salvation/>.

## Trustee Remuneration for 2025/26

On May 18, 2022, the board approved an annual adjustment of trustee remuneration for the period 2022 to 2026 effective July 1 each year, based on Metro Vancouver Consumer Price Index (CPI) change from the previous year. The board received trustees' remuneration for 2025/26 (which includes a CPI Vancouver 2024 adjustment of 2.6%) for information. Total trustee remuneration for 2025/26 is as follows: trustees \$32,950; vice-chairperson \$34,450; chairperson \$35,950.

## Policy Development Committee

The board received the following policies for information and continuation of the consultation process:

- *Policy 7201: Recruitment and Selection of District Leadership Personnel*
- *Policy 7230: Personal Full-Time Leave of Absence*
- *Policy 7610: Compensation Administration for Excluded Employees*
- *Policy 7810: Performance Evaluation for Excluded Employees*

The draft policies have been posted to the district website for public input at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policies-procedures-public/>.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 16, 2025.**