

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
7:00pm

A copy of the Public Board Meeting Agenda is available on the School District website at:

<http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca>

Alternately, copies are available on request from Marlene.Leach@sd71.bc.ca.

Public Board Meetings are recorded and live streamed on the School District's YouTube channel.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the December 17, 2019 Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

3. Board Meeting Minutes

Pg.3

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the November 26, 2019 Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

4. Old Business

- A. Vaping** – Creation of a committee to discuss community strategies to deal with vaping issues.

5. Report on In-Camera Meetings – Tuesday, December 26, 2019

- Personnel
- Land
- Other

6. Board Chair's Report

7. Presentations / Delegations

None

8. Education Committee Meeting

No meeting in December

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: Mental Health
DATE: January 14, 2020
TIME: 6:30pm
LOCATION: School Board Office

9. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

- i. District News
- ii. Boundary Catchment Review

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B. Assistant Superintendent

None

C. Secretary-Treasurer

None

D. Human Resources

- i. Retirements and Recognition

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this report as information.

10. Board Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report

No meeting in December

B. Facilities Committee Board Report

No meeting in December

i. Hornby Island Community School and Lake Trail Middle School

C. Policy Committee Board Report – Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Policy Committee Board Report of December 10, 2019 as provided.

11. Board Business

A. Trustee Report: First Nations education Steering Council Meeting

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Sheila McDonnell, Trustee, (Area A – Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)

B. Trustee Report: BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) - Trustee Academy

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Janice Caton, Trustee, (Area A – Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)

C. Trustee Report: BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) – Fall Conference 2019

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Tonia Frawley, Trustee, (Town of Comox)

D. Motion:

Recommendation:

THAT the Superintendent review the current science and judgement regarding the requirement for seat belts in school buses carrying School district No. 71 students.

12. Board Correspondence

A. Correspondence: from Mary Talbot to School District No. 71 – Youth Vaping

Epidemic

Ian Hargreaves, Board Chair – verbal report

13. Public Question Period

14. Adjournment

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 26, 2019
7:00pm

In Attendance:

Trustees

Ian Hargreaves, Board Chair
Tonia Frawley, Vice Chair
Janice Caton
Sarah Jane Howe
Sheila McDonnell
Michelle Waite

Regrets:

Kat Hawksby, Trustee
Ian Heselgrave, Director of Operations
Lynda-Marie Handfield, Director of HR

Staff

Tom Demeo, Superintendent of Schools
Nicole Bittante, Secretary-Treasurer
Geoff Manning, Assistant Superintendent
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Esther Shatz, Director of Instruction (Student Services)
Allan Douglas, Director of Instructional Services K-12
Mary Lee, Communications Manager
Josh Porter, Director, Information Technology
Marlene Leach, Senior Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Bittante called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the November 26, 2019 Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Board Elections

At 7:05pm Trustee Kat Hawksby called in by phone to participate in the Board elections.

Appointment of Scrutineers

Scrutineers:

Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Esther Shatz, Director of Instruction, Student Services

A. Election of Board Chairperson

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board for a first time. Trustee Ian Hargreaves was nominated and let his name stand. The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations a second time. Trustee Janice Caton was nominated and let her name stand. The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations a third time. Hearing none, the Secretary-Treasurer asked the appointed scrutineers to distribute ballots for vote. Ballots were counted and Trustee Ian Hargreaves was declared Board Chairperson for the ensuing year.

Trustee Ian Hargreaves assumed the Chair.

B. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson

The Board Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board for a first time. Trustee Tonia Frawley was nominated and let her name stand. The Board Chairperson called for nominations a second time. Trustee Janice Caton was nominated and declined. Trustee Janice Caton left the meeting at 7:15pm. The Board Chairperson called a third time for nominations. Hearing no further nominations, the Board Chairperson declared Trustee Tonia Frawley Vice-Chairperson of the Board for the ensuing year.

