



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Monthly Report for September 2013

Discipline Summary

In June based on 3720.5 FTE's in our schools, there were a total of 19 suspensions for breaches of the School Act and/or the Code of Conduct within schools. The main areas for suspensions were:

- ‡ Use of a Controlled Substance (on school time/property) – 7
- ‡ Safety of Others – 7
- ‡ Non-compliance - 3
- ‡ Fighting – 2

In cases where a weapon or a controlled substance is involved, the RCMP is informed.

Personnel Announcements

The superintendent announced the appointment of Mr Allan Van Tassel to the position of Director of Operations. Mr Van Tassel is currently Facilities Manager. Congratulations!

Board Chair, Richard Powell presented a farewell gift to outgoing Secretary Treasurer, Gerry Slykhuis and thanked Gerry for his quality service to the District over the past eight years. The Board wishes Gerry every success in his new position with SD# 23.

Summer 2013 Facilities Projects:

Al VanTassel gave a presentation of the major work accomplished by his facilities department over the summer months.

- Installation of a hardwood floor in the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School gym (a cooperative school District/Community project)
- New playgrounds installed at Devereaux and École Frank Ross
- Upgrade of gym ceiling, walls and soundboard in Parkland gym
- Playground upgrades at TRE and Windrem
- Exterior painting completed at McLeod Elementary
- Roof replacement at Moberly Lake
- Roof upgraded at the School Board Office

- New boiler plant controls installed at South Peace Campus (carbon neutral capital plan)

This project was made possible because SD#59 received a grant of \$400 000 from CNCP (Carbon Neutral Capital Plan) which represented the 3rd largest grant awarded throughout all 60 school districts in the province!

- Kitchen upgrade at École Frank Ross
- Heating/ventilation system upgrades to 4 classrooms at Crescent Park
- Energy upgrades completed at TRE and TRSS

The Board commended Mr VanTassel and his facilities department on the vast amount of work completed over the very short span of the school summer break.

Good News from Schools!

Five Canalta students attended the Board meeting to share the work they have been doing in conjunction with their teacher, Tennille Wright and the District Inquiry Based Learning Teacher, Jackie Klein. They gave brief presentations of their learning about "Habits of the Heart" culminating in a very thoughtful IMovie summarizing the main concepts developed over last year and continuing in this new school year. Ms Wright and the students reported a greatly improved classroom learning environment as well as enhanced quality of work overall, resulting from work done in this foundational skill developing project.

The Parkland Music Program is up and running with 19 students learning to play flutes, clarinets and saxophones under the direction of Principal, Amanda Roberts. A unique add-on to this new Parkland project is the offering of a parent instruction evening to provide parents with some helpful tips on how to support their budding musicians at home!

Pouce Coupe students are engaged in canoeing at Swan Lake and will be building rafts at Radar Lake with the help of District Vice Principal (Outdoor and Environmental Education), Brad Booker.

Last Friday classes began at Arras Academy, the new university at Devereaux Elementary. Students are enjoying the opportunity to select multi-age Inquiry Based Learning courses based on their interests and to work with teachers and community members on exciting projects. They are also enjoying their new town "Haven on the Hart" and are currently participating in Town Council elections, as a way to learn about democracy. Throughout the year, the council will bring forward student concerns and work to address school issues on behalf of its "constituents."

Enrolment at Devereaux is up to 84 this year! They have 11 new Kindergarten students and 11 new students in grades 1-5.

Schools of Choice and Catchment Areas:

Parents have a right to elect to send their children to schools of choice when they do not live in the catchment area for those schools. These include the French Immersion programs at École Frank Ross in Dawson Creek and École Windrem in Chetwynd as well as the Montessori program at Don Titus in Chetwynd. Students attending schools of choice may access busses that travel to these schools although no route deviations will be made to accommodate them.

Tate Creek School Review:

At the June 2013 regular meeting of the Board of Education the Board requested that a review of the enrolment at Tate Creek Elementary School be done in September. The Superintendent reported that the enrolment as of this date is 19 students in Kindergarten to Grade 7. These children represent 12 families in the school's catchment area. One of these families has one pre-school child at home who will be eligible to enrol in school in the future.

As with other rural schools, Tate Creek does get a rural school grant. However, additional District funding is now required to maintain the school's operation.

A motion was carried to engage in the process, which could lead to a proposal to close Tate Creek School effective July 1, 2014.

Transportation Update:

The Board discussed the need to review recommendations brought forth last year to effect savings in the student transportation system

Some minor changes have already been put in place but there is a question (in view of a better than anticipated financial position) whether the major changes recommended need to be put into effect in the timeframe recommended in the spring of 2013.

The Board will be continuing to reflect on this question and bring results of these discussions to the regular meeting of the Board in October 2013.

Report Card Development:

Several schools are undertaking the task of developing new report card formats to more closely align with their 21st century learning initiatives. In the 2012-13 school year. Parkland, Devereaux, and Tate Creek piloted alternate report cards developed by school staffs and in close communication with their Parent Advisory Councils. Approximately 40 classroom teachers engaged in the newly launched Primary Literacy Project will be piloting an alternate report card in this school year. School Principals will continue to regularly invite parent feedback.

Important Upcoming District Dates:

Date:	Event:
October 14	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools Closed
October 23	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Chetwynd (Location TBA)
October 25	Non-Instructional Day – Teacher Professional Development (No school for students)