



# School District No.59 (Peace River South)

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## Board Highlights for November 2018

### ***Superintendent of Schools Report:***

#### **School/Student News**

Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus Sr. Boys volleyball competed at Zones in Prince George and received the “most sportsmanlike team” award. The Sr. Girls volleyball team hosted Zones, they placed second and will be heading to Powell River at the end of November for Provincials. The Cross Country Sr. Boys team won Zones and the Aquatics Boys relay team won the B final at Provincials.

The Dawson Creek Secondary School Parent Advisory Council was successful in receiving \$250,000 from the Community Gaming Grants program for Unchagah Hall upgrades. The district is fulfilling the requirement to match any funds received and is contributing an additional \$250,000. The upgrades will focus on new theatre style seating and accessibility. The district is very excited for this opportunity.

Dawson Creek Secondary School - Central Campus Grade 9 Girls Volleyball team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall at BC's Provincial Championships in Surrey last weekend. They lost a close game in the quarterfinals.

Little Prairie held an exhibition of learning in November to share their Warrior Projects. The school worked with a local artist to explore the characteristics of a Warrior. The students reflected on themselves to determine what characteristics they have that are the same as a warrior.

Windrem Elementary intermediate students are thrilled to be involved in the After School Sport/Art Initiative (ASSAI). This amazing program gives our students access to a free afterschool programs that promotes sport and art. Two students from Chetwynd Secondary School are offering instruction in Volleyball and Watercolour from now until Winter Break. Additional planned activities include basketball, acrylic paints, track and field and clay design.

Last week schools celebrated Louis Riel Day. DCSS-Central Campus cooked stew and bannock for students and all Chetwynd schools had a visit from the Red Bull Drummers out of Edmonton (sponsored by Northern Lights College).

#### **Ratio Update**

The Superintendent reviewed the current ratios of student FTE to specialty positions in the district, these positions include Learning Assistant Teachers, Teacher Librarians, Counsellors, English Language Learner Teachers, and Specialized Education Resource Teachers. Overall the district is short 3.0 FTE teaching positions from what is expected in current contract language.

This district is not confident they will be able to fill all of these positions given the low amount of applications they are receiving for jobs.

#### **Teacher/LOP (Letter of Permission) Support**

When a qualified teacher is unable to be hired for a position the district is able to offer a position to a non-certified teacher, the employee will receive a Letter of Permission from the Teacher Regulation Branch certifying them for the school year. The district has seen an increased number of teachers hired with Letters of Permission this year due to the teacher shortage in the area.

Recognizing that these new teachers will need additional supports, the district has targeted professional development for them. Topics include how to setup a classroom, routines, building relationships, lesson planning, reporting and assessment, social emotional learning and classroom management. These teachers are also invited to be part of the New Teacher Mentorship program which is a joint collaboration between the PRSTA and the school district.

***Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:***

**Bus Safety**

The transportation department has noticed an increase in the number of vehicles that are passing the busses when the stop sign and red lights are flashing. This most often occurs on the highway when the bus is stopped in a section that has two lanes. Transportation Manager, Jeff Lekstrom, works with the RCMP to identify violators, the recently installed dashboard cameras have made this easier to do. Drivers are reminded that even though you would be able to pass in the other lane that all vehicles are required to stop. Our main concern is keeping our students safe!



***Trustee Items:***

**Letter from Chetwynd PACs**

The Board of Education received a letter signed by the four PAC groups in Chetwynd identifying concerns surrounding the crosswalk on Highway 97 and the bus loop in front of Windrem Elementary. Several steps have already been implemented to increase student safety at the crosswalks; the RCMP have been asked to increase their presence in school zones during peak times and the Ministry of Transportation has been asked to increase signage to indicate you are approaching a crosswalk with the possibility of installing a speed recording sign specific to the crosswalk on Highway 97. School Administrators have been instructed to contact their Police Officer Liaison to do classroom presentations on cross walk safety.

A meeting is scheduled involving stakeholder groups to discuss the bus loop in front of Windrem Elementary. In many of our schools during pick-up and drop-off times there is increased congestion as we have limited space, we remind everyone to be aware and use caution during those times.

***Upcoming Events:***

Date:	Event:
November 30, 2018	Non-Instructional Day - students do not attend school
December 19, 2018	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm @ School Board Office
December 24-January 6	Winter Break – Schools are closed
January 16, 2019	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm @ School Board Office
January 28, 2019	Non-Instructional Day - students do not attend school
February 18, 2019	Family Day Holiday – Schools are closed
February 20, 2019	Open Board Meeting - 1 pm @ School Board Office