

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 September 23, 2025.

The 2025/26 school year is now well underway and schools across the district are settling into a positive rhythm of learning and connection. Staffing has remained stable, classrooms are energized, and students are engaging in both academic and community-building opportunities.

Literacy remains a district priority, and the Non-Fiction Reading Assessment (NFRA) was successfully administered this fall for Grades 4-9. Results will be available by mid-November and will help guide instruction and planning at every level. Schools have also begun lessons on the SD53 AI Guiding Principles, supporting students in developing responsible and ethical approaches to technology.

Early learning programs are thriving, with Kindergarten families receiving their CHEQ reports and the JUST B4 preschool once again at full capacity with a waitlist. Healthy Schools initiatives are expanding with Feeding Futures reintroducing warm meals, while the Fireweed Collective grief group began its second year of student support.

Following the August Indigenous-Focused Professional Development Day, schools continue to integrate land-based learning and Indigenous perspectives, with strong positive feedback from staff. Career education is also seeing record participation, with twelve students in Youth Work in Trades and six in the Early Childhood Education dual credit program.

At the September 23, 2025 Board meeting, trustees approved the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025, confirming a strong financial position with no transfer of surplus required. The Five-Year Capital Plan (Minor Capital) for 2026/27 was also approved, addressing key upgrades such as flooring, painting, and furnace replacements. In addition, the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Report was finalized for submission to the Ministry, and trustees discussed upcoming AGM advocacy priorities.

Operationally, the district continues to make effective use of the Additional Transportation Fund to reduce fees and enhance safety on school buses. Minor upgrades to heating systems and playground surfacing were also completed in September, ensuring safe and comfortable learning environments as the colder months approach.

Overall, the district is in a strong position moving into the fall, with momentum in classrooms, meaningful initiatives underway, and a continued focus on supporting all learners.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Brouwer, Vice-Chairperson
Okanagan Similkameen SD53