

### **Delegation: 2025 National Day of Mourning**

Dale Hardy, district employee and volunteer delegate of the New Westminster and District Labour Council, presented to the board on the 2025 National Day of Mourning. The National Day of Mourning is a day to remember and honour lives lost or injured due to a workplace tragedy. It is also a day to collectively renew the commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace and to preventing further injuries, illnesses and deaths. The day is marked annually in Canada on April 28.

### **Presentation: Proposed Preliminary Budget for 2025/26**

Secretary Treasurer Rennie and Superintendent Downs presented the *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2025/26* to the board. In accordance with the School Act, school districts in the province must approve a balanced operating budget and submit it to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by June 30, 2025. The *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2025/26* is available for review on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/budget-process/2025-budget-process/>. Following a public engagement process, the Board of Education will make its final deliberations and consider the Preliminary Budget 2025/26 for approval at the public board meeting on April 30, 2025.

### **Capital Plan Bylaw for 2025/26**

The board gave three readings to and adopted the Capital Plan Bylaw for 2025/26. The adoption of the Capital Plan Bylaw allows the school district to address funding for capital projects supported by the provincial ministry to proceed to the next stage, and for minor capital projects that the ministry has approved for funding and that can proceed to procurement. For 2025/26, the ministry approved five new minor capital projects for HVAC upgrades, a delivery vehicle for food programming, and a universally accessible playground; however, no new major capital projects were approved.

### **2025/26 Annual Facilities Grant Spending Plan for 2025/26**

The board approved the 2025/26 Annual Facility Grant Spending Plan totaling \$3,631,988. The funds will go towards facility upgrades at various schools for projects that include learning support spaces enhancements, accessibility enhancements, HVAC, roofing, and plumbing. A summary of the 2025/26 Annual Facilities Grant Spending Plan is included in the April 16, 2025, agenda package: <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/2025-04-16-Public-Board-Meeting-Agenda-Package.pdf>

### **Policy Review Update**

The board approved *Policy 9550: Process for Raising Concerns* (new), and the following updated policies that had gone through the public input process:

- 4204: *Accumulated Surplus*
- 5400: *Student Transportation Provided by the Board*
- 7201: *Recruitment and Selection of District Leadership Personnel*
- 7230: *Personal Full-Time Leave of Absence*
- 7610: *Compensation Administration for Excluded Employees*
- 7810: *Performance Evaluation for Excluded Employees*

The board gave three readings to and adopted a revised Board of Education Appeal Policy and Procedures Bylaw.

The board also received, for information and continuation of the consultation process, updates to the following policies:

- *2400: Board Meeting Proceedings*
- *2915: Board Chairperson, Elections, Role and Responsibilities*
- *2918: Vice-Chairperson, Elections, Role and Responsibilities*

These drafts, along with new *Policy 7100: Employee Standards of Conduct*, are posted on the district website for public feedback.

### **Chairperson's Update**

In her update, Chairperson Yamamoto noted that the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District still receives the lowest per-student funding in the province for CommunityLINK and Equity of Opportunity grants combined—[despite years of board advocacy](#) and the Ministry of Education and Child Care's own admission that the current formula "no longer addresses inequities across the province." CommunityLINK supports vulnerable students through breakfast, lunch, and snack programs, academic supports, counselling, youth workers, and after-school programs. Equity of Opportunity supports additional services to students by recognizing children and youth in care, children and youth receiving nonclinical mental health supports, and low-income families.

The board approved the motion, "That the chairperson, in consultation with the board, pursue further advocacy efforts for a more equitable funding model."

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Downs provided the board an update on relief teachers, noting that this initiative, introduced for 2024/25, has sharply reduced failure-to-fill occurrences compared with 2023/24. Superintendent Downs also updated the board on the Secondary Schedule Public Engagement process, which launched on April 14, 2025, and seeks to gather input from students, staff, and families on potential changes to secondary school schedules at individual schools. Any approved changes would take effect in the 2026/27 school year. Information on this consultation, including timeline and links to online surveys, is available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/secondary-scheduling-engagement/>.

### **Secretary Treasurer's Update**

Secretary Treasurer Rennie spoke to the board about the National School Food Program (NSFP) funding, which will complement the existing Feeding Futures funding the district receives annually. NSFP funding allocations are based on the socioeconomic index for each school in a district. For the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, the 2024/25 allocation is \$211,000. NSFP has the same spending criteria as Feeding Futures, with a few minor differences, including the ability to use this funding for major and minor infrastructure, appliances, or equipment that do not add square footage to an existing school facility or convert education classroom space to a kitchen.

**The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 30, 2025.**