



A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah / Good Day,

May is always a busy month across the school district. Teachers and staff are in the process of completing year-end assessments, projects, field experiences, and celebrations of learning, while also preparing students for the transition into the next school year. With only five weeks of school remaining, our secondary schools are also busy preparing for graduation ceremonies and celebrations as we look forward to recognizing the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2026.

One of the most important events I had the opportunity to attend this month was the District Student Voice Summit. I had the privilege of meeting with and hearing directly from students representing Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, Kitimat City High School, Hazelton Secondary School, Caledonia Secondary School, Parkside Secondary School, and Skeena Middle School. As Superintendent, it is important to hear directly from students about what matters most to them, their experiences within our schools, and their ideas for strengthening learning environments and student well-being. You will read more about the Student Voice Summit later in this report.

I would like to thank Phillip Barron, Director of Learning Support, for taking the lead in organizing this meaningful event, as well as our Principals and Vice Principals for supporting this important initiative and creating opportunities for students to participate in meaningful and authentic ways. I would also like to acknowledge Board Chair Margaret Warcup, who joined us to ensure student voices were heard not only by senior staff, but also by Trustees. Providing space for student voice and leadership is essential as we continue working together to support positive, inclusive, and engaging learning environments for all students.



Superintendent MacMillan congratulates BCSSA Scholarship Recipient Paige Gerrath

Celebrating Student Leadership: BCSSA Scholarship Recipient

During the District Student Voice Summit, I had the pleasure of presenting the British Columbia School Superintendents Association, Northern Chapter, Scholarship Award in the amount of \$1,500 to Paige Gerrath from Caledonia Secondary School. This scholarship recognizes a student who demonstrates strong academic achievement, leadership, school involvement, and a meaningful commitment to volunteerism and service within their school and community.

Paige has demonstrated exceptional leadership through organizing a school-wide food drive supporting local churches and the food bank in Terrace, serving as Master of Ceremonies for Caledonia's Remembrance Day ceremony, and leading as President of the Student Council. In addition to involvement in performing arts, athletics, and fundraising initiatives, Paige's application reflected a strong commitment to inclusion and community connection, sharing that, *"Each volunteer opportunity is an outlet for making new connections and diversifying one's school and education for people to be introduced to new cultures and identities."*

It was a privilege to recognize such an outstanding young leader, and we congratulate Paige on also being accepted into the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) / Bachelor of Education Program at Queen's University.



Local Education Agreement Partnership Meeting

On May 1, Donna Mortimer, Director, Indigenous Education, and I had the opportunity to begin the month by meeting on Kitselas Traditional Territory with Chief Bennett and several members of Council. During our conversation, we discussed the shared Local Education Agreement and explored ways we can continue strengthening our partnership to further enhance learning opportunities and success for students.

The discussion reflected our collective commitment to working together in support of children, families, and community, while continuing to strengthen relationships grounded in respect, collaboration, and shared responsibility. More information regarding this meeting will be shared in the Indigenous Education Report.

Red Dress Day: Walking Together in Honour of MMIWG2S+



Darlene Williams (Indigenous Support Worker) and Kassia Nameth (Principal)

On May 5, Tina McDonald (District Principal, Curriculum Support) and I spent the morning with students and staff at Kitwanga Elementary School and participated in their Red Dress Day walk and ceremony acknowledging Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). The event provided an important opportunity for learning, reflection, and remembrance while honouring



Superintendent MacMillan & Tina McDonald, District Principal

the voices, experiences, and lives of Indigenous women, girls, families, and communities.



I would like to thank lead organizers Kassia Nameth (Principal) and Darlene Williams (Indigenous Support Worker), as well as the staff and volunteers for making this important event so meaningful.

The student drumming was beautiful and added to the power and significance of the ceremony.

The day was also recognized across the district, including by staff at the Board Office, who wore red in solidarity and remembrance.

