

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report

As we move into December, there's a wonderful sense of celebration and connection across School District 53. Schools are busy preparing for winter concerts, families are gathering in gymnasiums and theatres, and students are sharing the joy of the season through music, performance, and community. From Osoyoos to Cawston to OK Falls, each school has put their own heartfelt touch on their concerts, and the excitement is contagious. A special congratulations to Sarah Gilchrist and the OSS students for their fantastic production of *Frozen*—the talent and effort on display were truly impressive.

Our elementary volleyball tournaments brought incredible energy to both Osoyoos and SESS. With more schools embracing Triple Ball, we're seeing real growth in skills and confidence. Students played hard, supported one another, and showed great sportsmanship. The student volunteers who kept the tournaments running smoothly deserve a special shout-out—they led with maturity and pride. SOSS also kicked off the Senior Boys' Basketball season by hosting a successful tournament that welcomed teams from across the region.

The Early Learning Team continues to take meaningful steps to support families, especially in our rural communities. Their new partnership with OSNS is launching a pilot project that brings services directly to families using the Early Learning Outreach Van. This work has the potential to remove significant barriers for parents and caregivers, and it reflects our district's commitment to meeting families where they are.

In the classroom, teachers in Grades 3 and 5 spent time with numeracy consultant Katie McCormack, digging into practical strategies aligned with our district screeners. Their enthusiasm for strengthening math instruction is inspiring, and Katie will be returning in the spring to continue the learning.

Our ongoing work in support of Truth and Reconciliation remains strong and relationship-focused. Brad Burns and Director of Learning and Inquiry Naryn Searcy have begun meeting regularly with Education Coordinators from OIB, LSIB, and USIB. These conversations are helping us build trust, solve challenges together, and deepen partnerships. Progress also continues on a renewed Local Education Agreement with the Osoyoos Indian Band, and both parties are hopeful for completion this school year.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to extend warm wishes to all our students, staff, families, and communities. This time of year brings so many moments of joy, gratitude, and connection—and we are grateful for the dedication and heart that everyone brings to our district. Wishing you all a restful, safe, and happy Christmas season.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Brouwer, Chairperson
Okanagan Similkameen SD53