

School District #75 (Mission)  
Public Meeting of the Board of Education  
Agenda

March 10, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Stave Falls Elementary  
30204 Brackley Avenue, Mission, BC

Pages

- |    |   |             |         |
|----|---|-------------|---------|
| 1. | <b>CALL TO ORDER</b>  |             |         |
|    | <i>The Board Chair will acknowledge that this meeting is being held on Traditional Territory.</i>   |             |         |
| 2. | <b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>   |             |         |
| 3. | <b>DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS</b>  |             |         |
| 4. | <b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>  |             |         |
|    | 4.1 Mission Senior Secondary - Seismic Report Update  | Information | 1       |
| 5. | <b>STAFF REPORTS</b>  |             |         |
|    | 5.1 Reporting out from Closed Meeting   |             |         |
|    | 5.2 Disposition of Property - Nicomen Island  | Information | 2       |
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|    | 5.4 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)  | Information | 5       |
|    | 5.5 Month End Financial Summary - Year End Projections  | Information | 6 - 7   |
| 6. | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>   |             |         |
|    | 6.1 Meetings with local First Nations Bands   | Action      | 8       |
| 7. | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b>   |             |         |
|    | 7.1 Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2020                                    | Action      | 9 - 13  |
| 8. | <b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>  |             |         |
|    | 8.1 Letter from Minister R. Fleming re: amendments to the School Act and the Independent School Act |             | 14 - 15 |
| 9. | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |             |         |

**10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS**

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11.1 Appointment of Trustee Liaison for the Mission Traffic and Transit Committee

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

*Questions asked must be related to items discussed on the Agenda. Labour, Land, and Legal issues will not be discussed.*

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**ITEM 4.1 Information**

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: C. Becker, Secretary Treasurer  
SUBJECT: École Mission Senior Secondary – Seismic Report Update

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**1. Summary:**

The Secretary Treasurer will provide an update on the progress of the seismic report for MSS.

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic
- g. Benefits
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic

**5. Public Participation:**

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

**ITEM 5.2 Information**

**File No. 11020**

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: C. Becker, Secretary Treasurer  
SUBJECT: Disposition of Land – Nicomen Island

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**1. Summary:**

A project cost summary was submitted to the Ministry of Education for the demolition of the Closed Nicomen Island School. The estimated cost of the demolition is \$320,000 as the site has significant asbestos and lead paint remediation, and some environmental remediation for the septic tank and above ground fuel tank removal.

The Ministry has issued the Certificate of Approval (COA) for the project, and as such, staff are in the process of preparing the documents to hire the companies needed to complete the work.

The goal is to have the project complete by the end of the year.

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing & Budget Impact  
The demolition project is funded by the Ministry of Education.
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic
- g. Benefits
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic

**5. Public Participation:**

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

**ITEM 5.3      Action**

TO:                Board of Education  
FROM:            Committee of the Whole  
SUBJECT:        2020-2021 District Calendar - FINAL

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**Recommendation**

**THAT the draft 2020-2021 District Calendar be considered for approval.**

**1. Summary:**

The draft 2020/2021 calendar was shared with all principals and discussed with partner groups at the Committee of the Whole. One revision was made to the winter break dates. Schools are back in session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

While the calendar is very similar to last year's, it should be noted that the shorter year requires an extension of one minute a day at the secondary level and two minutes a day at middle school.

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing, & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation

Section 87.01 (2) of the British Columbia *School Act* states: A Board must, in accordance with the regulations of the minister, prepare a school calendar for each school in its school district for each school calendar year.

Following Board approval, the attached 2019/2020 District Calendar will be submitted to the Ministry of Education pursuant to the BC *School Act*.

- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic
- g. Benefits
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic

**5. Public Participation:**

Reviewed and discussed at the Committee of the Whole – March 3, 2020

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

- a. 2020-2021 District Calendar - FINAL

## 2020-2021 School District Calendar

September	Tuesday, September 8, 2020	Schools Open – ½ Day for Students – <b>Students attend AM only (All Schools)</b> (Organizational ½ Day)
	Friday, September 25, 2020	<b>Non Instructional Day – Students not in session</b> (District Professional Development Day)
October	Monday, October 12, 2020	Thanksgiving
	Friday, October 23, 2020	<b>Non Instructional Day - Students not in session</b> (Provincial Professional Development Day)
November	Friday, November 6, 2020	<b>Non Instructional ½ Day – Students attend AM only (Secondary, Middle only)</b> (Assessment/ Evaluation)
	Wednesday, November 11, 2020	Stat Holiday Remembrance Day
	Friday, November 20, 2020	<b>Non Instructional ½ Day – Students attend AM only (Elementary)</b> (Assessment/ Evaluation)
December	Friday, December 4, 2020	<b>Non Instructional Day – Students not in session (All Schools)</b> (P/T Conferences)
	Dec. 21, 2020 – Jan. 4, 2021	Winter Break
January	Tuesday, January 5, 2021	Schools reopen after Winter Break
February	Friday, February 12, 2021	<b>Non Instructional Day - Students not in session</b> (District Professional Development Day)
	Monday, February 15, 2021	Family Day
	Friday, February 26, 2021	<b>Non Instructional ½ Day – Students attend AM only (Elementary only)</b> (Assessment / Evaluation)
	Friday, February 26, 2021	<b>Non Instructional Day – Students not in session (Secondary, Middle only)</b> (P/T Conferences)
March	Friday, March 12, 2021	<b>Non Instructional Day - Students not in session (Elementary only)</b> (P/T Conferences)
	March 15 – March 26, 2021	Spring Break
	Monday, March 29, 2021	Schools reopen after Spring Break
April	Friday, April 2, 2021	Good Friday
	Monday, April 5, 2021	Easter Monday
	Friday, April 16, 2021	<b>Non Instructional ½ day – Students attend AM only (Secondary, Middle only)</b> (Assessment/ Evaluation)
May	Friday, May 21, 2021	<b>Non Instructional Day - Students not in session</b> (District Professional Development Day)
	Monday, May 24, 2021	Victoria Day
June	Tuesday, June 29, 2021	Last Day of School for all Students
	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	<b>Non Instructional Day – Students not in session</b> (Administrative Day)

**ITEM 5.4 Information**

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: A. Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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**1. Summary**

The Superintendent will provide an update on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As information is shared by the province, School District staff will update this information on the district website. Visit [www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca), [Our District > COVID-19 for additional information and resources.](#)

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
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  - iii. Strategic

**5. Public Participation:**

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

**ITEM 5.5 Information**

**File No. 7610.50**

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: C. Becker, Secretary Treasurer  
SUBJECT: Financial Summary Report – February 2020

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**1. Summary:**

Attached is the summary of financial information for February 2020 Year to Date. February is not closed yet, but the remaining changes are not significant amounts.

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
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**5. Public Participation:**

