

# BOARD BUSINESS

February 2023

**Board passes amended annual Budget for this school year**  
 Comox Valley Schools will end the school year with a small surplus after the board passed the annual amended budget in a vote at the February Board meeting. The increase enrolments of students, allows the district to be on solid financial footing compared to many other districts in B.C.

*The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.*

## Snapshot 2022-2023 SCHOOL DISTRICT #71 Amended Annual Budget

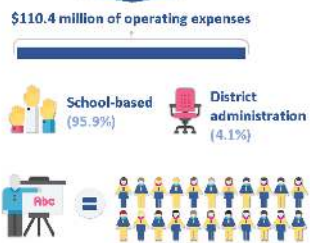
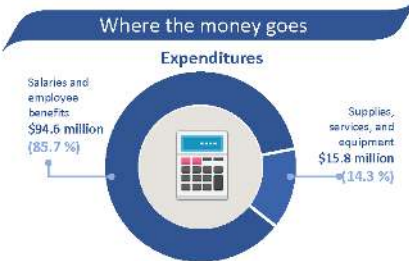
### FEBRUARY

**Operating Revenue - \$111.51 million**  
**Less: Operating Expenses - \$110.38 million**  
**Net Revenue (Deficit) - \$ 1.13 million**

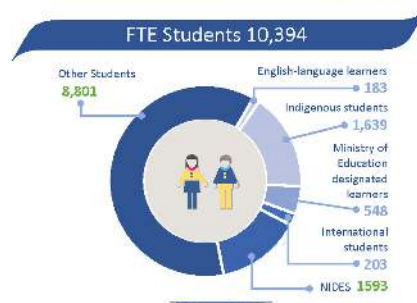
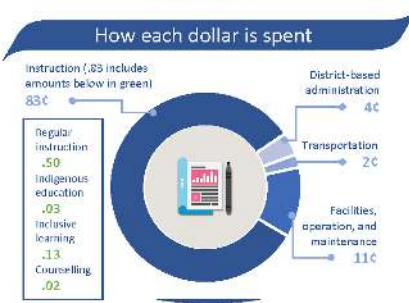
Amended Budget 2022-2023



Update from Board Chair  
 Michelle Waite



Update from  
 Superintendent/CEO of Schools  
 Tom Demeo



Board Meeting Highlights

District News

**WATCH  
 FEB 28  
 BOARD  
 MEETING**



Enrolment is projected to have moderate to high growth over next 10 years

# BOARD BUSINESS

## Board Meeting Highlights - February 2023



### Board Chair Update

#### Board of Education Chair, Michelle Waite

Gilakas'la, our District and your Board of Education have been busy with events and opportunities throughout February. SD 71 held an amazing Professional Development day on February 17 at GP Vanier -- it was great to see everyone come together for this fantastic day of collaborative professional learning. In early February, as Board Chair I had the opportunity to attend Board Chair & Partner Liaison Meetings. We attended a variety of sessions focused on good governance. We can never learn enough on how to work together as a Board, with students as the center of every decision we make. In addition, there were a variety of speakers: Dr Jerome Cranston spoke on dismantling systematic racism and Vicki Philips spoke about an international youth survey and noted 41% of the world population is under 25. We thank you again for the invitations we are receiving to attend salad bar, school events, spelling bees, community events, and events with our municipal and provincial partners. It's great to see so much happening in our schools. Recently, the BC Government shared the 2023 Budget and we are reviewing what it means for our district.

### Superintendent Update

#### Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

The district has recently updated some policies that I would like to tell you about. Our schools have many volunteers and we are very grateful for their contributions. To ensure student safety, the district has several policies pertaining to the character and expected conduct of volunteers in our schools. To begin, all volunteers must have a criminal record check completed and renewed every three years. Now, all volunteers must sign and adhere to our Volunteer Code of Conduct, which will be renewed every three years when the criminal record check is completed. As well, volunteers can't be paid in any manner, and are not permitted to publicly display or communicate a belief contrary to the beliefs of the school district as outlined in either a SD 71 District Policy, Administrative Procedures or the School Act. Volunteers will not be permitted promote or recruit students or staff for any specific ideology or religious beliefs in any Comox Valley Schools' site. The new Volunteer Code of Conduct outlines 11 crucial expectations that must be met to work with students in Comox Valley Schools. The code of conduct covers: the personal interests of students; student confidentiality; personal privacy; interactions; agreeing to never be alone with students; transportation of students; signing-in; providing ID if needed; not promoting religion, ideology or dogma; and reviewing some key district Administrative Procedures. We hope these changes will further enhance both quality and safety for everyone involved with Comox Valley Schools.



