



Board Meeting Highlights June 19, 2024

Presentation: Building Safer Communities

Melissa Malo (Project Lead Prevention and Intervention Coordinator, Building Safer Communities, City of Maple Ridge), Steve Wiebe (Principal, District Alternate School), and Sherri Skerratt and Trish Umlah (District Principal and District Vice Principal, Safe and Caring Schools) presented to the board on RISE – a collaborative initiative that brings together different voices from the community with the common goal of building safer communities. RISE consists of programs, resources, events, and more, made possible through a Public Safety Canada grant. Community partners include the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, the RCMP, Friends in Need Foodbank, Community Services, Youth Planning Table, uPlan, and others. The key pillars of the project are community engagement and education, prevention, and intervention. The school district's involvement with RISE seeks to build capacity, provide preventative education, as well as effective intervention. The school district offered a successful pilot program in spring 2024, which it plans to expand in the 2024/25 school year to include a technical education component, expand opportunities for students, and ensure student voice and youth engagement.

Additional information about the RISE program is available on the City of Maple Ridge website at <https://www.mapleridge.ca/community-safety/building-safer-communities-rise>.

Five-Year Capital Plan 2025/26

The board approved the Major Capital Program projects and the Building Envelope Program projects for the Five-Year Capital Plan 2025/26 for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Identified priorities include the seismic upgrade and expansion of Harry Hooge Elementary, the expansion of Golden Ears Elementary and Blue Mountain Elementary with additions identified as suitable for prefabrication, the site acquisition for a new elementary school in Silver Valley, the replacement of Pitt Meadows Secondary, and a building envelope upgrade for Fairview Elementary.

Policy Updates

The board approved updates to the following policies following a public consultation process. The approved policies have been posted to the online [policy manual](#).

- *Policy 4101: General Banking*
- *Policy 4410: Travel Expenses*
- *Policy 5780: Information Technology and Communication Systems – Appropriate Use*
- *Policy 6600: Naming of School District Facilities*

The board also received drafts of the following policies for information and continuation of the consultation process:

- *Policy 4100: Revenue Generation*
- *Policy 4910: Financial Reporting and Administration of School Generated Funds*
- *Policy 5310: Disposal of Surplus Assets*

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

Chairperson's Update

Reflecting on the 2023/24 school year, Board Chairperson Yamamoto spoke about the value of community input in the budget process, the transition of Teresa Downs into the Superintendent of Schools role, the district's participation in the Pride in the Park event, board motions at the BC School Trustees' Association's annual general meeting, and other notable highlights.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Downs reflected on her 100 days with the school district, observing that Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows is a high capacity and high performing school district. Noting that there is still evidence in the district of a legacy of the pandemic, Superintendent Downs reflected that some next steps include work to collaboratively restore balance to the system, address workforce challenges, and support innovation. Year-end messages will be shared with staff and with families on the last day of school for students, June 25, 2024.

School District's Financial Allocation to DPAC

The board received for information the District Parent Advisory Council funding report for 2023/24 and spending plan for 2024/25.

Secretary Treasurer's Update

Secretary Treasurer Rennie provided the board with an update on the Eric Langton Elementary replacement and expansion project, noting, among other things, that the Ministry of Education and Child Care made an official announcement on the start of construction at a June 17, 2024, event hosted at the school. The City of Maple Ridge has provided the district with a permit to proceed with excavation work, though the district is still awaiting the issue of a right of way permit from Fortis BC.

The school district will continue to provide the Eric Langton Elementary school community and its neighbours with regular updates. Additional information about the Eric Langton Elementary replacement project, including a list of frequently asked questions, is available on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/eric-langton-replacement-project/>.

BCSTA Capital Working Group

Trustee Murray spoke to the board about his work as chairperson of the BCSTA Capital Working Group and about the recommendations arising from the work completed by this group. The recommendations, which include the immediate release in capital funding to cover deferred school maintenance and new infrastructure, are captured in a report that is available at https://bcsta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2023-24_Capital_Working_Group_Report.pdf. An overview of the recommendations is captured in the following document: <https://bcsta.org/media-release-report-highlights-urgent-need-for-school-maintenance-funding/>.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6:00 pm on September 18, 2024.