

### **Delegation: 2026 National Day of Mourning**

Nicole Rowley, a volunteer delegate with the New Westminster and District Labour Council, presented to the board on the 2026 National Day of Mourning. The National Day of Mourning is an annual day of remembrance to honour workers who have lost their lives, been injured, or become ill as a result of their work. It also serves as a day to renew the collective commitment to improving workplace health and safety and preventing further injuries, illnesses, and deaths. The day is observed annually in Canada on April 28.

### **Proposed Preliminary Budget and Annual Budget Bylaw for 2026/27**

Secretary Treasurer Rennie and Superintendent Downs presented the *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2026/27* to the board. In accordance with the School Act, boards of education in the province must approve a balanced operating budget and submit it to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by June 30, 2026.

The *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2026/27* is available for review on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/budget-process/2026-budget-process/>.

The Board of Education carried out first reading of the Annual Budget Bylaw for 2026/27 which reflects the changes outlined in the proposed preliminary budget. Following the completion of a two-phased public engagement process, the board will make its final deliberations and consider adoption of the budget bylaw at the public board meeting on April 29, 2026.

### **Capital Plan Bylaw for 2026/27**

The board gave three readings to and adopted the Capital Plan Bylaw for 2026/27. The adoption of the Capital Plan Bylaw allows the school district to access funding for capital projects supported by the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINF) to proceed to the next stage. Minor capital projects supported by the MINF for completion by March 31, 2027, include HVAC upgrades (\$2.08M), kitchen equipment and food infrastructure upgrades (\$0.1M), and a universally accessible playground (\$0.2M).

### **Annual Facilities Grant Expenditure Plan for 2026/27**

The board approved the 2026/27 Annual Facility Grant Expenditure Plan totaling \$3,818,884. This includes allocations for roofing (\$1.50M), mechanical (\$1.19M), exterior wall systems (\$0.37), flooring (\$0.28M), learning support spaces enhancements (\$0.10M), accessibility enhancements (\$0.09M), and other (\$0.29M). A summary of the 2026/27 Annual Facilities Grant Expenditure Plan is included on page 27 of the [April 15, 2026, agenda package](#).

### **Trustee Elections Bylaw**

The board gave three readings to the Trustee Elections Bylaw (2026). The full bylaw is available for review [on the district website](#).

## **BCSTA Policy Review Report**

The board received for information the BC School Trustees Association Policy Review Report, which encourages boards to strengthen governance policies that clarify the distinction between governance and operational responsibilities. A review of the district's current framework identified two Phase 1 elements not presently established as stand-alone instruments: a consolidated Role of the Trustee policy and a formal Indemnification bylaw for trustees and officers. With the 2026 trustee election approaching, the board directed the Board Policy Development Committee to add both items to its work plan, with the intent of supporting board approval prior to the election. Establishing these governance tools will support trustee orientation, reinforce role clarity, and provide transparency to candidates and the public regarding the board's responsibilities.

## **Chairperson's Update**

Chairperson Yamamoto spoke about the recent BCSTA Annual General Meeting, at which motions brought forward by SD42 trustees were passed with strong support: Trustee Sullivan's motion on Strengthening Preservice Teacher Education in Literacy, Numeracy, and Inclusive Instruction in BC, and Trustee Shaw's motion on Review of Modular Plan and Costing to Meet Area Standards for Modular Additions.

## **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Downs played for trustees a film celebrating the journey of Rayna, a Thomas Haney Secondary student who uses assistive technology to support her learning. The film was prepared by SET-BC and highlighted that with time, continued support, and the right tools, meaningful growth is possible. SET-BC is a provincial outreach program funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care that provides assistive technologies for students with disabilities or diverse abilities.

## **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: Report Feedback**

Superintendent Downs shared with the board the feedback received from the Ministry of Education and Child Care on the district's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) report. Future submissions will more closely align with the Ministry's recommended report format and data template.

## **Board Policy Development Committee**

The board received for information and continuation with the consultation process proposed updates on *Policy 2919: Trustee Code of Conduct*, *Policy 9325: Education Programs for Non-Resident Students*, and *Policy 9801: Fees and Financial Hardship*. The updated policies have been posted [on the district website](#) for public feedback.

**The next Board of Education public meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 29, 2026.**