

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report

Following are some highlights from the Board of Education meeting held on January 27, 2026.

As we begin the new year, there is a renewed sense of optimism across School District 53. Schools have welcomed students back after the winter break with a strong focus on connection, opportunity, and supporting learners.

A meaningful highlight this month is our District's selection to participate in Dreams Take Flight. Through this partnership with Air Canada, four SD53 students who face health, physical, mental, or social challenges will experience a day at Disneyland in October 2026. This will be a truly special opportunity for students who may not otherwise have access to such an experience.

Supporting student wellbeing also means supporting the adults who work alongside them. This month, the District is launching an "Earn and Learn" Education Assistant pathway, offering hands-on experience, mentorship, and structured learning. Participants will earn a district Education Assistant certificate while helping strengthen support for students.

Early learning and family engagement remain a strong focus. We are pleased to partner with Desert Sun to offer a School's Out afterschool program for Grades 5–7 at Similkameen Elementary Secondary School, with transportation support from LSCSS. Kindergarten registration is now open, and a recent Pop-up Play event in Keremeos welcomed more than 70 families for connection, play, and community support. Circle of Security parenting sessions are also beginning in Oliver.

In classrooms, our focus on literacy and numeracy continues through collaboration. Teachers have been opening their classrooms to colleagues, observing instruction, and sharing strategies that strengthen practice and build collective capacity.

Career education continues to be a bright spot. Students are completing semester one Work Experience and Youth Trades programs, while others are beginning new dual credit opportunities. Students from all three secondary schools will compete in Skills Canada Regionals in February, including a new junior Sumo Robots competition.

Our work supporting Truth and Reconciliation continues through strong relationships and student leadership. The Indigenous Education Council met this month to review student updates and discuss new opportunities, and fundraising for the district Powwow is well underway.

Overall, SD53 enters 2026 with strong relationships, meaningful initiatives, and a shared commitment to caring for students, staff, and families.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Brouwer, Chairperson
Okanagan Similkameen SD53