

Presentation: First Things First

Director of Learning Services Michael Scarcella and behaviour analyst Tyla Frewing presented to the board on First Things First (FTF) – a practical functional assessment and skill-based treatment process that provides a safe, empathetic, and highly effective approach to reducing severe problem behaviours in students. The goals of the program are to develop strong, trusting relationships between children and the adults who support them, and to teach students how to behave safely and productively despite the normal ambiguities, unpredictability, and disappointments of everyday life. Direct outcomes include documented decreases in dangerous behaviour, the acquisition of new skills, and a decrease in staff injuries. The implementation of FTF constitutes a shift toward a more trauma-informed approach to supporting learners with complex needs and the staff who work with them. The district is currently in Phase 3 (Train-the-Trainer) of program implementation and will enter Phase 4 (Develop In-House Systems) in the 2026/27 school year.

2022-2026 Operational Plan Updates

The board approved operational plan updates for the 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>.

Non-Resident Student Fees for 2027/28

The board approved the following 10-month academic program fees for non-residential students for 2027/28 as captured in the table below.

10-Month Academic Fee Description	2026/27 Fees	2027/28 Fees	Increase (Decrease)	
Application	\$200	\$250	\$ 50	25.00%
Annual Tuition – Elementary	\$16,200	\$16,600	\$400	2.47%
Annual Tuition – Secondary	\$15,700	\$16,100	\$400	2.55%
Annual Homestay Administration	\$350	\$350	\$ -	0%
Annual Homestay – Elementary	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$ -	0%
Annual Homestay – Secondary	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$1,000	8.33%
Custodianship (annual)	\$250	\$500	\$250	100%
Annual Medical Insurance	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$ -	0%
Secondary Student Orientation	\$150	\$200	\$50	33.33%
Soccer Academy (annual)	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$200	20.00%
Basketball Academy (annual)	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$200	20.00%
Soccer Academy (per semester)	\$550	\$650	\$100	18.18%
Basketball Academy (per semester)	\$550	\$650	\$100	18.18%
International Baccalaureate (per year for 2 years)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$ -	0%
Special Diet Requests	\$200	\$200	\$ -	0%
Validations	\$200	\$200	\$ -	0%
Summer Medical Insurance – Summer Learning	\$120	\$130	\$10	8.33%
Summer Medical Insurance – MSP Extending Students	\$240	\$260	\$20	8.33%
Refund Processing	\$200	\$500	\$300	150%
Deferrals and/or Cancellations	\$500	\$500	\$ -	0%
Airport Fee for Program Start and End	included	included		

The board also approved the following course fees for non-resident students for 2027/28 for Continuing Education, Online Learning, and Summer Learning, and the adjusted summer medical insurance fees for 2026/27 as captured below.

2027/28 Fees per Course	
Secondary	\$1,300

Fee Description	2026/27 Fees
Summer Medical Insurance – Summer Learning (monthly)	\$130
Summer Medical Insurance – MSP Extending Students	\$260

School District Calendar for 2026/27

At its March 4, 2026, public meeting, the board approved the 2026/27 district school calendars (Regular including Online Learning; and Kanaka Creek Elementary) as proposed following a public consultation process. The calendars have been posted to the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/district-school-calendars/>.

The calendars received overall support. While some suggestions for adjustments were received (e.g. changing the timing of the two-week spring break and a later return to school following winter break), these could not be accommodated to ensure the calendars remain compliant with collective agreement language. Proposed 2027/28 and 2028/29 calendars will go out for public consultation in spring 2026.

Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2026/27

The board approved the regular board meeting schedule for 2026/27 in accordance with School Board Meeting Proceedings policy. The 2026/27 schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, September 23, 2026	Wednesday, March 10, 2027
Wednesday, October 7, 2026	Wednesday, April 14, 2027
Wednesday, November 18, 2026	Wednesday, April 28, 2027
Wednesday, December 9, 2026	Wednesday, May 19, 2027
Wednesday, January 20, 2027	Wednesday, June 16, 2027
Wednesday, February 17, 2027	

Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Statements for 2025/26

Secretary Treasurer Rennie presented the 2025/26 Amended Annual Budget and Second Quarter Financial Statements to the board, noting that the amended operating budget is balanced overall and that the district’s structural operating surplus has improved since the preliminary budget. The amended budget incorporates updated enrolment and Ministry funding announcements, staffing adjustments, and one-time investments in services, supplies, and capital, while maintaining the district’s contingency reserve at the board-approved level. The full report and analysis are available for review in the [March 4, 2026, agenda package](#).