# BOARD BUSINESS

## Board Meeting Highlights - February 2023

### District forecast to grow again

Assistant Superintendent provided an overview of school registrations for next school year. As of Feb 28, SD 71 is now in position to very likely experience more growth in overall enrolments for next school year. Over 600 new student registrations means that more students will be entering our schools than leaving this summer.

### Cumberland forecasting major growth requiring portables

One of the fastest growing areas in the district is in Cumberland. Recent new projections show that enrolments may approach over 900 students within the next decade. This will bring the school well over capacity. The district hopes to learn news soon regarding an expansion and upgrade to the school that will help alleviate some of the pressure on the school. In the meantime, the school will have at least two new portables for next school year.

### Student Affordability Funds

Sean Lamoureux, Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education, gave an update and overview of the district's allocations for far of the Student Family Affordability Funds. So far over \$435,000 has been allocated to Tier 1 expenditures on items such as help for field trips, supplies and equipment (kitchen appliances etc). Another \$213,000 has been allocated to various school programs, including \$150,000 for the Lush Valley Food Action Society. So far the funds have helped approximately 5,000 students in our district access food and meals in our schools.

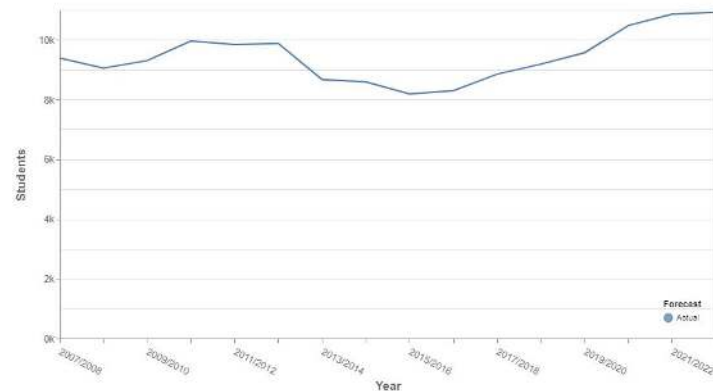
### Indigenous Education Report

#### Vice-Chair Susan Leslie

Susan Leslie provided an overview and update of current work underway on the Indigenous Education Committee.

Bruce Carlos has met with Pam Moore and the Culture Kits team at Qualicum First Nation. They are providing classroom teachers with vetted, culturally appropriate, Indigenous teaching materials from local Nations as well as from Nations across BC and Canada. The kits are bursting with hands on resources and lesson plans for all students in SD 71. Lush Valley has invited Indigenous Education, Bruce Carlos to the School Food Subcommittee. Indigenous PAC parents have met with plans to rejuvenate IPAC after a 2-year break. Bruce Carlos has met with the new KFN Education Coordinator Felicity Chitty, Chief Ken Price and Councillor Coral Mackay. Coral and Felicity attended the February 9 IEC meeting and were warmly welcomed. There are 45 staff members on the Indigenous Education team now. IEC Capacity building days will be May 17-18 at the Comox Band Hall. The 2023-24 Indigenous Education Budget Process is beginning, and we've sent an invitation to the Secretary Treasurer to discuss the process. On February 16 and 17, DPAC and the CVDTA held Sharing Cultural Perspectives: Where Paths Meet community session at GP Vanier Secondary and it was very well attended. The next day, the District Indigenous Learning Day was held and it was an empowering, culturally rich day providing all SD71 staff who attended with local Indigenous knowledge, stories and information to support their learning in Truth and Reconciliation from where they stand. A spectacular day was had by all I spoke to. I raise my hands to the Pro-D Committee, the Chair Doug David, to Bruce Carlos and the Indigenous Education team, the Elders, presenters and knowledge keepers, and all who had a hand in orchestrating this meaningful, heartfelt day!

