

FROM THE BOARD

Board Meeting Highlights

June 23, 2026



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Those in attendance were, from left to right: Susan Housden (30 years), Loree Boyd (30 years), Gloria Cox (20 years), Tracey Ward (20 years), Kyla Hadden (20 years), Ava Franklin (20 years), Shannon Seed (30 years), David Hollatz (20 years), Allison Tyssen (20 years), Megan Weir (20 years)

Employees reaching significant career milestones were recognized prior to the Regular Board Meeting on June 23, 2026. Ten of 31 staff members celebrating 20 and 30 years of service attended and were honoured for their dedication and long-standing contributions.

Each honouree received a commemorative glass plaque along with a personalized pen as a token of appreciation for their years of commitment.

Through their dedication, these staff members contribute directly to the District's mission of *empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.*

Congratulations to all honourees on their well-deserved recognition!

MEETING OPENING

The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (K'wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw) held its Regular Board Meeting on June 23, 2026, with all five trustees in attendance, confirming quorum. Board Chair Corryn Grayston opened with a welcome and acknowledged that the Board holds its meetings on the traditional and unceded lands of the Secwépemc people.

DELEGATION

Upcoming Japanese Exchange

Eight students from Inashiki, Japan will be in Salmon Arm on an exchange program through the City of Salmon Arm from August 17-24, 2026. While the students are in our area, they will participate in activities such as art, baking, sports, camping, and shared meals.

Members from the Salmon Arm Inashiki Twinning Committee attended the Board meeting to request that the Board consider waiving the rental fees for the activities that are being held at J.L. Jackson Secondary. Trustees will hold a Special Board Meeting to discuss the request.

Supporting information: [Inashiki Exchange Student Itinerary](#) (2026 06 23 Agenda - page 17)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Donna Kriger provided an update aligned with the [District's Strategic Plan](#), highlighting ongoing work connected to the priority areas set by the Board.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Strategic Focus Report

Kriger reminded the Board of the Strategic Priorities and that each month, celebrations from across the District are highlighted in the [Strategic Focus Report](#) (www.sd83.bc.ca > Our District > Strategic Focus Publications).

Celebrating the Work of Trustees (2022-2026)

Kriger reflected on the work of the current Board of Trustees, recognizing their leadership, courage, and commitment to student success as the District approaches the 2026 election. She noted that trustees “have been thoughtful, brave, and steadfast in their decision making and actions,” and expressed pride in serving alongside them.



Kriger highlighted a number of significant accomplishments during the Board's term, including:

- The development of a new Strategic Plan, informed by extensive engagement with students, stakeholders, and Rightsholders, including over 1,100 ThoughtExchange responses, 22,000 idea ratings, and more than 20 community consultations.
- Strengthened accountability reporting aligned with the Strategic Plan, which continues to guide District decision-making and priorities.
- Renewal of Local Education Agreements, reflecting a strong commitment to reconciliation and relationships with Indigenous Rightsholders.
- A coordinated and compassionate response to the 2023 wildfires, with the District's work recognized provincially.

- Receiving the gift of a new name, *K'wáskt'k'néws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw*, by Rightsholders, demonstrating commitment to reconciliation.
- Adoption of a new District logo.
- Approval of a K–7 and 8–12 school reconfiguration model in Salmon Arm urban and rural schools, grounded in improving belonging, transitions, and student success.
- Advocacy resulting in new infrastructure in Armstrong, including a gymnasium to support students for years to come.
- Adoption of an Environmental Stewardship Action Plan to promote sustainable practices and leadership.
- A Transportation review and the introduction of improvements to enhance safety, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.
- District rebranding and website redesign to improve communication, accessibility, and engagement.
- Comprehensive governance policy review, with 22 policies updated in preparation for the 2026 election.
- Approval of annual and amended budgets, demonstrating strong fiscal responsibility while prioritizing supports for students.

Kruger concluded by expressing deep appreciation for the Board’s service, acknowledging their commitment to stewardship, student success, and community voice, noting it has been a privilege to work alongside a Board that consistently prioritizes students and demonstrates transparency, compassion, and responsibility.

Trustees expressed appreciation in response to the acknowledgment, noting that the Board’s accomplishments were made possible through the collective efforts of District staff and leadership.

They highlighted transparency, collaboration, and strong support from the Superintendent and District team, and recognized the contributions of staff, students, families, and Rightsholders.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduation 2026



Kruger acknowledged the SD83 graduates and expressed how incredibly proud the District is of their achievements.

