

# Strategic Plan 2019-2023



SCHOOL DISTRICT 47




*We acknowledge and honour the Tla'amin people on whose territory we work and learn.*





# Introduction



**T**he Board of Education for School District #47 (Powell River) has been and continues to be committed to both long-term and short-term School and District planning. The Board supports collaborative planning processes as the means to improvement in instruction and effective fiscal planning and decision-making. We believe that the development of a coherent District Strategic Plan begins with the formulation of school-based growth plans. This process allows each school to recognize its own unique learning situation such that, with support and provision of appropriate resources from the District, all Powell River students have equitable educational opportunities regardless of their geographic location.

In 2019, our Board created a District Strategic Plan to set the strategic direction for the District during the Board's four-year term. The plan was developed by completing an Environmental Scan and SWOT analysis, extensive discussion with Trustees and Senior Staff, and a full day strategic planning workshop involving the Board of Education and Senior District Leadership. The Board then hosted a facilitated forum involving community stakeholders and used the feedback from that event to inform the balance of its planning.

The Strategic Plan will assist schools in establishing strategies and action items that align to the District's overall direction while still meeting their own, unique circumstances. These school-specific action items will be periodically reported out to the Board of Education and shared with the public to demonstrate progress against the goals and objectives that are outlined in our plan.

The District's Strategic Plan aligns with the Ministry of Education's most recent 2019 Service Plan and its key goals: improve student achievement and success; improve outcomes for Indigenous students; and improve the K-12 system.

# District Profile



**POWELL RIVER** is a beautiful coastal community situated on the Upper Sunshine Coast. Located on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, Powell River offers an amazing mixture of nature, culture and industry. Neatly tucked into BC's coastline, 5 hours from Vancouver by car or 30 minutes by plane. Just over 130 km from Vancouver, BC, Powell River is surrounded by forest, mountains, and many freshwater bodies of water and is part of the coastal mountain range. With the Pacific Ocean to its west, the region enjoys a temperate climate. In 2016, the City of Powell River and surrounding region has a population of approximately 20,000 people.

Named a Cultural Capital of Canada in 2004, Powell River offers a wide and varied range of activities for arts and culture enthusiasts. The City boasts the nation's oldest continuously operating movie house, the Patricia Theatre. The community is home to International Choral Kathaumixw, which is a choral festival held every second year, featuring more than 2,500 performers from five continents. The community is also home to the Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy, featuring some of the world's finest symphonic musicians as faculty, and attracting top students from around the world to form an annual symphonic orchestra, featuring a number of performances open to the public.

The Powell River region is home to the Sunshine Coast Trail, which is 180 kilometres in length, offering the longest hut-to-hut hiking experience in Canada. The trail can be explored in smaller sections for day hikes, or via one extraordinary, multi-

day hiking vacation. There is also the Powell River Forest Canoe Route, which is a 57-kilometre, eight lake, five portage journey that takes roughly five days.

The Powell River School District serves approximately 2,500 students in four regular elementary schools, one dual track elementary school, one remote island elementary school, two distributed learning centres, two alternate schools and one secondary school.

The School District provides a number of additional programs, including:

- Four Strong Start Programs
- Pre-Kindergarten Screening
- K-3 Early Intervention
- Dual Credit Trades
- Digital IM Program
- International Student Program
- After School Program
- Summer Reading and Recreational Program
- Powell Lake Ecological and Outdoor Learning Centre
- Eco-Immersion and Leadership Programming
- Provincial Auditory Outreach Program

The School District's student population, until recently, had been decreasing but is projecting a 376-student increase over the next 10 years from its current student population. There are currently 334 Indigenous students in the District (5.9% of overall student population) and 391 Students with Special Needs (about 6.9% of overall student population).



# Statement of Beliefs



## We believe

**We believe** that the public-school system is an inclusive system and that students come to school with diverse needs and abilities.

**We also believe** that all students have a right to an education and a responsibility to become active learners.

**We also believe** positive relationships between students and teachers are central to effective teaching and learning, and that success is measured in the process itself as well as in the outcomes.

**We believe** that together with School District employees and groups, we can enable our students to realize their full potential.

