

September 22, 2026, Superintendent's Report



ENVIRONMENT:

1. Start of School Brings Excitement:

We were pleased to welcome students back to school on September 8th, with engaging activities throughout the first week to build excitement about returning to learning. Schools also used the first week to build community and set a positive tone for the year, fostering student success.

Enrollment across the district is mostly steady, with a decrease of 9 students this year: 505 headcount and 539 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE). Burton has 35 students enrolled; Edgewood has 4 students; Nakusp Secondary has 163 students / 188 FTE; Nakusp Elementary has 182 students; Lucerne Elementary has 52 students; Lucerne Secondary has 32 students / 41 FTE; and ALDL has 18 elementary and 19 enrolled (FTE to be determined).

2. SD10 Operations Hard at Work Over the Summer:

The district saw another busy summer in our buildings. Operations Manager Cody Foster, along with maintenance and facilities staff, worked across the district to complete regular summer maintenance and deep cleaning, as well as several large-scale projects.

ALL SCHOOLS

1. (50% completion) Film & Tint windows and install blinds as needed to comply with the shelter-in-place mandate.
2. Full HVAC and boiler inspection and service.

NES

1. HVAC (CNCP): Upgraded building automation and hot and cold heat pumps and air circulation systems to balance heating and cooling needs; gym system completed.
2. New commercial kitchen installed.
3. (50% completion) Expanding and optimizing sports cold storage rooms into one large pass-through storage space.
4. (90% completion) Repaired the distribution panels and valving.
5. Stage 2 complete. Grounds laydown with compound and material storage bunks behind NES in the green space.

NSS

6. New showers/tile and partitions in girls' change rooms.





7. New main office layout with cabinets/floors/doors and paint.
8. New staff room kitchen and flooring.
9. New Upgraded Entryway Heaters at all exterior doors.
10. (90% completion) Major revamping of boiler system.

Lucerne

1. New LED lighting and low-voltage controls throughout school.
2. Completed new welding booths and forge area in the shop room.
3. Installed a dust extractor make-up air system in the shop room.
4. Relocated the kiln near the art classroom with proper venting and a fire-safe zone.
5. (10% completion) Roof solar panel footing pads are being installed.
6. Boiler service.
7. Gaga Pit installed.

BES

1. (10% completion) Planning a new irrigation design.
2. Gaga Pit installed.

ESS

1. (100%) Replacement and service of boiler and hot water storage tank.
2. Outdoor adjustable basketball hoops installed.
3. Flex room renovation and additional washer/dryer installation.

SBO/BUS BARN

4. (65% completion) Reno is on budget to achieve the full revival and remodelling of the building. Added infrastructure such as New (HVAC) heat pumps, windows, a backup generator, a hot water tank, appliances, and new electrical and plumbing throughout the building.
5. Created new frontage area and rock garden to improve curb appeal.
6. (30% completion) Clean up and redesign shop frontage with an integrated shipping and receiving bay.

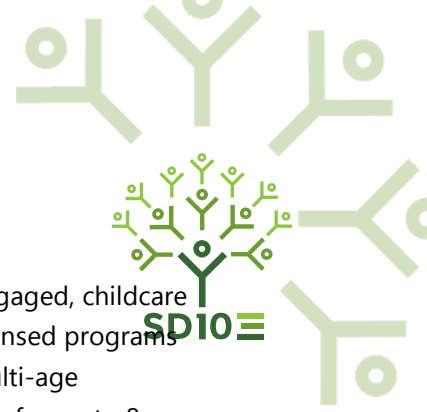
GROUNDNS

- New equipment: Sweeper/bucket attachment, STIL Electric mower, Tipper Bins.

TRANSPORTATION

- Electric buses are utilized to our maximum capacity. Charger optimization in progress.
- Buses and light-duty vehicles received complete maintenance and deep service.
- Continuous safety training and development for bus drivers and students.
- Ongoing tech training on electric bus diagnostics and service.





