

March 11, 2026

Hello parents and caregivers,

School District 73 budget consultation process begins today, Wednesday, March 11. This letter is being shared with parents and caregivers to encourage families to join the district's [Budget 101 webinar](#) at 6:30 p.m. and to engage in the consultation process.

It is also important to recognize the position South Kamloops Secondary is starting from. Last year SD73 approved more than [\\$6 million in cuts](#) affecting staffing and services across schools, including changes that directly impacted our school. As a result, the 2026–2027 budget discussions are beginning from a deficit position, with many supports already reduced.

These decisions affected our school directly. The return of 16 non-enrolling teachers to classrooms meant fewer supports for teachers across the district. The cancellation of the 2025 Arts in the High Country Festival occurred after students had already prepared in hopes of performing and being adjudicated. The district also did not renew the teacher-teaching-on-call (TTOC) time previously allocated to high school athletic departments, which supported equitable access to extracurricular athletic participation.

At SKSS, like all schools in the district, we lost a science assistant and a librarian assistant. With diminished funding units, the school prioritized mental health and direct supports for students and had to forgo intramural programming. While the mild winter allowed students to spend more time outside this year, we cannot rely on weather conditions to provide students with consistent opportunities for recreation and engagement during the school day.

At the same time, enrollment pressures at the school continue to increase. South Kamloops Secondary already has seven portables, which have consumed the courtyard traditionally used as gathering space for students. The district's [Long-Range Facilities Plan](#) indicates that two additional portables are projected for the SKSS site in 2028 and 2030.

With no announcement from the Province of a new secondary school in Aberdeen, south shore schools continue to experience enrollment growth. Instead of gaining more space as enrollment grows, our students are experiencing increased crowding and the continued loss of social space at school.

Because only a small portion of school district budgets is flexible, it is important to approach these decisions thoughtfully and creatively rather than treating them as a choice between programs that are all important to students. We encourage parents and caregivers to share their perspectives on what their children need to succeed.

SKSS PAC will be participating in the consultation process and reviewing the district's presentation. We encourage parents and caregivers to watch the presentation and share their perspectives so that we can include additional feedback from SKSS families in our advocacy.

The district's budget consultation sessions are being held in a live webinar format. Live presentations and videos are not always conducive to carefully reviewing information and are not accessible for all families. This concern has been raised previously, and as a PAC we will be requesting that presentation materials, including slides and supporting documents, be shared in writing so families can review them and provide informed feedback during the consultation process.

It is also important to understand that the provincial education funding model is primarily a funding model, not a spending model. While some funds are restricted and must be used for specific purposes, much of the funding is allocated through formulas and student designations. This does not necessarily mean that every child's needs are captured or that the funding attached to a designation results in the supports a student may require at the school level.

If your child has academic or non-academic needs that you feel are not being met, we encourage you to share your perspective. Parents may submit their own feedback directly to the district or relay their experiences through the school principal, the PAC, or the District Parent Advisory Council. We want to hear from families so that these experiences can inform advocacy on behalf of students.

For parents who would like additional background on how school funding works in British Columbia, the following public documents provide helpful context:

1. [BC Association of School Business Officials — Information Report: Responsiveness of Provincial Funding to Cost Pressures, February 2026](#)
2. [School District No. 73 \(Kamloops-Thompson\) — Long Range Facilities Plan Annual Report, February 2026](#)
3. [School District No. 73 \(Kamloops-Thompson\) — 2026–2027 Budget Consultation Information and Presentation, March 2026](#)

SKSS 2025-2026 PAC Executive

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