**We believe** that students have the following rights:

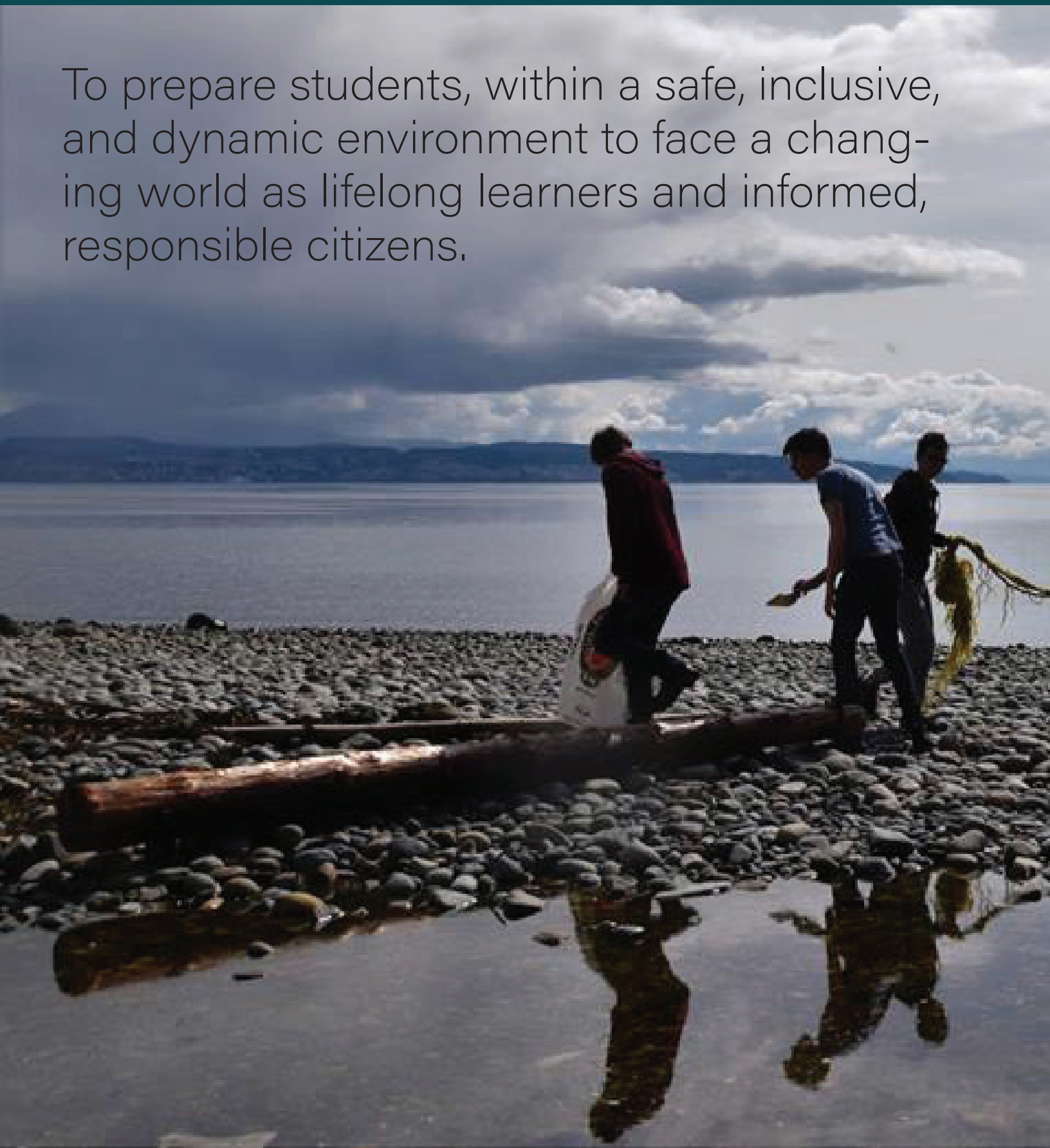
- to learn in safe and caring environments
- to have their social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs met
- to have an education that prepares them for the world of the future
- to have experiences that provide multiple pathways to success

**We believe** that students have the following responsibilities:

- to respect each other and all members of their school community
- to contribute to the learning opportunities offered to them