C. Election of BCSTA Provincial Council Representative and Alternate

The BCSTA Bylaws provide that each member Board shall elect one trustee as *representative* and one trustee *alternate representative* to the Provincial Council

a) Nominations for *representative* to the BCSTA Provincial Council called by Chairperson

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of representative to the BCSTA Provincial Council a first time. Trustee Tonia Frawley was nominated and let her name stand. The Chairperson called for nominations a second time. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for nominations a third time. Hearing no further nominations Trustee Tonia Frawley was declared representative to the BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council for the ensuing year.

b) Nominations for *alternate representative* to the BCSTA Provincial Council called by Chairperson

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of alternate representative to the BCSTA Provincial Council a first time. Trustee Michelle Waite was nominated and let her name stand. The Chairperson called for nominations a second time. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for nominations a third time. Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson

declared Trustee Michelle Waite as the alternate representative to the BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council for the ensuing year.

D. Election of BCPSEA Trustee Representative and Alternate

The BCPSEA Bylaws provide that each member Board shall elect one trustee as *representative designate* and one trustee as *alternate designate* to the BCPSEA Representative Council.

a) Nominations for *representative designate* to the BCPSEA Representative Council by Chairperson

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of representative designate to the BCPSEA Representative Council a first time. Trustee Sheila McDonnell was nominated, and let her name stand. The Chairperson called for nominations a second time. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for nominations a third time. Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Sheila McDonnell as the representative designate to the BC Public School Employers Association for the ensuing year.

b) Nominations for *alternate designate* to the BCPSEA Representative Council called by Chairperson

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of alternate designate to the BCPSEA Representative Council a first time. Trustee Sarah Jane Howe was nominated and let her name stand. The Chairperson called for nominations a second time. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for nominations a third time. Hearing no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Trustee Sara Jane Howe as the alternate designate to the BC Public School Employers Association for the ensuing year. Kat Hawksby left the meeting (via phone) at 7:22pm.

E. Destruction of Ballots

Recommendation:

THAT the ballots from the Board elections be destroyed.

CARRIED

4. Board Meeting Minutes

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the October 22, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended.

CARRIED

5. Old Business

A. Vaping in Schools

Superintendent Demeo provided a verbal report that the Board of Education is in the process of writing letters to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education (cc MLAs) regarding concerns about vaping in schools and the impact on students. Additionally, there will be a “Let’s Clear the Air” vaping and youth information session being held on January 08, 2019 At Mark R. Isfeld Secondary. The presentation will be by the Island Health Authority Senior Medical Officer and Reduction Coordinator and Tobacco & Vapour Prevention and Control Program.

B. Environmental Assessments

Superintendent Demeo provided a verbal report about moving forward with an environmental assessment of all School District No. 71 properties. The cost will be approximately \$60,000 and will help bring awareness about protected areas and other environmental matters.

6. Report on In-Camera Meetings:

A. Tuesday November 05, 2019

B. Tuesday, November 26, 2019

- Personnel
- Land
- Other

7. Board Chair’s Report

Chair Hargreaves thanked the trustees and provided a verbal report on his background as a teacher/educator, his work in connection with special needs students, and his experience as a Trustee including the committees he has served on.

8. Presentations / Delegations

A. Andrew Young, Teacher, Recipient of the 2019 Alex Trebek Medal for Geographic Literacy

Julie Shields, Principal of Georges P. Vanier Secondary introduced Andrew Young explaining the award he received, the valuable work he has done as a teacher, and a personal message from a previous student who was grateful to have him for a teacher. Mr. Young shared his experience of receiving the award as well as some personal stories.

B. Comox Valley Transition Society and Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society

Michele Vanderwoude, Resource Development Director, and Comox Valley Transition Society, and Richard Clarke, Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society provided homelessness statistics and information about the first annual Coldest Day of the Year fundraising event to be held by schools on February 19, 2019 in hopes that the school district will join in on the event.

9. Education Committee Meeting – November 05, 2019

A. Indigenous Education – Board Report

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this report as information.

CARRIED

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: Mental Health
DATE: January 14, 2020
TIME: 6:30pm
LOCATION: School Board Office

10. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

- i. District News**
Board Information
- ii. Boundary Catchment Review Update**
Verbal Update – Board Information

B. Assistant Superintendent

- i. Graduation Rates**
Verbal Update – Board Information
- ii. Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) Update**
Verbal Update – Board Information
- iii. Dress Code Policies**
Verbal Update – Board Information

C. Secretary-Treasurer

- i. **Lead Levels in Water**
Briefing Note – Board Information

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this Briefing Note as provided.

CARRIED

D. Human Resources

- i. **Retirements and Recognition**

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this report as information.