Left to Right: Vanessa Shirey (Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Education) and Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support)



Superintendent's Report to the Board May 2026



District Board Staff

Front Row (left to right): Shawna Wilson (Executive Assistant), Jodi Williamson (HR Assistant)

Second Row (left to right): Teri Davey, (Administrative Assistant), Michelle Abercrombie (Facility Coordinator), Lindsay Harder (Executive Assistant), Palak Sidhu (Payroll Technician), Kiran Bath (Director of HR), Kyla Magnusson (Manager of HR), Lynda Lang (Manager of Finance), Chantal Callbreath (Manger of Custodial)

Third Row (left to right): Jennifer Connor (Payroll Technician), Tina McDonald (District Principal, Curriculum Support), Donna Mortimer (Director of Indigenous Education), Roberta Taylor (HR Officer), Phillip Barron (Director of Learning Services), Lynn Lindstrom (Accounts Receivable), Julia Nieckarz (Director of Inclusive Learning), Tracey MacMillan (Superintendent)

Peter Pan Goes Right at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School



The skills and talents of students across the district continue to amaze me. Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School production of *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, produced and directed by Rick Jones. The entire cast delivered an incredible performance filled with humour, energy, and creativity. From the rotating centre stage and numerous set changes to the technical production, props, lighting, and sound, it was evident that many hours of preparation and collaboration went into making the production such a success. The performance showcased not only the remarkable talents of students, but also the strong sense of teamwork and dedication that exists within the school community. I would like to sincerely thank and recognize all students, staff, volunteers, and community members who contributed to this outstanding performance.



MET Tech Club: Olarinre Yussuf, Tanay Kesam Reddy, William Fisher



Peter Pan (Noah Goffinet-Forward) is congratulated by Superintendent Tracey MacMillan



Rick Jones (Department Head, Fine Arts) and Maryka Rypma (DL/CLC/ Careers Outreach Teacher / Volunteer)



Building Pathways Through Partnership with UNBC

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Bill Owen, Interim Vice President Academic and Provost, from the University of Northern British Columbia to continue strengthening partnerships and discussing shared priorities supporting students and communities across the District and beyond. During our conversation, Dr. Owen expressed appreciation for the sharing of the NTETC space in Terrace to support UNBC programming. We also discussed the benefits of dual credit opportunities, pathways for Educational Assistants interested in entering the teaching profession, and the importance of accessible teacher education and training opportunities delivered within northern and rural communities.



Space Pirates Takes Off at Uplands Elementary

This month, we had the opportunity to attend the Uplands Elementary School musical performance *Space Pirates*, directed by music teacher Robin Hollett. It was incredible to see such young actors and singers perform with such confidence, talent, and enthusiasm. The performances, spread over two evenings, were funny, engaging, and showcased the tremendous creativity and dedication of the students involved. Once again, this was a collaborative event, with staff, parents, and community volunteers all working together behind the scenes to help make the production such a success. My congratulations and appreciation go out to everyone involved for creating such a memorable experience for students, families, and the broader school community. Here are a few photos from the event:



Director / Teacher Robin Hollett recognizes volunteers Marilyn Earl (costumes) and Lisa Strydom (set/prop designer) for the many hours of work and dedication they contributed to the production's success.





Principals & Vice-Principals Forum Brings Leaders Together

During the May Non-Instructional Day, Principals and Vice Principals from across the district came together for the annual Principals and Vice-Principals Forum at the Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (NTETC), while new school-based administrators also participated in a dedicated orientation and leadership session the previous day. The sessions focused on collaboration, leadership development, and supporting positive learning environments across the district. Topics included Compassionate Systems Leadership, anti-racism learning, Indigenous Education, the Aboriginal Report 2024/25: How Are We Doing (HAWD), Local Education Agreements, literacy and numeracy updates, school growth planning, and human resources processes. The forums also provided valuable opportunities for dialogue, reflection, relationship building, and sharing successful practices occurring throughout our schools.

I would like to thank all presenters, organizers, Elders, Principals, and Vice Principals for their ongoing leadership and commitment to supporting students, staff, and school communities across Coast Mountains School District.

