

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report

Following are some highlights from the recent Board of Education meeting held on January 28, 2025.

District staff reported to the board on a number of different initiatives that will be occurring during Family Literacy Week January 26-February 2. Various activities will be going on throughout the week. Osoyoos Elementary will be hosting community readers on January 30. Cawston primary will have various activities including stop, drop and read and noisy reading, Tuc-el nuit, OK Falls and Oliver elementary will be experiencing DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) and other activities and SESS will be hosting the mysterious Masked Reader!

SOSS hosted a Celebration of Student Achievement on January 15. Along with a variety of student displays, there were participatory math games, musical performances and food creations. This event is always very well attended by students, parents and many in the community and is always a great event to be a part of.

The Board would like to thank Helen Gallagher and her team for all the work put into organizing the recently held Okanagan Similkameen Days at Osoyoos Elementary School on January 24th. With facilitators and presenters from OIB, LSIB, and USIB as well as presentations provided by the SD53 Indigenous Education Team and guest presenters, students were able to learn about many aspects of local Indigenous culture and ways.

The Early learning Team has had a busy January with events throughout the district, including one at the Sikh Temple on January 13. There was also a large Pop-up Play event in Keremeos in conjunction with partners from One-Sky, Okanagan Library, Strongstart, LCSS, Interior Health and BC Ambulance. As well, the Come Count with Me and Come Read with Me sessions for Grade 1 families wrapped up for the year. Thank you to all the families who came out to learn different strategies to help their children with literacy and numeracy at home.

Finally, in the area of career education, staff reported that the Dual Credit Expansion grant application has been released, and the district will be collaborating with the Okanagan Consortium for the 2025/2026 school year. Applications for the 2025/2026 school year are in progress. A new MOU with Okanagan College expands our dual credit offerings, and a five-year MOU with TRU has been renewed.

Currently, the district has a total of 39 students registered for the remainder of this year in the Youth Train in Trades program. A reminder to parents and students that registration is open for the next school year and there are already 10 students registered.

The sampler programs that the district has in conjunction with Okanagan College remain popular and will continue next year. There will be a Trades sampler that will begin in January 2026 and there will be a Technology and Health sampler that will begin in September 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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