Student Enrolment Over Time



# DISTRICT NEWS

## February



### First district-wide Pro-D Day in three years

It was the first in-person district wide Pro-D day in three years! Great to see everyone together at GP Vanier for the special event "Sharing Cultural Perspectives: Where Paths Meet", with Hereditary Chief Wedlidi Speck and archeologist Dr. Jesse Morin.

The day started with a welcome and acknowledgment from Hereditary Chief Rob Everson who was accompanied by the Kumugwe Dancers. The morning session also included a special presentation from Lelaina Jules and Jeannine Walker called "the Circle of Intention." After lunch, smaller groups broke out into culturally rich and informative workshops. It was great to see the enthusiasm of attendees and many thanks to all who presented that day. DPAC hosted a similar event the evening before for parents and members of the community, and it was attended by over 150 people. These events took a great deal of work to coordinate and put together. Thank you to all of the hard working organizers for your efforts in making these learning experiences a success.



### Skills Canada - Trades and Tech Competitions

On Friday, February 24th, the North Island Skills Canada event at North Island College and Timerline Secondary in Campbell River hosted approx. 220 competitors from North Island school districts, including 125+ students from Comox Valley Schools. There were 18 different events, ranging from robotics, bridge building, creating alternate energy sources, digital animation, electrical engineering, automotive repair, carpentry, culinary/cooking, welding and more. The North Island Regional competition is just the start of a pathway for many students as the winners advance to the provincial competition in Abbotsford on April 19 and then the nationals May 25 in Winnipeg. Over the years, many Comox Valley students have made it to the nationals and the world competitions. We'll share more news on winners soon, via social media. Thanks to all parent volunteers and the hardworking SD 71 careers team lead by Steve Classen and Dawn Anderson for making this day possible for our students.



# DISTRICT NEWS

## February

### SD 71 students taking part in career pilot

Comox Valley Schools Careers Department is working with the Ministry of Education on an exciting pilot project that saw UK based group *Education and Employers* come to the Comox Valley to work with students at Brooklyn Elementary, Cumberland Community School and NIDES/Navigate. *Education and Employers* is a UK based charity which believes that every young person should have the opportunity to hear first-hand about different jobs and the world of work. Students were able to learn from three local professionals who answered questions and shared experiences about their careers. Hats off to students at for asking their special guests some very thoughtful and intelligent questions about their careers and training.

Many thanks to the three local professionals who shared perspectives with students about their careers:

- Justin Johnson – Flight Instructor, Sealand Flight Ltd.
- Jason Kapalka – Video Game Designer, Blue Wizard/Popcan (Owner)
- Lauren Hudson – Educator, Ocean Networks Canada

And a big thank you to *Education and Employers* for coming all the way from the UK to hold such great events for our students.



### Find Your Fit visits Cumberland and Lake Trail

BC's Find Your Fit career tour visited Cumberland Community School recently and it was quite the production. The tour allows students to explore a selection of high opportunity careers throughout BC.

Guided by trained tour presenters, students tested out different skills required to work in a range of occupations, including careers in trades, technology, health care and more. Find Your Fit Tour is designed for students in grades 5 to 10, who are just beginning to think about their career path. Interestingly but not surprising, the gaming & software development booth featuring a flight simulator was the most popular with students! The tour will also be setting up at Lake Trail in early March.





# DISTRICT NEWS

## February

COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS  
PRESENTS



ROALD DAHL'S

# Matilda

THE MUSICAL

BOOK: DENNIS KELLY      MUSIC & LYRICS: TIM MINCHIN

**March 15, 16, 17, 18 at 7:00 PM**  
**March 18 at 2:00 PM**

GP Vanier Secondary  
4830 Headquarters Rd, Courtenay, BC

**BUY TICKETS \$20**

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

### Roald Dahl's Matilda coming to the stage at Vanier

Comox Valley Schools is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of Roald Dahl's Matilda, the classic children's story brought to life through song and dance. The District Musical will be performed at G.P. Vanier Secondary School's auditorium from March 15-18.

Matilda is a heartwarming and captivating tale of a young girl with incredible wit and a love for books, who must face off against cruel adults who don't understand her.

The musical is directed by Lori Mazey, the musical director is Regan Livingstone and the choreographer is Emma Wilde. They are working hard putting in countless hours into rehearsals with students from Cumberland, Highland, Isfeld, NIDES and G.P. Vanier to make this show a success.