New PVP Forum Meeting



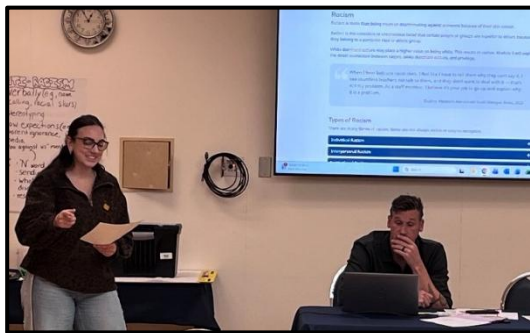
← We appreciate the contributions from New Principal Zack Frankel (Parkside School) and new Vice Principal Shelley Klassen (Skeena Middle School), who always greets us with a smile.

Superintendent's Report to the Board May 2026



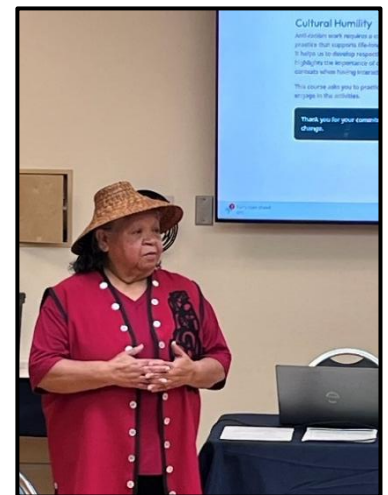
Kate Doan (Vice Principal) and Surinder Dhaliwal (Principal) Thornhill Elementary share their perspectives.

Mark Newbery (Principal) and Taylor Murrell (Vice Principal) New Hazelton Elementary made thoughtful contributions to the conversations about Anti-Racist Education



Thank you Kassia Nameth (Principal, Kitwanga Elementary) and Joel Ewald (Vice Principal, Skeena Middle School) for facilitating a learning session about Anti-Racist Education.

As part of the PVP Forum that was held at Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (NTETC), Elder Anne McDames provided a “Welcome to Kitselas Territory”, grounding the gathering in the importance of place, culture, and relationships. Later in the day, Lindsay Harder, Executive Assistant, took a moment to recognize and shared with the Principals and Vice-Principals the honour of Elder Anne McDames singing the “Peace Song” in the British Columbia Legislature during the introduction of the Kitselas Treaty Act. Following the recognition Elder Anne McDames graciously performed the “Peace Song” for those in attendance, creating a meaningful and memorable moment for forum participants. The recognition reflected the District’s appreciation for Elder Anne McDames’ ongoing guidance, support, and contributions to students, staff and schools throughout Coast Mountains School District.



Elder Anne McDames was gifted a book in gratitude for her contributions to the PVP Forum.
Left to Right: Lindsay Harder (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education); Elder Anne McDames; Donna Mortimer (Director, Indigenous Education); and Tracey MacMillan (Superintendent).

Kitselas Elder, Anne McDames, singing the “Peace Song”

Superintendent's Report to the Board May 2026



Olé, Olé, Olé, Olé! - Bringing Canadiens Spirit to the Workplace

District staff, Donna Mortimer (Director, Indigenous Education) and Phillip Barron (Director, Learning Services) showed their positive spirit and team pride by wearing Montreal Canadiens jerseys, bringing smiles, energy, and a little friendly hockey spirit to the workplace.



As we move toward the final weeks of the school year, I would like to thank all teachers, support staff, administrators, custodians, and district staff for their ongoing dedication and care for students. May and June are incredibly busy months in schools, and staff continue to go above and beyond to support learning, celebrations, field trips, athletics, performances, graduations, and year-end activities, while also ensuring students remain engaged, connected, and successful right through to the last day of school.

Positive relationships, encouragement, and a caring presence make a significant difference for students at this time of year, and those efforts are deeply appreciated across our district communities.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent



Upcoming Dates:

- June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 23 - Last Day of School (Students)
- June 24 - Administrative Day (Staff)



Bear Valley Students Celebrate First Hydroponic Harvest



Grade 8 Student, Zane Lanteigne

This exciting project blends traditional growing knowledge with innovative technology, supporting Indigenous ways of learning and strengthening students' connection to the land.