She shared, “Whether your path leads to further education, the workforce, travel, service, or opportunities yet to be imagined, carry forward the lessons you have learned here—the importance of hard work, perseverance, empathy, and community. And wherever life takes you, remember this: your school and your community will always be your home. You will always have a place here. Congratulations, Class of 2026. Thank you for the legacy you leave behind. Go out and do great things. The world is waiting for your light, and we cannot wait to see how brightly you shine.”

Indigenous Graduation 2026

On May 27, 2026, 113 graduates crossed the stage at Splatsin Center during Indigenous Grad.



SD83 Talks Showcase

SD83 Talks is a version of the District's long-standing public speaking competition, originally introduced in the 1990s. In this program, students in Grades 5–8 deliver speeches to inform or persuade on a topic of their choice, supported by up to five visual slides. Participants begin at the school level, with top speakers advancing to the District Showcase.

The event encourages students to explore personal interests while refining their skills in writing, critical and creative thinking, and public speaking. It also supports the development of core competencies in communications.

Kruger thanked Shelly Cull, Duncan Hazlewood, and Morgen MacDonald for organizing this event.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Skills Canada



Kruger congratulated Sy Korf, A.L. Fortune student for earning gold in Autobody Collision Repair at Skills Canada, held in Toronto, for the second year in a row.

Thank you to teacher Jason Inkster who has invested many hours into Sy's success.

HUMAN & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Elementary Track & Field

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, hundreds of students participated in the District Track & Field Meet at SASCU Little Mountain Field, where students in Grades 4–7 competed in ball throw, long jump, high jump, sprints, long-distance running, and relays.



Kruger shared that Paul Rosman, Principal of Sorrento Elementary, was the organizer of the event and extended thanks to the many coaches and assistants who helped make the event a success by running stations and ensuring athletes were organized and prepared. Special thanks to the Sorrento Parent Advisory Council for operating the concession.

Secondary Track & Field



Kruger extended congratulations to the high school athletes in the District who attended the BC Provincial Championships held in Langley from June 4–6, 2026.

Thank you to the coaches who have dedicated their time to supporting the athletes in following their passion.

Indigenous Peoples Day



June 21st is a special day to recognize and celebrate the rich heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada. The date coincides with the summer solstice, a time of deep spiritual and cultural significance.



Celebrating National Indigenous History Month

A number of activities were organized by schools across the District in recognition of Indigenous History Month. These school-based events highlight the strong relationships between schools and Rightsholders and reflect a shared commitment to honouring and valuing Indigenous culture, knowledge, and community.



Celebrating Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Our District is deeply committed to removing barriers and building on diversity, equity and inclusion, in all its forms. Every student should feel fully supported to be whoever they are. Every family should feel equally welcome to walk into our schools. And every staff member should feel that same level of support.

Kruger reminded the Board that the Pride Flag in our District is a symbol of dignity, acceptance, and safety for those who have often been excluded. This is one of the ways that our District affirms that “all” students and their families are welcome in our schools.



SD83 Retirees

Kruger recognized retiring staff and shared, “Thank you for the countless ways you have enriched the lives of students throughout your careers. Your dedication, compassion, wisdom, and unwavering commitment have helped shape not only learning experiences but also futures. The positive impact you have made will be felt for years to come through the students, families, and colleagues whose lives you have touched. We are deeply grateful for your service and wish you happiness, health, and fulfillment in this exciting new chapter.”

Honouring a Career Well-Served



Kruger recognized the upcoming retirement of Director of Instruction Reid Findlay, highlighting his significant contributions to career education and the positive impact of his leadership on student success across the District. She noted that his work has “changed many life trajectories for students” and is consistently carried out with “heart, passion, and intentionality to improve life outcomes.” Kruger also acknowledged that Findlay has been honoured provincially, including a Lifetime Honourary Award from the Career Education Society of BC for his contributions to career education.

Kruger further described Findlay as “an excellent teammate,” recognizing his dedication, work ethic, and collaborative approach. She expressed appreciation for his many years of service and extended best wishes as he approaches a well-earned retirement in September.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Early Learning and Child Care

WE ARE ALL
CONNECTED



Allison de Boer

SD83
Kasallitnois ne Secatpencaill'com

Early Learning and Child Care leads from across the province participated in a provincial Early Learning and Child Care gathering in Kelowna on June 5, 2026, focused on the theme *Roots, Ripples, and Renewal*. The session offered a framework for reflection, connection, and shared learning, while highlighting the importance of ongoing growth and system change.