CARRIED

11. Board Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report – Monday, November 18, 2019

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the spending plan in principle for the 2018-19 unrestricted operating surplus as presented.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Finance Committee Board Report as provided.

CARRIED

B. Facilities Committee Board Report - Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Facilities Committee Board Report as provided.

CARRIED

C. Policy Committee Board Report – Monday, September 09, 2019

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Policy Committee Board Report of October 21, 2019 as provided.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Policy Committee Board Report of November 19, 2019 as provided.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve the development of a policy around AP 170 – Non-Discrimination.

CARRIED

i. Policies and Administrative Procedures

Briefing Note – Board Information

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve and adopt Policy 22 – Provision of Menstrual Products to Students as presented.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve and adopt Policy 23 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students as presented.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive AP 354 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students for information only.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive AP 362 – The Evergreen Certificate for information only.

CARRIED

12. Board Business

A. Trustee Report: Clever Raven Aboriginal Head Start

Ian Hargreaves, Trustee (Puntledge/Black Creek)
Board information

B. Trustee Report: Mosquito Information Session

Ian Hargreaves, Trustee (Puntledge/Black Creek)
Board information

C. Trustee Report: BCSTA Provincial Council Business Meeting

Ian Hargreaves, Trustee (Puntledge/Black Creek)
Board information

- D. Trustee Report: BCSTA Standing Committee on Indigenous Education**
Ian Hargreaves, Trustee (Puntledge/Black Creek)
Board information
- E. Trustee Report: NIC Regional Community Forums, Strategic Plan**
Ian Hargreaves, Trustee (Puntledge/Black Creek)
Board information
- F. Trustee Report: Coastal Ferry Vision Forum**
Sheila McDonnell, Trustee (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)
Board information
- G. Trustee Report: Comox Valley Social Planning Society (CVSPS)**
Sheila McDonnell, Trustee (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)
Board information
- H. Trustee Report: Vancouver Island School Trustee Association (VISTA) Branch Meeting**
Kat Hawksby, Trustee (City of Courtenay)
Board information
- I. Trustee Report: Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Meeting**
Kat Hawksby, Trustee (City of Courtenay)
Board information
- J. Notice of Motion:** Sheila McDonnell, Trustee (Baynes Sound, Hornby and Denman Islands)

Recommendation:

THAT the Superintendent review the current science and judgement regarding the requirement for seat belts in school buses carrying School District No. 71 students.

13. Board Correspondence

- A. Correspondence:** from **Morrison Creek Streamkeepers to School District No. 71** –
Environmental Assessments of School District No. 71 Properties
Janice Caton, Trustee
Board information
- B. Correspondence:** from **Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC) to School District No. 71**
Janice Caton, Trustee
Board information

14. Public Question Period

15. Meeting Adjourned – 8:46pm

Certified Correct:

Nicole Bittante, CPA, CA
Secretary-Treasurer

Ian Hargreaves
Board Chair

DRAFT

DISTRICT NEWS

DECEMBER 2019



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



Province announces new school for Hornby Island; \$27 million in upgrades to Lake Trail