Students are learning that food doesn't just appear on store shelves. Excess produce from the tower garden will be sold, with funds reinvested into purchasing more seeds and supplies, helping the project become sustainable and student-driven. The fresh greens and herbs are also being used in our school lunch program, and it's been a joy to have fresh herbs right at our fingertips.

Mr. Drew, alongside our Indigenous Support Worker, Myra McMillan, is using the garden as a hands-on learning space, supporting students in applying real-life math skills through measuring growth, tracking harvests, and planning next steps.

Most importantly, students are developing pride in growing their own food and a deeper understanding of why food security, self-sufficiency, and caring for the land matter.

(With appreciation to Jocelynn Drew, Principal at Bear Valley School for this contribution.)



Eric Drew, Teacher, and Myra McMillan, Indigenous Support Worker at Bear Valley School.

Ama Sah – Welcome to Cassie Hall



Cassie Hall would like to extend sincere thanks to Kurtis Bremner and the Caledonia students in his woodshop class for creating three beautiful signs for the school. Their craftsmanship and care are greatly appreciated, and the school is excited to have these signs proudly displayed throughout the building.

Jamie Noel designed the new Cassie Hall logo last year, and the school is thrilled to see it come to life in such a meaningful way.



Our new sign, *Ama Sah – Welcome*, is especially meaningful to us, as we see Cassie Hall as a community school where everyone is valued, included, and welcomed. We take great pride in creating a space where students, families, and staff feel a strong sense of belonging and connection.

(With appreciation to Erika Barton, Principal at Cassie Hall Elementary for this contribution.)



Superintendent's Report to the Board May 2026

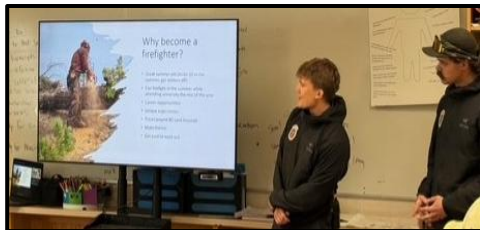


Building Partnerships and Opportunities Hazelton Secondary School



A big focus at Hazelton Secondary School is building and strengthening relationships and partnerships with people and organizations that provide support, mentorship, and educational and employment opportunities for learners. HSS is fortunate to have many organizations wanting to engage with students to support their future goals, along with dedicated teachers and support staff who help coordinate these opportunities.

Over the past couple of months, students participated in a full day of sessions with MineralsEd, Cambria Gold Mine, and Brucejack Mine, featuring mining stations, career information, and a silver bar door prize. Students also attended presentations from Vancouver Film School, UBC Medical School, ICBC Road Safety, Skeena Gold and Silver, Kispiox Rainmakers, the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs Office, and the Gitanyow Education and Training Institute.



Through sponsorship and support from Firekeepers, the Gitxan Watershed Authority, Gitxan Development Corporation, and others, students accessed valuable training opportunities, including chainsaw safety, firefighting, cultural burning, swift water rescue, first aid, and transportation endorsement training, providing many dozens of hours of hands-on training and certification opportunities.

Additional highlights included Skeena Energy Solutions and Sik-e-Dakh hosting 34 HSS learners at an energy conference, where students had the opportunity to build solar panels, and education coordinators from Gitwangak, Gitanmaax, Sik-e-Dakh, and Anspayaxw meeting with Grade 12 students to support post-secondary planning and funding applications.



Hazelton Secondary School is also grateful for a generous \$25,000 donation from the Brucejack Community Investment Committee to support the Bears' Lair Youth Dream Camp this fall. In addition, 35 students have applied for local scholarship and bursary opportunities, and at least 33 students have already been accepted into post-secondary institutions so far.

(With appreciation to Jan Thorburn, Vice-Principal at Hazelton Secondary for this contribution.)



Exploring Skilled Trades Pathways at Kitimat City High School

Kitimat City High School recently hosted the UA Piping Industry College of BC Six-Week Trades Exploration Program, providing students with valuable hands-on learning experiences while earning a Grade 12 elective credit. The program is designed to help students build confidence, teamwork, and practical life skills while exploring future career pathways in the skilled trades.