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

- a. Financial Summary for February 2020





## 2019 / 2020 Financial Summary - Feb 29, 2020 Year To Date

6 of 10 months = 60%  
8 of 12 months = 66.67%

	Amended Budget					Actuals - YTD					% of budget Expensed
	Operating	Special	Operating / Special	Capital	Total	Operating	Special	Operating / Special	Capital	Total	
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>											
Grants											
Ministry of Education - Operating	60,870,030	7,165,401	68,035,431		68,035,431	36,703,279	4,063,455	40,766,734		40,766,734	59.92%
Other Ministry of Education	1,772,983		1,772,983		1,772,983	743,361		743,361		743,361	41.93%
Provincial - Other	318,881	108,181	427,062		427,062	317,032	33,008	350,040		350,040	81.96%
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>62,961,894</b>	<b>7,273,582</b>	<b>70,235,476</b>		<b>70,235,476</b>	<b>37,763,672</b>	<b>4,096,463</b>	<b>41,860,135</b>		<b>41,860,135</b>	<b>59.60%</b>
Tuition	2,309,000		2,309,000		2,309,000	2,238,747		2,238,747		2,238,747	96.96%
Other Revenue	340,532	1,770,000	2,110,532		2,110,532	123,306	1,015,375	1,138,681		1,138,681	53.95%
Rentals & Leases	262,040		262,040		262,040	169,174		169,174		169,174	64.56%
Investment Income	145,000		145,000		145,000	85,130		85,130		85,130	58.71%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>66,018,466</b>	<b>9,043,582</b>	<b>75,062,048</b>		<b>75,062,048</b>	<b>40,380,029</b>	<b>5,111,838</b>	<b>45,491,867</b>		<b>45,491,867</b>	<b>60.61%</b>
Amortization of Deferred Capital				2,927,680	2,927,680				1,907,787	1,907,787	65.16%
<b>STATEMENT 2 REVENUE</b>	<b>66,018,466</b>	<b>9,043,582</b>	<b>75,062,048</b>	<b>2,927,680</b>	<b>77,989,728</b>	<b>40,380,029</b>	<b>5,111,838</b>	<b>45,491,867</b>	<b>1,907,787</b>	<b>47,399,654</b>	<b>60.78%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>											
Salaries											
Teachers	25,926,974	3,995,585	29,922,559		29,922,559	15,503,892	2,408,164	17,912,056		17,912,056	59.86%
Principals and Vice-Principals	3,901,400	42,700	3,944,100		3,944,100	2,616,611	28,399	2,645,010		2,645,010	67.06%
Education Assistants	6,389,500	464,000	6,853,500		6,853,500	3,371,433	290,964	3,662,397		3,662,397	53.44%
Support Staff	7,548,640	322,149	7,870,789		7,870,789	4,581,130	132,021	4,713,151		4,713,151	59.88%
Other Professionals	2,159,913		2,159,913		2,159,913	1,451,362		1,451,362		1,451,362	67.20%
Substitutes	3,023,096	145,395	3,168,491		3,168,491	1,881,721	71,465	1,953,186		1,953,186	61.64%
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>48,949,523</b>	<b>4,969,829</b>	<b>53,919,352</b>		<b>53,919,352</b>	<b>29,406,149</b>	<b>2,931,013</b>	<b>32,337,162</b>		<b>32,337,162</b>	<b>59.97%</b>
Employee Benefits	11,450,587	1,181,320	12,631,907		12,631,907	6,506,672	671,457	7,178,129		7,178,129	56.83%
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>60,400,110</b>	<b>6,151,149</b>	<b>66,551,259</b>		<b>66,551,259</b>	<b>35,912,821</b>	<b>3,602,470</b>	<b>39,515,291</b>		<b>39,515,291</b>	<b>59.38%</b>
Services and Supplies											
Services	1,974,039		1,974,039		1,974,039	1,605,905	182,110	1,788,015		1,788,015	90.58%
Student Transportation	19,000		19,000		19,000	15,286		15,286		15,286	80.45%
Professional Development and Travel	413,640		413,640		413,640	334,171		334,171		334,171	80.79%
Rentals & Leases	260,158		260,158		260,158	171,840		171,840		171,840	66.05%
Dues & Fees	88,100		88,100		88,100	73,590		73,590		73,590	83.53%
Insurance	163,277		163,277		163,277	147,753		147,753		147,753	90.49%
Supplies	2,457,950	2,892,433	5,350,383		5,350,383	1,617,198	1,327,258	2,944,456		2,944,456	55.03%
Utilities	1,186,705		1,186,705		1,186,705	606,285		606,285		606,285	51.09%
Amortization				4,005,870	4,005,870				2,592,657	2,592,657	64.72%
<b>Total Services and Supplies</b>	<b>6,562,869</b>	<b>2,892,433</b>	<b>9,455,302</b>	<b>4,005,870</b>	<b>13,461,172</b>	<b>4,572,028</b>	<b>1,509,368</b>	<b>6,081,396</b>	<b>2,592,657</b>	<b>8,674,053</b>	<b>64.44%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>66,962,979</b>	<b>9,043,582</b>	<b>76,006,561</b>	<b>4,005,870</b>	<b>80,012,431</b>	<b>40,484,849</b>	<b>5,111,838</b>	<b>45,596,687</b>	<b>2,592,657</b>	<b>48,189,344</b>	<b>60.23%</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(944,513)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(944,513)</b>	<b>(1,078,190)</b>	<b>(2,022,703)</b>	<b>(104,820)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(104,820)</b>	<b>(684,870)</b>	<b>(789,690)</b>	
Budgeted allocation of Surplus	506,156		506,156		506,156	506,156		506,156		506,156	
Allocation to (from) Capital	438,357		438,357	(438,357)	-	-		-		-	
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,516,547)</b>	<b>(1,516,547)</b>	<b>401,336</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>401,336</b>	<b>(684,870)</b>	<b>(283,534)</b>	

**ITEM 6.1      Action**

TO:                Board of Education  
FROM:            Committee of the Whole  
SUBJECT:        Meetings with local First Nations Bands

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**Recommendation**

**THAT the Board of Education Mission Public Schools endeavor to meet with local First Nations Bands on an annual basis.**

**1. Rational:**

This helps the Board have dialogue with Bands to ensure we are fulfilling our obligations on governance and education with our indigenous partners. It shows our commitment to reconciliation, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's, the Tripartite agreement among others. It also is a venue for those Nations to receive information from us and for us to hear their expectations on education for their children.

