

Presentation: Child Care Quality Assessment Tool

Child Care Manager Tammy Maidment presented the district's new Child Care Quality Assessment Tool, a comprehensive framework designed to ensure high-quality care across the 11 child care centres currently operating on school district sites. The tool evaluates programs across six key domains: inclusivity, Indigenous perspectives, early learning framework, staff development, compliance, and alignment with district goals. Built on evidence-based and culturally responsive practices, the tool uses a detailed rubric to promote transparency and shared responsibility between the district and child care operators.

The tool moves the district beyond basic compliance toward a collaborative journey through joint dialogue and shared action plans. By focusing on continuous improvement and relationship building, this model ensures that child care services on district properties consistently meet high standards for families.

Superintendent's Update: Senior Leadership Restructuring

Superintendent Downs presented a revised 2026/27 District Organizational Structure that aligns senior leadership with the district's strategic plan while prioritizing fiscal sustainability. Effective August 1, 2026, the district will streamline its senior leadership team following the retirements of Assistant Superintendents Ken Cober and David Vandergugten. Their responsibilities will be redistributed within a senior team that includes a Director of Learning (replacing an Assistant Superintendent position), a Director of Instruction (a title change from Director of Learning Services), an Executive Director of Human Resources (a title change from Director of Human Resources), and a Director of Communications and Public Engagement (a title change from Senior Manager, Communications and Community Relations).

This strategic reorganization is projected to result in nearly \$250,000 in ongoing annual savings. These changes ensure that the district leadership remains focused on leadership development, support, and supervision, while keeping resources dedicated to learning and improving learner success. The board approved the 2026/27 ongoing budget changes resulting from the presented district organizational structure changes.

Residential Development Report

Secretary Treasurer Rennie shared with the board the Residential Development Report, which was completed in fall 2025 and provides critical context for eligible school site proposals and capital plan submissions to the Ministry of Infrastructure. Key findings include:

- 12,000 new residential units projected over the next 15 years (mostly apartments in Maple Ridge) projected to increase student enrolment by nearly 2,000.
- Concentrated growth near transit corridors and Maple Ridge Town Centre.
- Largest enrolment impacts are expected at Eric Langton Elementary and Maple Ridge Elementary.
- The potential need for 80 new classrooms across the district to accommodate this growth.

The board approved appending the Residential Development Report to the Strategic Facilities Plan and authorized its publication on the school district website.

FOI Request and Engagement regarding CommunityLINK Funding Allocations

The board approved submitting a Freedom of Information request to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for all records, reports, and correspondence relating to CommunityLINK funding allocations from the program's inception to present. The board also approved creating a parent information sheet that outlines the district's concerns with the current CommunityLINK allocations and the requested resolution, and directed the chairperson to engage with chairs of other boards facing similar allocation issues.

Trustee Motions

The board approved two motions for submission to the 2026 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting and for presentation to the BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch at its January 2026 meeting to seek co-sponsorship.

First motion:

"THAT the BCSTA request the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to complete a review of the current modular plan and costing, to ensure sufficient funding is available to apply the same area standards to modular additions with respect to both classroom and ancillary areas as is standard in new school construction;

AND FURTHER THAT particular emphasis be given to alternate learning spaces to support diverse learners, to ensure we recognize the range of needs outside of the classroom, when preparing the formula for future modular classrooms additions."

Second motion:

"THAT the BC School Trustees Association advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and all British Columbia Faculties of Education to require mandatory preservice coursework in:

- 1. Evidence-based reading instruction;*
- 2. Foundational, evidence-based numeracy instruction; and*
- 3. Inclusive instructional approaches, including differentiation and Universal Design for Learning (UDL); as part of all initial teacher education programs in the province; and*

THAT BCSTA further request that Faculties of Education publish clear, transparent information on required coursework within their teacher education programs."

District Operational Plan: Progress Report

The board received a progress report on the *2025/26 District Operational Plan*, which documents the status of annual objectives identified for the current school year. Staff are currently working towards completion these goals by the end of June 2026. The mid-year progress report is available in the [January 14, 2026, agenda package](#), and a final annual report will be presented to the board in June.

Extracurricular Elementary Band Program Update

The board received an update on the search for a cost-neutral model for the extracurricular elementary band program beyond the 2025/26 school year. This work follows a one-time budget allocation of \$82,000 to support the program for 2025/26 while planning a sustainable path for the program, which has historically served approximately 200 students annually. The working group identified several options for 2026/27 for secondary schools to consider as they plan for 2026/27, including a secondary student "Music Leadership" model and a summer learning program for grades 6 and 7.

School District Calendar for 2026/27

The board received for information the 2026/27 proposed district school calendars (Regular and Online Learning; and Kanaka Creek Elementary) and approved the calendars to be shared with the public for consultation. An [online survey for community input](#) will be open from January 15 to February 16, 2026.

District School Calendar (for Regular and Online Learning) includes:

- Two-week Winter Break from Monday, December 21, 2026, to Friday, January 1, 2027
- Two-week Spring Break from Monday, March 15 to Thursday, March 25, 2027 (excluding Kanaka Creek Elementary)
- Good Friday is March 26, 2027, and Easter Monday is March 29, 2027
- The last instructional day of school for students is set for Thursday, June 24, 2027

Kanaka Creek Elementary School Calendar includes:

- Winter Break from Monday, December 7, 2026, to Friday, January 1, 2027
- Spring Break from Tuesday, March 30, 2027, to Friday, April 23, 2027
- The last day for students being Friday, July 23, 2027

Following consultation, the proposed calendars for 2026/27 will be adjusted if required and presented to the board for approval at the March 4, 2026, public board meeting.

Proposed calendars for 2027/28 and 2028/29 will be submitted to the Board of Education and shared for public feedback in spring 2026.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on February 11, 2026.