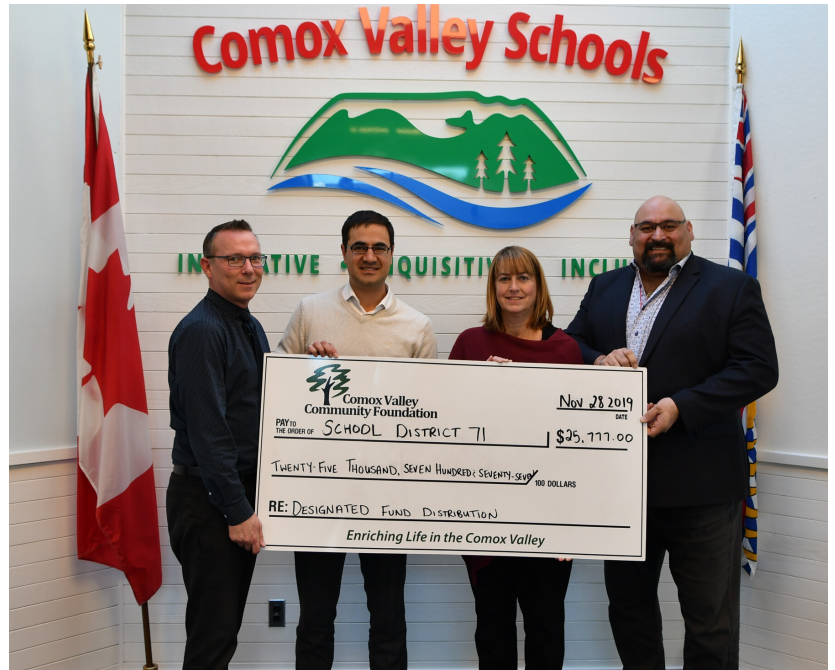
“All students deserve to learn in safe and inspiring schools that give them the best chance to succeed,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, at a press conference held at Lake Trail. “With new, modern facilities coming to Courtenay and Hornby Island, thousands of students will have a better learning experience for generations to come.” The Government of B.C. is providing \$10.4 million for a new, 95-seat Hornby Island Community School, replacing the previous building that was lost in a fire in August 2018. In addition, construction is set to begin on the \$27.2-million seismic upgrade of Lake Trail Middle school, which will replace everything but the school’s gymnasium with a modern facility. “People in our community showed how resilient they can be when the former Hornby Island Community school burned down,” said Scott Fraser, MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim. “Our government took immediate action to provide short-term classrooms for Hornby students after the fire, and the new school will give them the long-term learning environment they deserve.” In addition to a seismically safe school, the investment in Lake Trail Middle school also includes a \$1.5-million child care centre, which will benefit local families. “Today’s groundbreaking ceremony is one more positive step toward revitalizing and modernizing a unique school community here in west Courtenay,” said Ian Hargreaves, board chair, Comox Valley Schools. “This project will create a safe school for staff and students; moreover, it will allow for significant improvements in the learning environment.”



CV Community Foundation

The Robert L. Ash Endowment Fund

The Comox Valley Community Foundation recently presented the first distribution from the Robert L. Ash Endowment Fund to Comox Valley Schools for \$25,777 was established in 2017 by Beryl St. Albyn Hargood-Ash in honour of her nephew, with the income from the fund to be given annually to a charity or organization of his choice. Mr. Ash, a long-time supporter of secondary school athletics and a former high school wrestling coach, chose Comox Valley Schools as the beneficiary. The annual income will be used to fund secondary school sports team travel, specifically to provincial championships or in support of interprovincial/international exchanges, to assist individual athletes requiring financial assistance, and to fund travel expenses related to other extracurricular programs.



Journalism Academy

Seven Nala'atsi Indigenous students participated in a day-long journalism academy hosted in Vancouver by CBC November 13. The event involved audio, video and storytelling workshops, to encourage youth to consider broadcast journalism as a possible career prospect. Veteran Indigenous journalists including Duncan McCue, Ian Hanomansing, Angela Sterritt, and Gloria Macarenko led students through workshops. This is a first-time experience for the students who were among 150 Indigenous youth across Canada to participate.



Youth Work in Trades



Twelve Youth Work in Trades (YWT) students received a cheque for \$1,000 from the Government of British Columbia December 5th for completing 900 hours toward a Level 1 apprenticeship. The monetary incentive is from the Ministry of Education and the Industry Trade Authority (ITA) and intended to encourage and support students in the province to pursue a trade career in effort to address the work shortage throughout the industry. Trades educator Murray Shold went around and delivered each student their cheque.

Arden holds a Santa's Workshop

Parents and children have donated giftable items from their homes. On December 13th every student in the school will be able to go shopping (no money required) so they will have something to give at Christmas.

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Grant

Students at Lake Trail Middle School participated in planting around Morrison Creek December 11th in effort to restore some riparian zones. The efforts were made possible by a Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation grant and demonstrates the District's commitment to enhancing more outdoor education and environmental learning opportunities throughout the community.



EDAS: Set-up on Wed Dec. 11th & Gift Bag Preparation Commencing Dec 12th Morning

CONTACT US

There are many, many things to celebrate daily in our schools. We encourage anyone with news to send items to heidi.bell@sd71.bc.ca so that monthly we can honour all that our schools do to support the community and world.