Throughout the six-week program, students gained exposure to a variety of trades, including carpentry, drywall and painting, welding, electrical, piping, and cement masonry. The program provided practical, hands-on experience while helping students explore apprenticeship and post-secondary opportunities and discover which trades may be a good fit for their future goals.



Grade 11 Student,
Arlene Amos

Students shared positive feedback about the experience and the supportive learning environment created by the instructors and staff.

Arlene shared:

"I feel that this opportunity has provided hands-on learning and real-world experience that will help prepare me for the future. I have really enjoyed learning how to use tools safely. Carpentry has taught me about building, while welding has allowed me to be creative by designing and building things. I would like to thank the instructors for being patient and understanding with the students. They are all invested in our learning and growth in these areas. I would also like to thank Kevin and the school for providing this program and for investing the time and money to give us these valuable experiences."



Grade 12 Student, Vaan
Chretien

Vaan shared:

"I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in this program. When I first heard about it, I was excited about being able to take part. Although we have only completed Carpentry, Drywall, Painting, and Electrical so far, I am going to wait and see how Piping and Cement Masonry go before deciding which trade path I would like to pursue as my future career."

The program continues to provide meaningful opportunities for students to develop practical skills, build confidence, and explore future careers in the trades.

(With appreciation to Nancy Tormene, Principal at Kitimat City High for this contribution.)

Connecting Learning, Culture and the Land at Kildala School

This spring, Mrs. Metz's Grade 2/3 class and Ms. Nicholson's Grade 2 class at Kildala School have been teaming up to learn about local plants and traditional plant knowledge. Supported by Language and Culture Teacher, Shelley Bolton, students have been learning both the English and Haisla names for local plants, along with their traditional and medicinal uses.



Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



Through plant walks and hands-on learning experiences, students explored topics such as sustainably harvesting and preparing wild greens, identifying local berries, and learning about important plants including Devil's Club and Cottonwood. Students also learned about the importance of respectfully harvesting plants to ensure the ongoing health and sustainability of the environment.

This month, students focused on Cottonwood trees and the medicinal use of Cottonwood buds. They learned how to sustainably harvest buds from windfallen branches and respectfully collect buds from living trees. Students then participated in creating Cottonwood oil, learning about its traditional skincare uses while being involved in every step of the process. The buds were steeped in olive oil over several weeks to extract the natural resins before being bottled into roller bottles for students to take home as part of their summer first aid kits for bug bites, sunburns, bumps, and bruises.

As the season continues, students will keep exploring and appreciating the natural environment while strengthening connections to Haisla culture, the land, and environmental stewardship.

(With appreciation to Shawny Metz, Teacher, Kildala School, for this contribution.)



Shawny Metz, Teacher at Kildala School with Grade 2/3 Classes

Middle School Band Shines at Con Brio Music Festival



For 22 years, Con Brio has turned Sun Peaks into a Band, Jazz Band and Choir camp culminating in massed choir and massed band performances. The village provides a safe, walkable festival environment for all participants.

From April 30 to May 4, Mr. Robert Clark, SMS Band Teacher, along with parent/caregiver chaperones and Skeena Middle School's Grade 7, 8, and 9 Jazz Band and Grade 8 and 9 Concert Band students, travelled to Sun Peaks, British Columbia, just outside of Kamloops, to participate in the Con Brio Music Festival.

Both groups proudly represented Skeena Middle School and the Terrace community, impressing festival organizers with their passion for music, musical knowledge, and preparedness. In addition to participating in several performances, students also attended workshops where they had opportunities to further develop their musical skills and grow as performers.

Experiences such as the Con Brio Music Festival provide valuable learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to build new relationships, express themselves creatively, and recognize the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and supporting one another.

Competing alongside close to 60 schools from across British Columbia and beyond, Skeena Middle School's Concert Band earned a Silver standing in their category, while the Jazz Band earned Bronze. Skeena Middle School is extremely proud of how well students conducted themselves and represented their school and community throughout the festival.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the parent/caregiver chaperones who travelled to Sun Peaks with the Band. We appreciate your time and energy to volunteer to make this trip possible.

