



Board Meeting Highlights May 15, 2024

Presentation: Ridge Meadows College

Ridge Meadows College (RMC) manager, Will Carne, provided the board with an update on recent developments at the college. Highlights included a new focus in marketing towards community support and engagement, as well as the introduction of several new programs. In the 2023/24 school year, RMC launched its first dual credit program in Early Childhood Education (ECE), enabling registered students to earn eight high school credits and five post-secondary credits. The next ECE cohort is planned for January 2025. Additionally, in September 2024, RMC will introduce an eight-month Medical Office Administrator Program and a ten-month Community Support Worker Program.

More information about Ridge Meadows College programs is available on the RMC website at <https://rmcollege.sd42.ca/>.

School Fees Schedule and Specialty Academy Fees Schedule for 2024/25

The board approved the proposed fee schedule for the 2024/25 school year. While the majority of program fees remained unchanged, adjustments were made for the following programs and academies: Interdisciplinary Arts (from \$91 to \$200), Soccer (from \$800 to \$850), Softball (from \$1,880 to \$2,000), Culinary Arts (from \$900 to \$950), and Plumbing (from \$875 to \$900). The fee for the Metal Fabrication program was decreased from \$1,300 to \$600 due to a generous seven-year agreement between C-SPAN and BCIT, whereby C-SPAN covers the cost of BCIT tuition, textbooks, and student transportation from Maple Ridge to the BCIT campus. The fee schedule is available on the district website in the [May 15, 2024, agenda package](#) and will also be posted to the respective school and program websites. A hardship program is available for students who qualify for financial assistance.

Eligible School Sites Proposal

The board approved an eligible school sites proposal to be incorporated into the 2025/26 Capital Plan and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Based on information from local government, the board estimates there will be 11,775 new development units constructed in the district over the next ten years (home to an estimated 1,934 school age children) and expects that eligible school sites will require a total acquisition of 3.42 hectares (8.45 acres) of land for an elementary school. The site should be purchased within the next year for an approximate cost of \$26.09 million. The full eligible school sites proposal is in the [May 15, 2024, public agenda package](#).

Superintendent's Update

In the Superintendent's Update, Superintendent Downs spoke about the important work of the district Continuing Education program, captured in part in a district highlight on the success of the 2023 Continuing Education valedictorian. The full story, including a video, is available on the school district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/district-highlight/changed-direction-continuing-education-valedictorian/>.

Policy Review Update

The board approved non-substantive updates to *Policy 9500: Suspension and Exclusion of Students from School*, and also received drafts of the following policies for information and continuation of the consultation process:

- *4101: General Banking*
- *4410: Travel Expenses*
- *6600: Naming of School District Facilities*

The draft policies are available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/board-of-education/policies-procedures-public/> for review and public feedback.

Enhancing Student Learning Feedback Report

The board received for information the *Enhancing Student Learning Feedback Report*, which summarizes feedback on the district's September 2023 *Supporting All Learners: Enhancing Student Learning Report*, which was reviewed by a team of Ministry of Education and Child Care and education sector representatives. The feedback report is available in the [May 15, 2024, agenda package](#) and covers the following five focus areas: approach to continuous improvement; data and evidence; ongoing engagement; alignment and adaptations; and improving equity of learning outcomes.

Secretary Treasurer's Update

Secretary Treasurer Rennie provided the board with an update on the Eric Langton Elementary Replacement and Expansion Project, noting that site preparation would begin the week of May 17, 2024.

Environmental Sustainability Update

The board received the Environmental Sustainability Update and 2023 Climate Change Accountability Report for information. The goals of the Environmental Sustainability Plan are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22% by 2026 and to improve building efficiency by 20% by 2026. Notable projects that were completed in 2023 included various upgrades at Whonnock Elementary, lighting upgrades at the district education office and the Thomas Haney Secondary music room, a unit ventilator replacement at Maple Ridge Secondary, and high-efficiency rooftop unit replacement at the Garibaldi Secondary Gym.

The 2023 Climate Change Accountability report summarizes the school district's emissions profile, the total offsets to reach net-zero emissions, the actions taken in calendar year 2023 to minimize the district's greenhouse gas emissions and plans to continue reducing emissions in 2024 and beyond. The report is available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/energy-environmental-sustainability/>.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on June 19, 2024.