**2. Background:**

**3. Options:**

**4. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment
- b. Enhancement Agreement
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing, & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity
- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
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  - iii. Strategic

**5. Public Participation:**

**6. Implementation:**

**7. Attachments:**

**School District #75 (Mission)**  
**Public Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes**

**February 18, 2020, 6:30 pm**  
**West Heights Elementary**  
**32065 Van Velzen Avenue, Mission, BC**

**Members Present:**     **Board Chair, Tracy Loffler**  
                              **Trustee Shelley Carter**  
                              **Vice Chair Randy Cairns**  
                              **Trustee Rick McKamey**  
                              **Trustee, Julia Renkema**  
                              **Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez**

**Staff Present:**         **Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker**  
                              **Superintendent of Schools Angus Wilson**  
                              **Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)**

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being held on Stó:lō Territory. There are four First Nation Bands within the boundaries of the Mission School District: Leq:a'mel, Sq'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

**2.     ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.     DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

The School Principal provided a presentation on school fund raising efforts for a welcome sign, and an inclusive playground and garden.

**4.     UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1    Policies to be rescinded

**THAT the following policies be rescinded:**

**Policy 9 – Board Representatives**  
**Policy 10 – Policy Development**

**CARRIED**

The Board approved reformatted Policy 9 and 10 at the Public Board meeting on January 21, 2020, as such the policies should have been rescinded at that time.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

5.1 Amended Budget 2019-20

THAT the following resolutions be approved:

MOVED and Seconded that the required three (3) readings and adoption of School District No. 75 (Mission) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020 be carried out in one meeting.

MOVED and Seconded School District No. 75 (Mission) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020 be approved as read a first time.

MOVED and Seconded School District No. 75 (Mission) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020 be approved as read a second time.

MOVED and Seconded School District No. 75 (Mission) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020 be approved as read a third time and finally adopted.

**CARRIED**

The 2019/2020 Amended Budget was presented for consideration. The budget was reviewed extensively at several Special and Regular Committee of the Whole meetings with partner groups. The budget framework underwent some changes. The changes will assist in preparing more detailed reports for future budgets.

5.2 Month End Financial Summary - January 31, 2020

The summary of financial information was presented as of January 31, 2020. Financial information will be provided monthly until June 2020.

5.3 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

Personnel, property, and student matters were discussed during the Closed meeting of the Board of Education.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Budget Savings

MOVED and Seconded that the Board direct Staff to continue to look for cost savings and restrict spending throughout the remainder of the 2019/2020 budget year.

**CARRIED**

The Board Chair advised that this item was brought forward from the Committee of the Whole, however, the resolution was drafted by the Chair.

All conference requests and out of district meetings are being reviewed for approval by the Secretary Treasurer and the Superintendent.

**7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

7.1 Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Public meeting minutes dated January 21, 2020, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

8.1 Albert McMahan Sewage Lift Station Update

The Superintendent stated that following a few days of heavy rainfall, the walls surrounding the sewage lift station collapsed. Subsequently, Albert McMahan school needed to be closed for a few days for the repairs to take place. A claim has been submitted to the BC Schools Protection Program.

**10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS**

Trustees reported on:

Preparing for the BCSTA Indigenous Education Committee meeting, meetings with various chiefs and councils, BCSTA Leadership Series on Strategic Planning, Fraser Valley Branch meeting, two meetings regarding Women Helping Women: Career Fair April 22, Trades Training Advisory Committee, Butterflies in Spirit at HMS honouring and educating students on the murdered and missing women, Joint Meeting with Mayor & Council, District Pro D on February 14, 2020, Celebration of Life for Elder, Florence Louie, SD Equity Scan workshop, Riot of Reading at Mission Central Elementary, Siwal Si'wes Council meeting, BCSTA Working Group on Trustee Conduct, and March MMIWG at Hatzic Middle school.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 11.1 The Secret Pocket

The Board acknowledged and thanked the Mission Teachers' Union for funding the Secret Pocket initiative for the 2019-20 graduating class. During convocation, students will be presented with a stole with a secret pocket. Inside the pocket of the stole will be the story behind The Secret Pocket.

## 12. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was asked about the repair of the Sewage Lift Station at Albert McMahon. It was noted that the repairs were being funded by the Annual Facilities Grant.

A question was asked about how the budget is being looked at differently?

The Board has revised their decision-making process. Each item includes a review of impacts on the budget and the Strategic Plan.

Is this change related to the Ministry mandating that School Districts have a framework for financial governance practices?

The province came out with some guidelines two years ago. The School District started this process. One example is to build transparency into agenda reports. Also, the Strategic Plan ties into the Ministry's vision for Student Success.

A question was asked about the measures that the Board will consider to strengthen the budget.