Superintendent's Report to the Board May 2026



Front Row (left to right): Iain Reid, Brynn Dando, Olivia King, Mya Fregin, Aurora Morgan, Darien Santamaria, Annie Elgert, David Brooks, Gavin Kester, Rudy Barton, Kayden Barnett, Justin Lee, Holden Miller, **Second Row** (left to right): Noah Reid, Ozzie Stephen, Ava Snelling, Neisha Carpenter, Susanna Robinson, Meredith Acal, Skye Kiraly, Scarlett Russell, Melia Barnett, **Third Row** (left to right): Zemira Marasigan, Anna Doyle, Sophia Furmanek, Brooklyn Wallington, Arianna Laforest, Sloane Motz, Koya Flynn

(With appreciation to Cory Kiloran, Principal, for Skeena Middle School for this contribution.)

Good News from Thornhill Elementary School

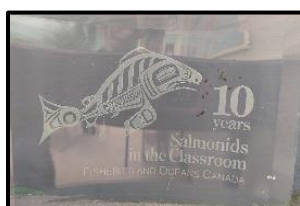
We have officially broken ground on the new trail in the forest behind our schools in Thornhill. We have been working with the Terrace Regional District to create a student-friendly outdoor learning environment. The trail will be used for walking, running, and biking, while also creating opportunities for outdoor learning and connection with nature. Students will help create signage to identify plants and showcase artwork and learning. In addition, a gathering space will be cleared to support outdoor lessons and activities.



Students recently released the salmon fry they helped hatch after caring for the eggs and learning about the salmon life cycle. This hands-on project gave students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of local ecosystems and environmental stewardship. We are also proud to share that one of our teachers was awarded a plaque in recognition of her tenth year of dedication and contribution to this important project.



Deborah Bailey, Teacher at Thornhill Elementary



Good news continues at Thornhill as our secretary worked incredibly hard, alongside our students, to organize and successfully pull off an epic Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser. Thanks to their dedication, teamwork, and school spirit, we raised enough money to cover all school supplies for our students next year instead of asking families

to contribute financially. This is a wonderful example of our school community coming together to support one another and help make every student feel included and prepared for learning.



(With appreciation to Kate Doane, Vice-Principal & Surinder Dhaliwal, Principal at Thornhill Elementary School, for this contribution.)



Bear Valley School Maker/ Career Day

The Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre team, including Dan Hamel, Stephanie Vossen, and Kim Hoekstra, recently travelled to Bear Valley School to host Stewart Maker and Trades Day on April 30.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 participated in hands-on activities in Carpentry, Sheet Metal, Electrical, and Plumbing. Students built wooden cars and buses, created extension cords, and constructed sheet metal boxes while learning to safely use tools and materials.

Lisa Scott from the BC Construction Foundation led a trades presentation for Grade 10–12 students, highlighting opportunities for women in trades and the importance of Math and English preparation for future trades training.

NTETC also provided a BBQ lunch for students and staff. Students shared excitement about the opportunity to build projects, use tools, and have visitors travel to Stewart to bring hands-on trades learning to their school. A special thank you to Lisa Scott and the BC Construction Foundation for supporting the event.

Trades Sampler Program Builds Hands-On Skills for Kitimat City High Students



Students from Kitimat City High School have been participating in a Trades Sampler Program led by Kevin Jeffery through the Piping Industry College of BC.

The program introduces students to foundational skills in Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing trades through hands-on learning experiences. Students have been framing, wiring, and building benches that will remain at their school as legacy projects.

The Trades Sampler Program gives students the opportunity to explore different trades, develop practical skills, and learn directly from industry professionals. Through the program, students gain valuable insight into how different trades use unique skills and talents while building confidence through real-world projects.

Inspires Future Apprentices

On April 28, 2026, Maryka Rypma and Kasha Vedan from Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre hosted a booth at the KVI Trades Information Day.

Students interested in trades pathways connected with industry professionals and College Trades Programs to learn about apprenticeships, training opportunities, and careers in the skilled trades.

The event gave students the opportunity to ask questions, explore different trades, and gain valuable insight into future career pathways within the trades industry.

(With appreciation to Kim Hoekstra, Teacher, and Dan Hamel, Principal at NTETC & NCDES, for this contribution.)

Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



Student Voice Summit

The Student Voice Summit brought together middle school and high school students from across the district for an interactive and engaging day focused on listening, learning, and sharing ideas. Students from different schools and communities had the opportunity to connect with one another, participate in meaningful discussions, and provide feedback on their experiences in school. The summit created an important space for students to share what is working well for them, what helps them feel connected and supported, and what they believe could be improved to strengthen the learning experience for all students.



Throughout the day, students were highly engaged in a variety of activities, small-group conversations, and whole-group sharing opportunities. The summit focused on important topics such as mental health and wellness, inclusion, anti-racism, artificial intelligence, school culture, belonging, and the overall student learning experience. Students spoke thoughtfully about the parts of school they value, including positive relationships with staff and peers, access to engaging courses and extracurricular activities, opportunities to participate in sports, arts, leadership, music, and other school-based programs, and the importance of feeling safe, included, and respected at school.

Students provided valuable insights into areas where schools and the district can continue to grow. They shared ideas about improving learning environments, strengthening school culture and community, increasing opportunities for student input, supporting mental health and well-being, addressing racism and discrimination, and ensuring students feel a strong sense of belonging. Students also offered thoughtful perspectives on artificial intelligence, including how it is being used by students, how it may support learning, and the importance of having clear guidance and conversation around responsible use.



A key strength of the summit was the openness and honesty students brought to the conversations. Their feedback reflected both appreciation for the positive work happening in schools and a sincere desire to help make schools even better. Students demonstrated that they care deeply about their schools, their peers, and the future of education in the district. Their ideas were practical, thoughtful, and grounded in their lived experiences.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



The information gathered through the Student Voice Summit will help inform future planning at both the school and district level. Student feedback provides an important source of evidence as schools continue to reflect on culture, learning, inclusion, engagement, student well-being, and emerging topics such as artificial intelligence. The summit reinforced the importance of continuing to create regular opportunities for students to share their voices and to see their ideas reflected in actions and decisions.

The Student Voice Summit was a very positive and meaningful experience. It was a strong reminder that students have important perspectives to share and that their voices are essential in shaping welcoming, inclusive, and engaging schools across the district.

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Learning Services, for this contribution.)

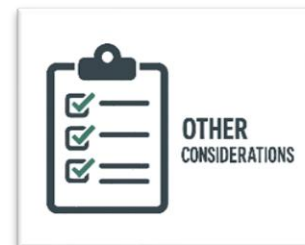
Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



Ongoing Considerations: May 2026

In addition to celebrating successes, we also recognize the ongoing areas of growth our district is working through, which are outlined below to provide transparency and context for our shared journey forward.



Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School (MEMSS) – NEW Information

This month, the district received encouraging news from the Ministry of Infrastructure that Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School is now considered a top capital priority, and that there is a commitment to work collaboratively with the district to advance planning for this important project as soon as possible. This request has been included in the Board of Education's Capital Plan submissions to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and now the Ministry of Infrastructure, for more than ten years. While the facility continues to remain safe for students and staff, it is an aging building requiring significant renewal and modernization.

The Board will continue to advocate for major upgrades and/or replacement to ensure the school can support both current and future learning needs. This long-standing capital priority has been referenced in previous Ongoing Considerations sections of the Superintendent's Reports and remains an important focus for the district and community.

Policy and Administrative Procedure Updates

The district is currently engaged in an ongoing process of reviewing and updating Board policies and administrative procedures to ensure they remain current, relevant, and aligned with provincial legislation, Ministry expectations, and district practices. Several existing policies and procedures are outdated and require revisions to better reflect current operational, educational, and governance needs. This work will continue over the coming months as part of the district's commitment to continuous improvement, clarity, and effective governance.

Student Voice and Leadership

Building meaningful opportunities for student voice and leadership continues to be an important focus across the district. Schools and district staff are exploring additional ways for students to share perspectives, contribute to decision-making processes, and help shape positive and inclusive school communities.