3. NELCC Update:

The Nakusp Early Learning and Child Care Centre is a child-centred, parent-engaged, childcare hub located at Nakusp Elementary School and operated by SD 10. With six licensed programs under one roof, the Centre is designed and licensed to operate up to three multi-age programs (0-5), 8 spaces each, for up to 24 children, an infant-toddler program for up to 8 children (0-36 months), and two out-of-school childcare programs, 30 spaces each, for up to 60 children (5-12). The Nakusp Elementary Strong Start Centre also holds programming in the building.

As of the end of August, our Centre rooms were largely full (with space for 2 children in one classroom). In September, 6 students are graduating to kindergarten (4 of whom are continuing in before- and/or after-school care). We have been advertising open spaces and already have several children expected to start with us soon, with more in the new year.

The BC Early Learning Framework, First Peoples Principles of Learning and evidence-informed early learning program pedagogies and goals, including a Reggio Emilia inspired approach, are used to guide our programs to nurture the whole child. Nature-based exploration and learning are also central to our activities. The children and educators love to explore the forest.

In July 2025, we introduced a healthy, nutrient-dense snack program to the child care Centre, which we have continued. In July 2026, we also launched our in-house lunch program. Families have responded with overwhelmingly positive feedback on our food program. Beyond providing nutritious meals, the program creates meaningful opportunities for children to learn about food together, share common experiences, and build a sense of community through eating the same foods alongside their peers.

Our before- and After-school program continues to thrive, with new students joining each year. As of mid-September, we have an enrollment of 22 students; so far, 8 children are attending before school, and average after-school occupancy is 18.

The school-aged summer day camp program was another huge success, operating for eight weeks over July and August. We had 43 children register with the summer program this year, with an average of 25 per day.





COMPETENCY:

4. Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report (FESL) is the provincial accountability framework all BC school districts use to improve student outcomes. The FESL ensures districts focus on student success not only in academic achievement, but also in intellectual, human/social, and career development. It emphasizes equity of outcomes for all students. The FESL is intended to foster collaborative, evidence-informed decision-making that supports all learners. This year, the district is required to submit an interim report as part of a three-year reporting cycle. The full report was submitted last year.

FESL data show that, overall, students in SD10 are improving academically and socially and emotionally. We need to pay more attention to supporting specific cohorts and students with diverse academic needs, while continuing to focus on challenging students who require academic extension. Our literacy data remained extremely strong, and while we saw some improvement in numeracy, it is an area for more focused attention this year.

As reported in the spring, overall, students feel welcome, safe, and connected to school, and we want to build on this by continuing to strengthen student competency in all areas of learning. We extend special thanks to our entire staff for their efforts in supporting student success.

5. NSS Graduate Receives Prestigious Award

Paityn Smith, a graduate of Nakusp Secondary School, has been awarded a prestigious \$60,000 post-secondary scholarship with The Cmolik Foundation in recognition of her achievements in overcoming adversity and excelling in her studies. The Selection Committee was impressed with Smith's application, academic goals, and future career aspirations. The award recognizes and honours Smith's hard work and commitment through this financial award, and the committee is keen to support her in pursuing a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

"Paityn has always been an exceptional citizen, one who guides through service and has boundless compassion for others as well as maturity well beyond her years. Academically, Paityn stands out as a scholar who prioritizes all subjects," says Naomi Smedbol, a teacher at Nakusp Secondary School. She adds, "Driving her outstanding hard work, team spirit, and academic dedication is her consistent ethos of care, lifting peers and foregrounding community service."

Paityn explains her university plans, "I have applied for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. With a plan of becoming a RN. I've always wanted to be a Nurse because from a young age all I wanted to do was help people."

We are extremely proud of Paityn's accomplishments and wish her well in her program.





COLLABORATION:

6. Gratitude to our Board of Education

I want to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our Board of Trustees for their efforts and support over their four-year term. During that time, the Board developed our current strategic plan in collaboration with our school communities and partner groups, reviewed and updated all policies and bylaws, and steered the district in a positive direction. I am grateful for their support and leadership, and it has been an absolute pleasure working with them.