# Mission

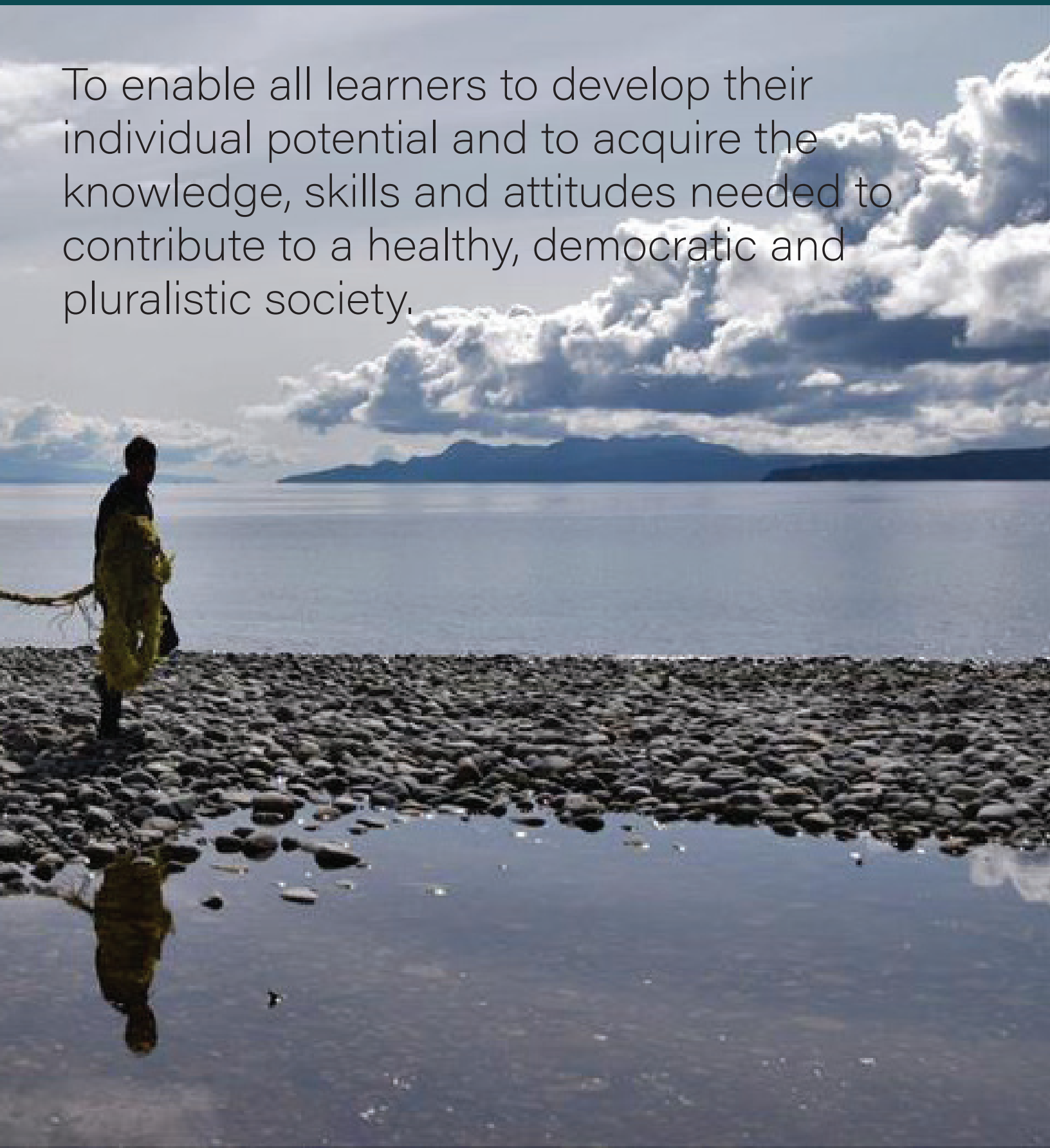
To prepare students, within a safe, inclusive, and dynamic environment to face a changing world as lifelong learners and informed, responsible citizens.





# Vision

To enable all learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society.



# Values

A word cloud of organizational values. The word 'Respect' is the largest and most prominent, centered in the middle. Other large words include 'Inclusion', 'Social Responsibility', 'Relationships', and 'Engagement'. Smaller words are scattered around, including 'Collaboration', 'Teamwork', 'Transparency', 'Equity', 'DIGNITY', 'Openness', 'DIVERSITY', 'EMPATHY', 'Integrity', 'Responsiveness', and 'ACCOUNTABILITY'. The words are in various shades of yellow and orange, set against a white background with a dark teal header.

Collaboration  
**Inclusion**  
Teamwork  
Transparency  
Social Responsibility  
Equity  
DIGNITY  
**Respect**  
Openness  
DIVERSITY  
EMPATHY  
Relationships  
Integrity  
Responsiveness  
**Engagement**  
ACCOUNTABILITY



# Themes

The District has chosen three key themes that will be given special focus over the next four years:

## 1. Learner Success

The District's top priority is learner success. This plan is designed towards addressing each learner's unique needs and to create a physical and emotional environment that supports our learners and our staff. We recognize the need to pay particular attention to our most vulnerable learners and to address emerging issues with respect to the mental health and well-being of our students and staff.

Improving outcomes for Indigenous learners is a key priority for the school district. Honouring the treaty of the Tla'amin Nation, the District reports achievement and improvement data for nation students directly to the Nation. The Nation will decide how to use the data, provide direction to the district, and determine what data will be made publicly available.