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Education

DATE: December 17, 2019

RE: Human Resources - Retirements and Recognition

Retirements

Nancy Lawrence, Teacher, G.P. Vanier Secondary School will retire effective January 24, 2020 after 13 years of service with the district.

Richelle Beatty, Indigenous Support Worker, will retire effective March 13, 2020 after almost 2 years of service with the district.

POLICY COMMITTEE
Board Report

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Venue: School Board Office

Committee Members:

Michelle Waite: Chairperson
Sheila McDonnell: Trustee
Kat Hawksby: Trustee
Tom Demeo, Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Heidi Bell, Senior Executive Assistant

A. Items for Discussion

1. Update on animals on District property. Admin Procedure is currently being reviewed and redrafted to reflect today's standards and guidelines. Will be completed in December 2019.
2. Update on Admin Procedures Sections 1-5 – updating links, will be completed in early Spring.
3. Discussion on Policy 21 – Community Education and Community Schools
4. Discussion on requirements for seatbelts in school buses. Notice of Motion on December's Board Agenda. Direction to follow
5. Started a workplan around developing a Policy around AP 170 – Non-Discrimination
6. Update on Policy 12 – Superintendent Evaluation
7. Discussion around Committee Terms of Reference, Policy 8, 4.2.2 to review all policies at least once in a four (4) year board term

B. Future Meeting/Agenda Items

1. Next Meeting – January 29, 2020 @ 1 pm

C. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm

TO: Board of Education

DATE: December 17, 2019

FROM: Sheila McDonnell, Trustee

RE: First Nations Education Steering Council (FNESC)

I was fortunate to attend the Annual FNESC Indigenous Education Conference in Vancouver from November 28-30, 2019 along with Trustees Kathleen Hawksby, Sarah Jane Howe, and a team of our stellar Indigenous education teachers, education assistants, administrators, and Indigenous Education Council (IEC) representatives. Celebrating its 25th year of working to share information and inspire action on fundamental issues for Indigenous education, the theme this year was *Meeting Diverse Student Needs*. Keynote speakers and workshops provided information about programs and best practices that contribute to improving how we incorporate First Nations language, culture, and ways of learning throughout our district and create inclusive and responsive learning environments. The impacts of trauma on our learners and the needs of children and youth in care, currently or formerly, were highlighted. I know my colleagues would agree that the conference material was transformational, both heart-breaking and inspiring.

The opening session included remarks from Tyrone McNeil, the very able President of FNESC, Lydia Hwitsum of the First Nations Summit Leadership Council, and Minister Rob Fleming. Keynote speaker, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, former BC Representative for Children and Youth and now legal advisor, UBC professor, and director of the UBC Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, shared reflections on her personal journey and the barriers for Indigenous learners carrying the burdens of colonial abuses such as the residential schools and child welfare systems. We were all touched deeply by the special guest, Chief Doctor Robert Joseph from Reconciliation Canada. A survivor of St Michaels residential School in Alert Bay, Chief Joseph's path from a frightened, hurt child to a formidable leader committed to reconciliation, he embodies the power of courage and healing. On Saturday, the panel shared the experiences of being children in care, endeavouring to negotiate unfriendly school environments, "aging out" and transitioning to find their paths through post-secondary education and work. It struck me that these young people spoke of persevering despite being told they couldn't succeed, from

anger and stubbornness rather than encouragement and support. I hope that our work is changing this dynamic for all our students.

Choosing just 4 workshops from the list was stressful. As a trustee, I focused on some of the informational sessions about Ministry of Education programs and systemic issues. Indigenous education, equity, responsibility, and reconciliation was an overview of priorities and policies that must guide our work in the district in addition to the implications of Bill 41, embedding United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principles in BC law, the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement. Key principles can be summed up as: Every Student Can Achieve; Healthy and Effective Learning Environments; and High Standards. These refer in part to evidence of the “racism of low expectations” whereby our Indigenous school funding and programs have been damaged by the stereotypes that Indigenous students do not need full opportunities, won’t really succeed anyway, and can get by with “good enough”. Having experienced those attitudes towards girls in my day (and sadly still too common), checking our programs and budgets for this bias is crucial. The workshop also highlighted many areas of intersectionality where Indigenous students, those with diverse abilities and learning needs and those in care, call on us for immediate effective responses. The Ministry program Equity in Action has been adopted in 31 districts and I hope we will pursue the possibility of opting into the program this year. I am certainly convinced that the approach of making systemic change through data-driven actions, support and leadership to counteract “deficit narratives” is promising for improving the achievement of all learners. The “Aboriginal Education in BC: Equity in Action Project” video is available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhfB_rgCQpE&feature=youtu.be