Inclusive Education (Ministry Audit)

The district participated in an Inclusive Education Audit during the week of May 4, 2026. We are currently awaiting the results, which will be provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. I would like to thank the Inclusive Education Department, Principals, Vice Principals, and Learning Support Teachers for their diligence and professionalism in ensuring student files were complete, accurate, and up to date throughout the process.

The results of the audit will help inform future practices and continue to strengthen the supports and services provided to students across the district.

Student Attendance

Student attendance continues to be an area of focus across the district, with ongoing concerns identified by teachers, school administrators, and support staff. Regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement, well-being, connection, and overall success at school. The district remains committed to working collaboratively with families, students, First Nations partners, and community agencies to better understand and address the factors impacting attendance.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



As part of this work, the district continues to engage with education partners, including through Local Education Agreement (LEA) discussions and ongoing collaboration with schools and communities, to gather perspectives, strengthen shared understanding, and review attendance practices. This work will help inform the development of updated district attendance procedures and supports aimed at promoting student engagement, belonging, and success for all learners.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Work related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the district continues to move forward. A district working group has been established to build shared understanding and begin exploring both the opportunities and considerations related to AI in education. This work includes discussions regarding ethical and responsible use, student learning, staff capacity building, privacy, academic integrity, and the evolving role of AI within schools and society.

During the recent District Student Voice Summit, students also identified Artificial Intelligence as an area of interest and concern, particularly related to its impact on learning, academic honesty, and future readiness. Hearing directly from students reinforced the importance of ensuring thoughtful, balanced, and informed approaches as this work continues.

This initial exploration will help inform future district direction. Information sessions for educational staff and parents are planned for late Spring or Fall to support awareness, understanding, and the thoughtful use of AI within our schools.

Recruitment - Update

Recruitment and retention continue to remain important priorities for Coast Mountains School District as planning for the 2026/27 school year progresses. District staff continue to participate in recruitment fairs and partnership opportunities across Canada to attract qualified educators and reduce reliance on Letters of Permission (LOP).

While challenges continue in specialty areas such as Inclusive Education, French Immersion, Counselling, and Trades, the district remains committed to proactive recruitment efforts, mentorship, and strengthening partnerships with post-secondary institutions to support practicum placements and future hiring opportunities. The district's ongoing focus is to build and retain a stable, qualified workforce in support of students, schools, and communities across CMSD82.

Gitksan Language Immersion Program – Majagaleehi Gali Aks Elementary

The Gitksan Language Immersion Program at Majagaleehi Gali Aks Elementary continues to be an important and growing part of the district's work in language and culture. Led by Angie Olsen, and supported by Elders and community partners, students are learning through full-day Gitksanimx immersion grounded in authentic, community-connected experiences.

To support the continued growth of this program, the district is actively recruiting for a second Gitksan language teacher. We remain committed to working alongside the Gitanmaax Band, the Gitksan Government Commission, and local partners to build capacity and support future language educators.

Individuals interested in contributing to this meaningful work are encouraged to connect with the school or District Office. All current employment opportunities are posted on the district website:

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Superintendent's Report to the Board

May 2026



Early Learning Programs

Early learning continues to be a critical foundation for long-term student success. However, insufficient provincial funding continues to impact program sustainability. The district remains concerned about the reduction of Seamless Day and Just B4 programming and the financial pressures on StrongStart operations. Advocacy for stable and equitable early learning funding remains ongoing.

Numeracy Framework

This year marks the launch of a district-wide Numeracy Framework—an important next step in strengthening student achievement in mathematics. While dedicated Ministry funding has not currently been identified to support this initiative, the district has been notified that LNG Canada has made a substantial contribution to support this work. This external support will enable planning, foundational development, and staff leadership to move forward in a more meaningful and coordinated way.

The district remains committed to stewarding these resources responsibly and to building a numeracy framework that is sustainable, practical, and responsive to the needs of learners across CMSD.

Literacy Initiative

Our district-wide Literacy Initiative remains a cornerstone of learning improvement across CMSD. Sustained largely through the generosity of corporate sponsors, this work has enabled the use of research-based resources and professional learning to strengthen early and intermediate literacy outcomes. We continue to seek long-term funding stability to ensure the continuation of this essential work beyond sponsor cycles.