Facility Rental and Licensing Fees for 2026/27

The board approved facility rental rates and licensing fees for 2026/27, in accordance with board policy and procedures that require full recovery of direct and indirect costs associated with community and commercial use of school facilities. Rental rates for classrooms, libraries, and gyms under the full cost recovery model applicable to non-profit organizations will be adjusted to reflect updated operating and maintenance costs, while rates for private and commercial users will continue to align with local market

rates. Rental rates for filming and parking lots will remain unchanged, with non-profit parking continuing to be free of charge. The board also approved a reduction to the Garibaldi Secondary Theatre rental rate to better align with comparable venues, and an increase to licensed child care rental rates to reflect rising capital replacement costs. The approved 2026/27 rental and licensing fees have been posted to the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/facility-rentals/rental-rates/>.

Policy Development

The board approved updates to the following policies:

- *Policy 2302 Board Delegation of Authority*
- *Policy 2900 Trustee Professional Development and Attendance at Conferences*
- *Policy 2925 Provision of Resources for Trustees*
- *Policy 4203 Financial Planning and Reporting*
- *Policy 5705 Surveillance*
- *Policy 8901 Field Trips (Including Extra-Curricular Activities)*
- *Policy 9611 Child Protection*
- *Policy 9705 Student Records*

The board also approved the retirement of *Policy 9925 Non-District Sponsored Activities Including Students and Procedure 2920.1 Trustees' Remuneration* and received for information the review of *Policy 9200 School Catchment Areas and Student Placement*, for which no changes were recommended.

In addition, the board received for information and continuation of the consultation process the following draft new and updated policies:

- *New Policy 9100 Student Code of Conduct*
- *New Policy 10100 Parents, Guardians and Guests Code of Conduct*
- *New Policy 10900 Corporate Sponsorship, Partnerships, and Advertising*
- *Updated Policy 2920 Trustee Remuneration*
- *Updated Policy 4600 Procurement*
- *Updated Policy 7210 Workplace Discrimination or Bullying and Harassment*
- *Updated Policy 9415 Inclusive Schools*
- *Updated Policy 10310 Volunteers*

The draft policies have been posted to the district website for public input at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policies-procedures-public/>. Approval of policies 9100 and 2920 would result in the subsequent retirement of *Policy 9410 Safe, Caring and Healthy Schools*, *Policy 9420 Dangerous Weapons*, and *Procedure 2920.1 Trustee Remuneration*.

Board/Authority Authorized Courses

The board approved the delisting of 13 Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses starting in 2026/27, as the course content is either already included in a provincial course or another BAA course, the course no longer meets audit criteria, or it is no longer used and there are no plans to use it in the near future. The board also approved revisions to 38 current BAA courses and approved without revision four BAA courses. The listing of courses delisted, revised, and reviewed without revision can be found in Item 10 of the [March 4, 2026 agenda package](#).

Trustee Motions

The board approved the following trustee motion, as amended from the version presented in the public agenda package.

- **Attendance Reporting Standards**

“THAT the Board of Education direct staff to review current procedures and practices within School District No. 42 with regard to student attendance, and report back to the Board.”

In addition, the board received for information the following amended versions of motions submitted to the 2026 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting. The original versions of these motions were approved at the January 14, 2026, public board meeting.

- **Strengthening Preservice Teacher Education in Literacy, Numeracy, and Inclusive Instruction in BC**

“BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the BC School Trustees Association advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the British Columbia Teachers Council, and all British Columbia Faculties of Education to require, in their teacher education programs, mandatory preservice coursework to include evidence-based reading instruction; foundational, evidence-based numeracy instruction; and inclusive instructional approaches, including differentiation and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as part of all initial teacher education programs in the province.”

- **Review of Modular Plan and Costing to Meet Area Standards for Modular Additions**

“BE IT RESOLVED: 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 that the review give particular consideration to alternate learning spaces and support spaces required for diverse learners.”

Strategic Plan Update

The board received an update on the Strategic Plan, confirming that the current priorities and goals remain relevant and well-aligned with system needs, and that no revisions are recommended at this time.

Superintendent’s Update

Superintendent Downs shared with the board a digital copy of the district parent/guardian and guest code of conduct poster, which outlines shared expectations for respectful, safe, and constructive interactions within learning and working environments. The posters, which will be distributed to schools and district sites following spring break, are designed to support schools in reinforcing a culture of care, respect and collaboration across school communities. The accompanying *Policy 10100 Parents, Guardians and Guests Code of Conduct* is currently [posted for public consultation](#) until April 24, 2026.

Enrolment Projections for 2026/27 to 2028/29

The board received for information the enrolment projections for 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29. Kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolment is projected to decrease by 50 FTE in 2026/27, followed by increases of 104 FTE in 2027/28 and 103 FTE in 2028/29. The full report, including projections for summer learning, continuing education, online learning, inclusive education, English language learning, Indigenous education, and International education is available in the [March 4, 2026 agenda package](#).

The next Board of Education public meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 15, 2026.