Participants shared innovative practices across areas such as community connections and outreach, high-quality child care, early learning environments, pedagogies of play, and strengthening transitions to kindergarten.

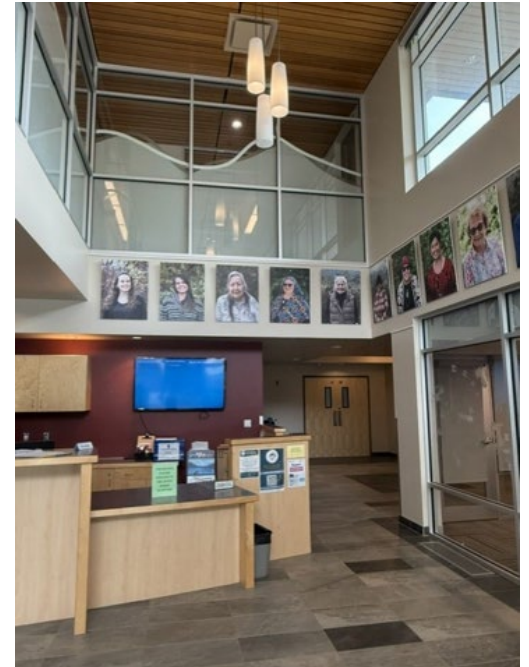
SD83's journey was highlighted through a story, [We Are All Connected](#), authored and presented by District Vice Principal Allison de Boer. Kruger expressed appreciation to the Early Learning Team, led by Director of Instruction Jennifer Findlay, for their ongoing commitment to supporting young learners.

Knowledge Keeper Luncheon

On June 9, 2026, a year-end Knowledge Keeper Luncheon was held to recognize and honour the Knowledge Keepers within the District.

The Knowledge Keepers were gifted their original black-and-white photos, previously displayed in the foyer, which have now been replaced with new colour portraits of current Knowledge Keepers. Walking through the foyer of the District office creates a profound impact and highlights the importance of the Rightsholders.

Kruger shared that a highlight of the luncheon was hearing the Knowledge Keepers' stories, which demonstrated confidence and courage.



Supporting information: [2026 06 23 Superintendent Report](#) (PowerPoint), [District's Strategic Plan](#) (PDF), [The Meaning Behind Our Name](#) (video), [Pronunciation of K'w'saltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw](#) (video) [Indigenous Graduation 2026](#) (webpage news), [SD83 Talks Showcase 2026](#) (webpage news), [District Track & Field Meet 2026 2026](#) (webpage news), [A.L. Fortune Track & Field at BC](#) (webpage news), [National Indigenous History Month Celebration at M.V. Beattie](#) (webpage news), [Early Learning and Child Care Celebration & Gathering](#) (webpage news), [2026 School Trustee Elections](#) (District webpage)

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

Inclusion Resource Teacher Positions

Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education and Student Supports Chelsea Prince presented a proposal for Inclusion Resource Teacher positions to enhance behaviour intervention support in elementary schools. The initiative represents an investment of approximately \$500,000 in the 2026–2027 budget, equating to 4.0 FTE teacher positions, and is intended to provide direct, professional support for students through in-class assistance, small group work, and targeted behaviour interventions.



The program is being considered as a pilot initiative, with a focus on addressing increasing student behavioural complexity through proactive, evidence-based approaches, including functional behaviour assessments and the development of Positive Behaviour Support Plans. Staff in these roles will receive specialized training and ongoing professional development to build capacity across schools.

Positions will be allocated based on identified need, including factors such as student vulnerability, school size, and behavioural data, with additional consideration for rural schools. The District has consulted with NOSTA and school teams in developing the program, including staffing models and implementation planning. A training plan has been developed and will continue throughout the school year, including collaboration with external experts.

The effectiveness of the pilot will be evaluated through data collection and feedback, including referrals for behavioural support and input from school leadership,

with a planned review during the school year to inform future decisions. Trustees emphasized the importance of this evaluation in determining the program's long-term sustainability.

Kruger highlighted that the initiative is not intended as an attendance management strategy, but rather as an investment in staff wellness and support. She emphasized that increasingly complex classroom environments require additional tools and capacity-building, noting that "when staff thrive, students thrive." While the anticipated outcome includes improved staff well-being and a potential reduction in absences through increased support, the primary focus is addressing underlying needs and strengthening classroom practices.

Trustees expressed strong support for the proposal and its direction, while acknowledging the financial commitment and risk to the Board in funding the pilot. They noted that, if successful, the results could support future advocacy for provincial funding and broader implementation.

