

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report April 25, 2023

Following are some highlights from the Board of Education meeting held on April 25, 2023.

Staff reported to the Board that under the *Accessible BC Act*, school districts must develop an accessibility plan by September 1, 2023. Previous plans focused on forms of physical disabilities; however, now hidden disabilities such as anxiety, ADHD and depression must be taken into consideration.

The Ministry recently announced the Feeding Futures School Food Program Fund (FFSFP), a multi-year, dedicated funding to districts to increase food security for students by expanding or creating school food programs. Our district will be receiving \$350,000 which will be allocated to schools. While the first year of funding is intentionally flexible to provide schools and districts with time to develop a longer-term approach to delivering school food programs, schools are currently in the process of fully understanding the spending criteria, the consultation and reporting requirements.

The Board passed its 2023/2024 Capital Funding Bylaw in the amount of \$2.68 M. The funds granted under this bylaw will be utilized in the following ways: HVAC upgrade project at Osoyoos Elementary School (\$2.25 M), and 2 new yellow fleet buses for a total of \$431 K. These projects are to be completed by March 31, 2024.

Some time ago, a class action suit was brought against Microsoft for creating barriers to competition. The result of this suit has resulted in approximately \$165 M being made available to K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions. This money is in the form of vouchers to support schools across Canada to purchase new computer hardware. Schools in the district applied for this successfully and have been awarded vouchers for the purchase of hardware amounting to \$230,000 which must be completed before June 30, 2028.

The Policy Committee reported back on regular workplan reviews of a number of policies. Of note, 3 policies; namely, C-10 Financial Planning and Reporting, C-11 Accumulated Operating Surplus and G-2 Public Access to Information and Protection of Privacy were all given Notice of Motion and have been placed on the district website for feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

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