
For immediate release

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Board of Education Announcement

COMOX VALLEY, B.C.– The Comox Valley Schools Board of Education announced to all district staff Friday the resignation of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dean Lindquist.

Dr. Lindquist joined the school district in 2016. Under his leadership, the District has seen a continuation in its innovative practices of how education is delivered to students in the Comox Valley and is a testament to the amazing work of all District employees.

Lindquist’s tenure began during a time of declining enrollment, funding protection and budget cuts. Today, the Valley is experiencing a growing public education system. With Lindquist’s support and world view on pedagogy and how 21st Century education needs to evolve to support teacher and student learning, the Board has been able to lead the District through change.

Lindquist strongly advocated with the Ministry of Education to adopt new policies that were responsive to student learning of today. As well, Lindquist strongly supported the work of educators and district staff with a focus on reinvigorating a vibrant organizational culture in which all employee groups felt supported, valued and recognized.

“We are immensely grateful for Dr. Lindquist and his innovative approach and successful contributions to public education here in the Comox Valley,” expressed Janice Caton, Board Chair. “We feel confident his successor will continue the positive momentum that he created.

On the heels of the resignation announcement, the Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Tom Demeo as the new Superintendent of Schools and CEO to the Board.

Demeo brings extensive experience to this appointment. His experience in prior leadership work includes Vice Principal at Courtenay Junior School (now Mark R. Isfeld), followed by a tenure at both Highland and G.P. Vanier Secondary. Tom served as Principal of Carihi Secondary in

Campbell River and the Director of Human Resources for SD 72 before returning to the Comox Valley in 2012 to assume the position of Assistant Superintendent.

“Tom brings to this new appointment a strong working knowledge of the district and its future needs,” stated Caton. “Dr. Lindquist responded to Mr. Demeo’s appointment by noting that he is one of the most innovative leaders he has worked with in his long career in education and that he will continue down the path that we as a District have embarked on.”

Originally from Castlegar B.C., Demeo began his career in Alberta before moving to Princeton, B.C. and finally the Comox Valley in 1996.

“I am excited to take on the role of Superintendent of Schools and look forward to continuing to support current and new initiatives that ensure excellent educational opportunities for all of our students,” shared Demeo.

The Superintendent and CEO of Comox Valley Schools oversees the delivery of public education programs to more than 8,500 students and over 1,500 staff. The School District is the second largest employer in the Comox Valley after Canadian Forces Base Comox. Demeo will commence his tenure effective August 1.

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