

Chairperson Yamamoto opened the meeting by acknowledging National Indigenous Peoples Day and reaffirming the district's commitment to Indigenous initiatives, Elders, and staff. The chairperson also recognized Pride Month, celebrating the diversity and resilience of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Presentation: Malcolm Knapp Research Forest and ci:tməx^w Environmental Community

Hélène Marcoux and Nicole McKenzie updated the Board on the 14-year partnership between the self-funded UBC Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF) and the ci:tməx^w Environmental Community (formerly Environmental School), which spends about three months in the forest each year engaging in land-based learning. MKRF, whose mandate includes research, education, and sustainable forest management, hopes to build a new 10,000-square-foot Forestry Learning Centre in the future, which would provide ci:tməx^w with indoor learning space during poor weather and reinforce their shared commitment to place-based, ecological education.

Provincial Budget 2026 Consultation Opportunity

The board approved a letter to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services as part of the Provincial Budget 2026 consultation process. The submission outlines three key advocacy priorities:

- 1. Make K–12 Public Education a Provincial Budget Priority**
 - Increase operational funding indexed to inflation.
 - Fully fund collective agreement costs.
 - Modernize special purpose funding for CommunityLINK and Early Learning Programs.
- 2. Strengthen Early Years Supports for Students with Diverse Needs**
 - Fund a social model of disability in K–3, enabling support for children in K–3 without requiring a formal diagnosis.
 - Provide stable, flexible funding to deploy support staff where most needed in K–3.
 - Invest in early intervention programs like StrongStart.
- 3. Modernize Capital and Technology Infrastructure**
 - Increase funding for IT and classroom technology.
 - Review and update school area standards.
 - Develop a fully funded provincial cybersecurity plan for K–12.

Strategic Plan Update

The board approved updates to the district's Strategic Plan following input from the Indigenous Education Community table, Maple Ridge Principals and Vice Principals Association, Maple Ridge Teachers Association, CUPE Local 703, District Parent Advisory Council, and representatives of Student Voice. The updated plan affirms six equally important priorities — Literacy and Numeracy, Equity, Social-Emotional Learning, Assessment, Innovation, and Sustainability — and removes numeric ranking to reflect equal emphasis on each area. Feedback also reinforced a broader framing of equity and a commitment to ensuring sustainability is translated into meaningful action.

Student Governance Review

Following a review of student governance models in other jurisdictions, the board approved a recommendation to create a Terms of Reference for a Student Advisory Committee and bring it forward at the September 2025 public meeting. The new committee will provide secondary students (Grades 10-12) with regular opportunities to offer input on governance matters and share topics of importance directly with the board.

Five-Year Capital Plan for 2026/27 – Major Capital Projects

The board approved the submission of major capital projects for the 2026/27 Five-Year Capital Plan, totaling over \$500 million. Key priorities include seismic upgrades for schools, including Harry Hooge Elementary and Maple Ridge Elementary, additions to existing schools such as Harry Hooge and Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary, and a major renovation for Pitt Meadows Elementary. The approved plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure by June 30, 2025.

Policy Development Committee

The board approved two new policies – *Policy 3550: Enterprise Risk Management* and *Policy 7100: Employee Standards of Conduct* – and approved updates to the following policies:

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

Finally, the board approved the retirement of policies 7213: *Conflict of Interest – District Staff* and 7220: *Dangerous Weapons*. New and updated policies have been posted to the online Policy Manual at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policy-manual/>.

Board Engagement with Secondary Students

As part of its Annual Work Plan, the board engaged students from Samuel Robertson Technical and Maple Ridge Secondary schools to hear their perspectives on mental wellness; diversity, equity and inclusion; and career development and future planning. Summaries of these sessions have been received by the board and will be shared with principals and the senior team to help inform ongoing efforts to ensure every individual feels valued, and all learners reach their potential.

District Financial Allocation to DPAC

The board received for information the District Parent Advisory Council's (DPAC) funding report for 2024/25 and its proposed spending plan for 2025/26. The annual allocation of \$3,921, which supports PAC and parent/guardian activities, was reinstated in 2023/24 following the pandemic and remains contingent on DPAC submitting an annual report and funding request each year. The DPAC funding report and spending plan is available in the June 18, 2025, board meeting agenda at: <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/2025-06-18-Public-Board-Meeting-Agenda-Package.pdf>.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Downs provided a verbal update on the 2024/25 school year in review. The update included highlights in areas of intentional focus such as literacy and numeracy; student achievement at local, regional and national levels; inspiring initiatives by students working to make a positive difference; and the recognition and celebration of diverse cultures across school communities. Noting that approximately 3,000 students will graduate from the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District this year, Superintendent Downs emphasized the dedication of staff who make schools safe and welcoming environments where meaningful learning can thrive. The presentation ended with a video of the Coast Salish house post unveiling at ɕəsqənələ Elementary. Watch the video and read the full story at <https://www.sd42.ca/district-highlight/house-post-cusquenela-elementary/>.

Board and Committees Meeting Calendar for 2025/26

The board received the Board and Committees Meeting Calendar for 2025/26 for information. The calendar includes the approved board meeting dates for the 2025/26 school year — posted on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/> — along with planned dates and times for board committee meetings and workshops.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on September 17, 2025.