

September 2024 Board Meeting Superintendent Update

Gratitude

I would first like to extend my gratitude to the board for selecting me to be a part of the SD50 team. I am truly honoured to serve you and the students, families, and staff here in Haida Gwaii. I would also like to thank the many staff and community members who have reached out to make a warm welcome for me and for my own kids when they were here with me.

School Start Up

As well, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the staff for their work over the summer and through the beginning of school start up. Schools are vibrant places as small communities in their own right. It takes a large team of people at the school and at the district office to get them up and running to be ready for so many to show up in September. I want to extend a special thank you to the facilities and maintenance team and the school staff at Daaxiigan Sk'adaa Née for coming together and going above and beyond to complete the wide range of tasks that were needed to open for this school year. We'll get an update on the progress there later on the agenda. Hawaa everyone.

Welcome

I would also like to extend a welcome to all of the new families, students, and staff in our school district. We encourage you all to get involved in PAC meetings, student teams or clubs, and the many professional learning opportunities we will host for staff throughout the year.

School Sports and Clubs

There are many school sports and clubs already up and running across the district. I've heard from students about their excitement for the elementary sports day this week, secondary soccer getting started, and many secondary volleyball players

who've started their season. I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers that make these activities available to our students. I'd also like to acknowledge the student athletes and student club members for signing up and being such an important part of their school's culture.

An Update on the New Cell Phone Policy

The schools have begun the year by using a variety of ways to review the Provincial mandate, the District Policy, and their School Policies related to personal device use in schools. They have received feedback about the importance of having personal devices on field trips. Many students have expressed that cell phones are a great way for groups traveling off-island to stay connected. Schools will be considering this input toward their school policy adjustments. Schools have reported that so far this approach is going very smoothly.

New Teacher Orientation

We are looking forward to meeting the new teachers to our school district. We will be hosting the annual New Teacher Orientation on Tuesday, September 24th from 3:30pm to 5pm at Port Clements Elementary and also online.

Implementation Day

All of the school district staff will be attending our annual Implementation Day session this Friday, September 20th at Port Clements Elementary. We are hosting a session on Trauma Informed Practices and Approaches with Dr Erica Chang from Bella Coola. We're grateful for the Gwaii Trust Grant supporting us in funding this professional learning for everyone. Dr Chang will also be offering three follow up sessions on the three of our designated Professional Development Days. Other professional learning opportunities described within our Strategic Plan are also starting soon. Thank you in advance to our staff for taking on this important learning.

BCPSEA Visit

Finally, I'd like to thank the members of BCPSEA for their visit to our district today and tomorrow. We were all treated to Stephanie Low's presentation here tonight. Our senior team was also provided with a training session today and we'll have another tomorrow morning.