Supporting information: [Inclusion Resource Teacher Positions – Behaviour Intervention Support for Elementary Schools](#) (PowerPoint)

NEW BUSINESS

2026-2027 Board Annual Work Plan

Board Chair Corryn Grayston referenced the Board Annual Workplan included in the agenda, noting there will not be an October Regular Board meeting due to the 2026 General Local Government and School Trustee Election on October 17, 2026.

The Board made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Board Annual Work Plan, as presented.

Supporting information: [2026-2027 Board Workplan](#) (document)

2026-2027 Trustee Stipends – Proposed Budgetary Adjustments

Board Chair Corryn Grayston presented the briefing note regarding trustee stipends for 2026–2027, outlining current practices and considerations related to compensation across the District. Trustees discussed the implications of operating with a five-member board, including workload and travel demands, and explored potential updates such as shifting from a fuel stipend to a broader vehicle allowance and introducing per diem rates for meetings and travel.

Trustees indicated general agreement on several elements, including maintaining a transportation-related allowance and refining how it is described, while there was less interest in implementing a technology allowance. They also discussed possible per diem structures for meetings and travel to better reflect time commitments.

The Board agreed to refine the proposal based on feedback and defer a formal decision until September, allowing time for further review before implementation.

Supporting information: [2026/27 Trustee Stipends–Proposed Budgetary Adjustments](#) (Agenda – pages 27-29)

2024-2025 Trustee Attendance Register

Board Chair Corryn Grayston referenced the Trustee Attendance Register included in the Agenda, which provides a record of trustee attendance for the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 school years to date. The information was presented for transparency and to meet policy requirements for annual public reporting on trustee attendance.

Supporting information: [2024-25 Trustee Attendance Register](#) (Agenda – pages 31-32), [2025-26 Trustee Attendance Register](#) (Agenda – pages 33-34)

2026-2027 Facility Rental Fees

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Jeremy Hunt presented the 2026-2027 Facility Rental Fees briefing note, highlighting the recent update implemented earlier in 2026 after many years without change.

Trustees discussed elements of the structure, including custodial costs and comparisons with other districts, and noted increased demand for facility use.

The Board approved the facility rental fees for 2026–2027, as presented.

Supporting information: [2026/27 Facility Rental Fees](#) (Agenda – pages 35-38), [Facility Rentals](#) (District webpage) [Administrative Procedure 510 Appendix A](#) (Rental Fee Structure effective July 1, 2026)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Direction Committee

Trustee Marianne VanBuskirk reported that the final Education Direction Committee meeting was held on May 6, 2026. She extended appreciation to students, staff, and Rightsholders for their ongoing commitment over the years, including their time spent reviewing materials, attending meetings, and contributing through presentations and sharing initiatives.

Finance & Facilities / Audit Committee

Vice Chair Amanda Krebs reported that the Committee met on June 4, 2026, and discussed items included in the Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

2026/27 Annual Budget

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Jeremy Hunt presented the 2026–2027 Annual Budget for final readings, noting that the information reflects the same projections, risks, and priorities previously introduced in May. He reiterated key budget pressures and reviewed operational adjustments and proposed initiatives, including staffing changes, ongoing reconfiguration planning, and the Inclusion Resource Teacher program funded through anticipated substitute cost savings.

New information since the May 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting included updates confirming staffing allocations; clarification that transportation staffing changes will not reduce bus drivers beyond route realignments; and, confirming Ministry labour settlement funding to offset teacher wage increases, with some details still forthcoming.

Trustees emphasized the importance of continued advocacy for increased provincial funding, noting that current budget pressures are driven by declining enrolment and funding shortfalls rather than discretionary reductions. They highlighted the need to communicate this clearly to the public and to work collaboratively with partner groups to strengthen advocacy efforts on behalf of all SD83 communities.

Supporting information: [2026-27 Annual Budget](#) (Agenda - pages 39–43), [Annual Budget 2026-2027](#) (PowerPoint)

2027-2028 Five-Year Capital Plan Submission - Major

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Jeremy Hunt presented the 2027–2028 Major Capital Plan submission, noting that the requests remain consistent with the previous year due to a lack of new capital approvals from the Ministry. The submission continues to prioritize the addition at Salmon Arm Secondary and a gymnasium for Len Wood Middle School, which is currently undersized.

Hunt advised that, although there has been ongoing dialogue with the Ministry, no new approvals were received this year, and bringing the projects forward again is an important part of ongoing advocacy. He emphasized the need to keep these priorities visible to support future funding consideration.