The show features a talented cast of 43 students, bringing their unique personalities and interpretations to the beloved characters. The performance is also accompanied by two live musicians. There are also many more students on the production team who are supporting with props, costumes, hair, make-up, lighting and sound.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to witness the talent and hard work of Comox Valley Schools' students, while enjoying a family-friendly classic that is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Tickets for Matilda are on sale now and can be purchased on the district website. Seating is limited, so we encourage everyone to purchase tickets as soon as possible.

### Showcase Concert at Highland

On Wednesday March 1st, the feeder schools for Highland Secondary will be holding their annual Showcase Concert. It will feature performances by Airport, Brooklyn, Navigate, Aspen and of course Highland.

This is the first time this event has happened since 2019, and the last time it happened, there was a storm and the power went out. Let's hope the weather cooperates this time.

The concert is from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Highland gym. There is no fee.

The head of Highland's Music Department Nancy Cox will be hosting this event.

It should be a fun night, so come support your child or loved one if they are performing.



**Comox Valley Schools**  
A Community of Learners  
INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

## Showcase Concert

MARCH 1ST FROM 6:00 TO 7:00 PM NO COST

**HIGHLAND SECONDARY GYM**

FEATURED SCHOOLS

- AIRPORT ELEMENTARY
- BROOKLYN ELEMENTARY
- NAVIGATE/NIDES
- ASPEN PARK ELEMENTARY
- HIGHLAND SECONDARY



### Isfeld hosting Humanities Week February 27 - March 3

Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School is hosting a series of inspiring speakers and engaging activities during Humanities Week. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of events with the theme of "Raise Your Voice" that will promote learning, collaboration, and creativity. Humanities Week will feature a series of events, activities, workshops and special guest presenters. There will be a Model United Nations conference and student delegates will be discussing the issue of child trafficking. 46 students will be taking on the role of delegates and members of the International Press Corps. Each student will represent a different country or news agency during discussions, debates, and resolution-making. It should be a great week of learning and activities for all.



# Cabane à sucre

## Maple Sugar Shack

A Celebration of French Canadian Culture

Saturday, March 4th, 4:30 - 7:30

### Cabane a Sucre returns!

Cabane à Sucre is back on after a three year hiatus. This is a celebration of French Canadian culture and is hosted by SD 71 French immersion schools and École Au-cœur-de-l'île, the CSF's Francophone school.

There will be face painting, bouncy castles, fiddling, dancing, student presentations and French Canadian food.

A limited number of tickets are available for sale at the offices of Mark Isfeld Ecole Secondaire, Ecole Puntledge and Ecole Robb Road -- for immediate family. Each ticket costs \$8 which covers your entrance and a traditional meal.

When: Saturday, March 4 4:30-7:30 pm

Where: Ecole Au Cœur de l'île- 566 Linshart Road

### Indigenous course planning well underway

Teachers from throughout the North Island came to the Comox Valley on Friday, Feb. 10th for an in-depth day of collaborative planning sessions for Indigenous-focused coursework that will meet BC's new graduation requirements, beginning next school year.

It was inspiring to be in the room at Glacier View to see how enthusiastic these teachers are about bringing more quality Indigenous-focused courses into classrooms in the years ahead. Effective next school year, all students working toward a B.C. Dogwood Diploma, must successfully complete at least 4 credits in Indigenous-focused coursework.



### Queeneesh celebrates new recycling system

Queeneesh Elementary unveiled their new school recycling depot that was created by some hard-working students and staff.

Students named the project, "No Time To Waste" and it took about two years to come to fruition. The project was spearheaded by Ms. Fullerton's Montessori Grades 5, 6 and 7 class who did an excellent job making presentations to a packed audience in the lobby of the school.

The presentations went over landfill waste reduction efforts, how classes are collecting and organizing various recyclables, as well as a firsthand look at the new composting system that includes using snails to speed up the process. The ribbon cutter who officially opened the new recycling centre was Bob Weier of Habitat for Humanity, who donated his time and expertise to help renovate and upgrade the school recycling storage containers.

Its great to see the school coming together for this initiative that will help reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. Great work to all!