The Board will continue to communicate to the Ministry that School Districts are underfunded. When looking at options, the Board will consider options that have minimal impact on student learning. Also, the Board will need to make considerations on how to increase the SD contingency.

What are some examples of measures that would be considered by the Board?

These considerations are discussions that would be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meetings and in consultation with students.

In light of this experience is there something that the Board would have done differently?

The Board continues to be conservative with enrolment projections. There are various entities that provide this data and there a huge variance among each

entity. The Board had some difficult decisions to make. That doesn't mean that difficult decisions are bad decisions, but they all require a review process.

Are international students included in operational funding?

This would be a good question to bring forward at a budget meeting.

A question was asked about the Operating Revenue Changes that are listed in brackets.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that this is revenue that has increased from the original budget to the amended budget.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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Chairperson

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Secretary Treasurer



February 26, 2020

Ref: 218220

**To:** All Board Chairs

I am writing to provide a brief overview of the *Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020*, which was introduced in the Legislature on February 26, 2020. *The Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020* may be viewed on the Legislative Assembly website at:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0009-000332>

These amendments to the *School Act* and the *Independent School Act* will pave the way for several improvements to child care, K-12 education and ensuring equity for First Nations students, including:

- Articulating a board of education's mandate regarding the provision of before and after school care.
- Clarifying the authority to issue provincial graduation certificates to students and adult students who complete Grade 12 at schools operated by First Nations.
- Allowing personal education numbers (PENs) to be assigned to children who are resident in BC.
- Supporting the implementation of the Ministry's K-12 Funding Review project to enhance the K-12 funding model.

The legislation supports government's broader plan on child care by clarifying that it is within a board of education's mandate to operate before and after school care directly. It authorizes the Minister of Education to make orders respecting the content of a board of education's child care policies; for example, such an order could require board policies to promote partnerships between boards of education and before and after school care providers.

With respect to graduation certificates, the legislation will fulfil a significant commitment by the Province under the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), in alignment with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. As you may be aware, for several years the Ministry of Education has been offering the BC graduation certificate (the "Dogwood") to students who complete Grade 12 at First Nation schools that meet specific criteria established by the Ministry. Similarly, the adult graduation certificate (the "Adult Dogwood") has been offered to students of First Nation schools since June 2019. The proposed legislation will provide clear authority for this current practice.

*The Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020* also makes some changes to the legislative framework governing PENs, by authorizing the assignment of the PEN to children who are resident in BC. In practice, the PEN will be assigned at birth or on application for a BC Services Card. As you are aware, currently, the PEN is assigned to children as they enter the school system and is used to provide supports

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and services for students as needed, and to inform provincial education policy. Assigning the PEN at an earlier stage will be the first step to obtaining better information about a child's pre-kindergarten experiences prior to entering the school system, to support early childhood education and capacity for K-12 enrolment planning and preparation.

The proposed legislation will also support implementation of the Ministry's two-phase plan developed following completion of a comprehensive review of the K-12 funding model. To this end, the legislation will:

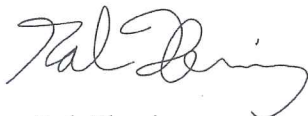
- Modernize provisions of the *School Act* and *Independent School Act* relating to online learning (formerly distributed learning) to support the review recommendations for online learning across the school system to be focused on program quality and student achievement.
- Introduce provisions to ensure boards adhere to sound financial governance and management practices, including a ministerial order making power respecting the management of operating surpluses and transfers for local capital.

The legislation will also make a housekeeping amendment to repeal the existing provisions relating to the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF), as the LIF is no longer part of the Ministry's appropriation. The LIF provisions in the *School Act* are no longer operational and is now rolled into the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF).

School boards will continue to have autonomy to prioritize spending according to local community priorities and needs. Ministry staff will work with Boards, through the BC School Trustees Association, throughout the spring of 2020 to collaborate on new provincial requirements for school districts reserves. This work will honour our shared commitments through the recently-signed MOA between the BCSTA and the Ministry, outlining how we will work together to establish any new provincial requirements for school district financial reserves. And we will continue to be guided by the principles we established together to make sure education funding is: responsive, equitable, stable and predictable, flexible, transparent and accountable.

I hope this brief overview of *The Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020* is helpful to you. I am confident that this legislation will provide a solid foundation for our shared work and commitments to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; ensuring families have affordable, accessible, quality child care close to home, and creating equity in how public schools are funded. If you have questions about the proposed legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Keith Godin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance and Analytics Division, at (250) 356-6760 or [Keith.Godin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Keith.Godin@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



Rob Fleming  
Minister