On a less policy wonk level, I attended a terrific presentation from a team at Xetolacw School in Mt. Currie called “Preparing our Home”. The program offered as a “super-course” (an intensive elective offering their students a range of experiences) was designed to mobilize youth as leaders in emergency response in their own community. Many First Nation communities occupy what can only be described as “sacrifice- zones”, prone to natural hazards, at the end of single in and out roads, and far from organized response systems. In recent years, remote communities have been left to deal with floods, fires, avalanches, rock-slides, road closures, etc. and feel they are often the last thought of or evacuated. This program combined risk assessment, planning and team building with practical skills in sandbagging, organizing food and water, notification (door knocking) protocols, preparing school and home exit plans, emergency bins, grab and go supplies, and pet planning. First Aid training and other certifications and introduction to fire and ambulance procedures may inspire some students to follow career training and all gained in confidence and pride at doing something real to improve their community. I was incredibly

inspired by the idea of mobilizing youth in this area. We know that students learn best when their studies are hands-on and meaningful. School District No. 71 has an excellent emergency preparedness program that focuses on core supplies, staff training, and support. I am hoping we can work with community partners to engage with youth in responsibility and delivery so they can shine in their communities and throughout our district.

I also attended workshops on trauma-informed practice in the classroom talking about racism, with Eric Wong, FNEHC Health Education Coordinator. He shared his work since the first anti-racism toolkit developed by FNEHC nearly 20 years ago changes over that time and how we can effectively teach and practice anti-racism behaviours today. I will share the presentation slides and found it a useful framework for working together on the ReconciliAction goals we have. I know our educational colleagues will be putting their learning experiences into practice in our classrooms and will share with us all to enhance School District No. 71's effectiveness in meeting the needs of every student. We can be so proud of our graduation rates for Indigenous students and all students; we cannot rest too comfortably; we must address the challenges in supporting the outstanding 14%. Many factors are outside of a school district's mandate, but we know that through partnerships and innovation, together, we can do the work that every student deserves.

I am sure Trustees Hawksby and Howe join me in expressing gratitude for the opportunity to attend the conference and share with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila McDonnell

Sheila McDonnell
Trustee

TO: Board of Education

DATE: December 17, 2019

FROM: Janice Caton, Trustee

RE: BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Trustee Academy

I attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy in Vancouver on November 28-30, 2019. The theme was *Growing Together - Planting the Seeds for Inclusion*. I also attended several board governance sessions on best board practices and introduced the speakers to the following two sessions - presentations from the Ministry of Education on strategic planning and implementation along with the presentation on the Pathways to Hope, understanding B.C. Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

We also heard from Severn Cullis-Suzuki who spoke about educating our students for a changing world. I had the pleasure of speaking with Severn Cullis-Suzuki after her presentation and we discovered positive ways to include students and the community in understanding and advocacy for environmental stewardship.

I, along with trustee Joe Thorne from the Cowichan School District introduced a motion at our Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) brand meeting to be brought forward to the BCSTA AGM. The motion is that BCSTA create a Student Advisory Group as we believe that student voices need to be heard. The motion passed with close to 100 percent support. This motion will come to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting next April for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Caton

Janice Caton
Trustee

TRUSTEE REPORT

TO: Board of Education **DATE:** December 17, 2019

FROM: Tonia Frawley, Trustee

RE: British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) Fall Conference 2019

I had the opportunity to attend the British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) Fall Conference 2019 in Vancouver from November 21-22, 2019. This year's conference was focussed on transformative change in education and support of collaborative partnerships.

The highlight for me was the opening of the conference where the Blair Elementary Choir sang for everyone. Their teacher director spoke to the inclusivity of the choir. Those kids gave it everything they had; you could see it in the smiles on their faces and the movement in their bodies. A flyer was placed on all our tables with words from some the students as to why music is important for them. It is those messages that are valuable because it is our student's voices that must be listened too.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Frawley

Tonia Frawley
Trustee