

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report October 22, 2024

Following are some highlights of the Okanagan Similkameen Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

At the time of the meeting and this writing, the Board, and Province, is still awaiting final results of the Provincial election. However, the Board would like to thank former MLA Roly Russell for his past advocacy for education and would like to congratulate MLA-elect Donegal Wilson. The Board looks forward to working together with Ms. Wilson to advance public education.

Career education and work experience programs are in full swing in the district. The district has successfully applied for and received a Dual Credit Expansion Grant. The district has also been successful with its applications for the Skilled Trades funding and Work Experience Expansion Grants. Following in this vein, the district has fully utilized its seat allotment in Early Childhood Education (ECE), the Health Care Sampler and the Tech Sampler. In addition, there were 2 students from SOSS who completed the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course in August.

In the skilled trades area, the district is working towards the grant targets of 10 students in the Yourh Working in Trades, 26 students in the Youth Training in Trades and 60 students in the Skills Exploration program. As well, within the work experience program, there are currently 50 SOSS students, 12 OSS students, 8 SESS students and 8 YouLearn students participating. A big thank you to all the local businesses in our area for participating in this program.

It is worth noting that our District has the highest per capita use of the dual credit and trades programs in the province and the Board would like to thank staff for their continued efforts in supporting students in these areas.

Staff reported that the long-awaited new childcare space in Cawston is now open. Children from 3-5 years old are invited to attend the program which runs from 8:30-2:00 pm. There are 10 full-time children enrolled currently with others starting in November. The after-school program will begin in November and invites children from Kindergarten to Grade 4 to the program.

Staff reported that September 27 1701 enrollment snapshot showed a total FTE enrollment of 2,356.0625 students which is down 7.0 FTE from last year.

Respectfully submitted,

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