With no further questions, the Board approved the 2027–2028 Major Capital Plan submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Supporting information: [2027/28 Five-Year Capital Plan Submission - Major](#) (Agenda – pages 75-77)

Labour Relations

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported that the Labour Relations Committee met on June 11, 2026, and discussed two items. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Michelle Guillou will present the Guarding Minds survey results in the fall.

Partner Group

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported that Partner Group Liaison met on May 21, 2026, where they discussed budget, student supports, and continued advocacy.

Policy Committee

Trustee Brent Gennings reported that the Policy Committee met on June 3, 2026.

Policy 120

Trustee Brent Gennings reported that the Committee discussed revisions to Policy 120, clarifying that the Code of Conduct applies both on District premises and off-site during District-sponsored activities, and extends beyond the regular school or workday. The revised language also confirms that the Code applies to behaviour in-person and online, including social media, when it impacts the safety, respect, and inclusivity of the learning or working environment.

Superintendent Kriger commented that discussions also highlighted the importance of ensuring the well-being of both students and staff, recognizing that online and social media interactions can impact the overall sense of safety and respect within school communities.

The Board made a motion to accept the first reading of the Policy, as amended. The draft Policy will be posted for [feedback](#) until Friday, July 24, 2026.

Supporting information: [Policy 120 District Code of Conduct](#) (Agenda – pages 78-80), [Policy 120 District Code of Conduct \(Draft\)](#) (Board Policy), [Board Policy Feedback](#) (District webpage)

Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported that the Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, to discuss the 2026-27 Annual Budget.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION (BCSTA)

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported attending the June 11, 2026, Board Chair Call, highlighting ongoing provincial work related to trustee elections, professional learning, and policy development, including expanded training opportunities and upcoming sector events. She also noted a new potential benefits program for Trustees through Pacific Blue Cross that may be considered by the incoming Board.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION (BCPSEA)

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported that she participated in the BCPSEA Annual General Meeting on June 15, 2026, which focused on required business and financial matters. She noted that the organization plans to move to two meetings per year moving forward, consisting of an Annual General Meeting and a more in-depth symposium.

QUELMÚCW EDUCATION COUNCIL

Trustee Tennile Lachmuth reported on the June 10, 2026, Quelmúcw Education Council (QEC) meeting, noting the collaborative nature of the Council, which includes representatives from local First Nations, Métis, and

District staff. She highlighted the Board’s commitment to co-governance and the value of her role in strengthening connections between the Board and the Council.

The meeting included discussion on the upcoming trustee elections and featured year-end presentations, including an overview from Indigenous Helping Teachers, Tina Lepine and Katie Taber, on supporting classroom learning through Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, as well as a report on a successful pilot counselling program for Indigenous students. Trustee Lachmuth noted the positive impact of these initiatives in supporting student learning and well-being.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board Chair Corryn Grayston referenced the correspondence included in the Agenda:

- [SD83 Board Chair letter to MLA Williams re: April 12, 2026, Facebook Posting](#)
- [Year-end Letter from ECC Minister Beare](#)

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Vice Chair Amanda Krebs suggested that trustees compile a list of advocacy priorities for presentation at the September meeting to inform future communication with the Ministry.

Trustee Marianne VanBuskirk reported that she attended and volunteered at Bastion and Hillcrest Spring carnivals, Capstone Presentations at Salmon Arm Secondary, Indigenous Graduation at Splitsin, the Knowledge Keeper luncheon, and Storefront Graduation, and noted she will attend the Salmon Arm Secondary graduation. She also acknowledged SOGI school leads for supporting staff and providing resources. In addition, she shared that at the J.L. Jackson PAC meeting, Principal Gord Ritchie reported increased student sense of belonging, a positive shift in school culture, and stronger connections between students and staff.

Board Chair Corryn Grayston reported that she participated in the Salmon Arm Secondary Capstone Presentations and attended SD83 Talks. She also acknowledged the success of the Carlin Country Market fundraiser and noted that she will be attending the upcoming CSBA National Gathering in Whistler this summer.

UPCOMING DATES / EVENTS

- Last Day of School (students) – June 25, 2026
- Summer Break – June 20 to September 4, 2026
- Labour Day – September 7, 2026
- Non-Instructional Day – September 8, 2026
- First Day of School (students) – September 9, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting – September 29, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

The June 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting agenda and recording is available on the District website: [Board Meetings](#).