



October 2, 2025

Board of Education – School District 57  
2100 Ferry Avenue  
Prince George, BC V2L 4R5

Dear Trustees,

I am writing regarding the reported budget surplus from the 2024-2025 school year. In the presentation at the September 9, 2025 board meeting, the following information was listed as part of the reason for the surplus:

- Unfilled positions or delays in filling positions – \$2.8 M
- Unspent Indigenous Education staffing budget – \$400 K
- Unspent school-based staff replacement costs – \$200 K
- Unspent services and supplies budgets, primarily in school budgets - \$1.9 M

These unspent funds alone total \$5.3 million. The Prince George District Teachers' Association (PGDTA) is very concerned that much of the district surplus is due to unfilled positions and unspent services and supplies. This has a direct impact on students' learning conditions and our members' working conditions.

The PGDTA requests that a portion of the surplus funds be allocated to schools to use as needed. For example, there are many classrooms that require materials, supplies, furniture, etc. As well, while we understand that these funds cannot be used to fund ongoing staffing, even having extra temporary staffing for a year can be of great support and benefit to students.

In addition, the PGDTA has long been advocating for a return to a well-supported and well-funded district mentorship program. Putting funds towards mentorship benefits the entire system, from teaching practice to student experiences. For many years SD57 had a robust district mentorship program and it was well-used and very beneficial to those who took part in it. Having these types of supports in place helps in recruiting new teachers, as well as helps to retain members.

Finally, the PGDTA urges the Board to return to weekly delivery from the District Learning Centre (this could be done on an as-requested basis). Again, this directly impacts the teaching and learning conditions in schools.

In the Spring of 2025, the District sought input and feedback from the PGDTA and CUPE on the 2025-2026 district budget. Unfortunately, this input was largely disregarded. It is very concerning that input from the employees that work most closely with our students does not appear to be incorporated into decisions being made. Moving forward, we respectfully request that input from employees be considered when budgets are being created, as well as when surplus funds are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Trepanier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katherine Trepanier

President, Prince George District Teachers' Association (PGDTA)