## 2. Engagement and Connections

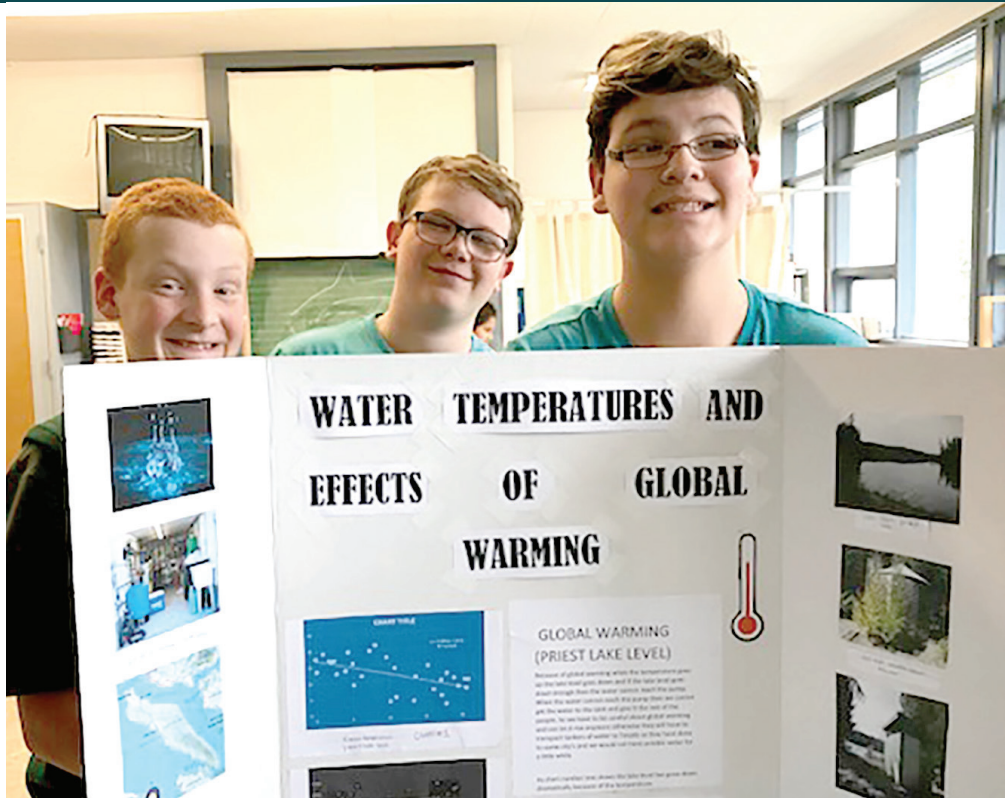
The District has strong relationships with many partners including the Tla'amin Nation, the qathet Regional District, the City of Powell River and other internal and external communities, including students, families, and staff. We can only be successful if we broaden and strengthen our relationships and look to areas of shared interest and collaboration with all of our partners moving forward. This theme is meant to recognize the importance of clear communication and the engagement of all stakeholders.



## 3. Organizational Sustainability

This theme recognizes the critical role that internal organization has on achieving our mission and vision. The District will continue to look for opportunities to increase self-generated revenue; remain vigilant in reviewing existing business processes to ensure that the District continues to operate efficiently; keep an eye on continuous improvement and measurement of progress; and ensure that the District is recognized within the community to be a leader in the promotion of environmental priorities and mindful of facilitating sustainable practices within the organization.

# Goals & Objectives



## Theme: Learner Success

### Goal 1:

Improve achievement results for ALL students

- Objective: Increase the readiness of students entering kindergarten
- Objective: Increase student literacy
- Objective: Increase student numeracy
- Objective: Increase secondary graduation and transition rates
- Objective: Improve the readiness of students for life after high school

### Goal 2:

Support mental health needs and well-being of students and employees

- Objective: Increase mental health literacy for students, parents and staff
- Objective: Improve our culture of acceptance, tolerance, mindfulness and respect
- Objective: Promote student engagement in their learning and their community
- Objective: Promote the appropriate and ethical use of social media



# Goals & Objectives



## Theme: Engagement and Connections

### Goal 1:

Improve communication and engagement strategies to adapt to the varying needs of our community

- Objective: Implement strategies that meet the preferred communication and engagement needs of our students and stakeholders
- Objective: Promote employee engagement in their school and organizational culture
- Objective: Increase collaboration with the Tla'amin Nation, the qathet Regional District and the City of Powell River



# Goals & Objectives



## Theme: Organizational Sustainability

### Goal 1:

#### Improve Organizational Effectiveness

- Objective: Establish a framework for strategic planning and continuous reporting
- Objective: Increase school district generated revenue
- Objective: Ensure efficiency of business functions

### Goal 2:

#### Promote and facilitate sustainable practices within the organization

- Objective: Create and implement a district wide energy management plan
- Objective: Create and implement a district wide environmental sustainability plan

# Next Steps



## Next Steps

The board is committed to continuous improvement and reflective practices.

The strategic plan is accompanied by an [operational plan](#) for implementation.

The plan will have interim reporting measures, yearly reflection, and a continuous feedback loop.

More about School District 47 planning [can be found here.](#)

An [annual report](#) will be published and publicly distributed each year.