

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report

Following are some highlights of the recent Okanagan Similkameen Board of Education meeting held on December 10, 2024. The meeting was brief, as is historically the case with December meetings, however there were a few very important items discussed.

Staff reported to the board that negotiations on local matters between the District and SOSTU have resulted in an agreement on said local matters for this round. Both parties have reported satisfaction with the result. Teacher bargaining on provincial matters will begin in the new year.

Our student support services team is in the early stages of collaboration with the BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) School Health Promotion team to explore how their support could enhance our mental health initiatives. This collaboration aligns with our strategic plan through a focus of health and wellbeing which leads to positive culture and student achievement. Currently, the group is undertaking a district-wide scan of mental health data focusing on areas of strength and challenges and on December 12, 2024 the BCCH Health Promotion Team will facilitate a half-day 'data dive' session with ten SD53 staff members who currently support mental health initiatives.

Also in this direction, the first of 2024-2025 Street Data learning series events within the district occurred on December 4, 2024. The insights learned from this series are essential to helping educators understand the perspectives of students to continue to improve their educational experiences.

The board will be expecting to receive the amended budget funding numbers in January. Normally, the government announces this in December, however this has been delayed to January due to a province-wide process change affecting the public sector. The Ministry of Education has assured us that funding rates remain consistent with the annual budget, and this delay is purely an administrative timing issue.

As the year 2024 winds down, the Board wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Zandee, Chairperson
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)