

BOARD BUSINESS

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.



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT PROGRAM
COMOX VALLEY



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes,
December 15, 2020

Old Business: Follow-up on motion to hold students' spots in neighbourhood school or choice program for 2020-21 school year.

Board Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance** - Preliminary Budget Process
- **Facilities** - Disc Golf at G.P. Vanier; Lake Trail School Naming; LRFP; and Capital Projects Update
- **Policy** - Ad Hoc Committee

Board Business: Record of Affirmation - Inauguration of Trustee Area C, Cristi May Sacht

Correspondence: Comox Valley Regional District
Transit Service on Hornby and Denman Islands

BC School Trustees Association The Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding Report

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESENTATION / DELEGATION:

NANCY GOTHARD, POLICY PLANNER & TATS SETTA, MANAGER OF COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY, CITY OF COURTENAY

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
- KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
- FSA
- PRO-D DAY EVENTS

DISTRICT NEWS & SCHOOL STORIES

Video recording of meeting
on YouTube

STRATEGIC REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Kindergarten Registration

In response to the restrictions imposed by COVID, the annual Kindergarten Orientation Session will change from in-person to a digital event. Allan Douglas, Director of Instruction K-12, teamed up with Jacquie Anderson, Early Learning Lead Teacher, and District program of choice school administrators to create an information video detailing each of the kindergarten offerings. A virtual public Q&A session took place January 27th for families needing additional information or clarification. Kindergarten registration will be entirely online this year and begins February 1st.

Full details online at

www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration/

Pro - D Day Event February 12th

An all-staff participating collectively on MS TEAMS live with a focus around Truth and Reconciliation. The day includes:

- Welcome and acknowledgement from Nicole Rempel, K'ómoks First Nation Chief Councillor
- Messages of Support from Hereditary Chief, Wedlidi Speck
- Presentation with Mike Downie, documentary filmmaker and co-founder of the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF).

International Student Program

The District is operating at approx. 56% program capacity. We will host 65 new international students for the second semester. All measures are in place for students & host families following stringent guidelines by the Federal Government, Provincial Health Officer, North Island Chief Medical Officer, and our Health and Safety protocols for schools. Our District is one of 31 in BC to operate an ISP this year.

Foundation Skills Assessment

Background

- The FSA was introduced in BC in 2000 to test students in grades 4, 7 and 10 in the areas of reading, writing and numeracy. Grade 10 portion dropped and replaced with a grade 10 provincial exams in 2004.
- The FSA is a provincial assessment to evaluate student performance at these grade levels. The information was presented as a "big picture" provincial snapshot.
- The Fraser Institute uses the data to rank schools and this is the source of frustration as teachers, students and schools become part of this ranking.
- In 2016/17, Alan Douglas, Dir. of Instruction, chaired the Advisory Committee on Provincial Assessment (ACPA) committee for the MOE tasked to find a way forward for the FSA.
- The recommendation was to not allow government to share the data so the ranking of schools would stop. Government responded by stating it is public and open source information.

Analysis

- Duration to complete is approximately 3.5 hours for the 3-part assessment using a combination of multiple choice and open-ended questions.
 - The administration starts with a discussion before the assessment and a reflection after assessment completion.
 - FSAs are based on the BC curriculum, written by BC educators, administered by BC educators and marked by BC educators.
 - Results help determine how students are performing in each area of assessment.
- **Assessment administration runs from: February 15th to March 12th, 2021**
- **Scoring and score entry deadline: April 9th.**

DISTRICT NEWS



EOL WINTER RECREATION FIRST

A maiden voyage for a cohort of G.P. Vanier students participating in a snow study for their Environmental Social and Science 11 class. This was the first time a class was outfitted with snowshoes. The District has a class set of 30 snowshoes that can be booked through the **EOL website**. Many thanks to Serina Allison, District Lead Environment and Outdoor Learning Teacher for introducing a new seasonal recreation activity.

Act of Kindness by Cumberland Students



Port McNeil resident Roberta Bonora Day wrote a social media post stating she would not be able to celebrate her mother's 99th birthday at the Cumberland Lodge due to the COVID restrictions. So, instead she reached out to the community asking if they could send birthday wishes in her stead. Not only did Cumberland Community School staff and students respond to the call by writing lovely cards, a large cohort of senior students took their lunch break on a sunny January 15th to sing Dorothy 'Dot' a very special Happy Birthday outside the facility.

HR Launches 2nd Episode Sharing with Sheila



In the second episode of our new staff profile video series, Sheila Powell, HR Manager, chats with Amy Fountain, Education Assistant currently employed at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary. Amy suffers from a hearing loss and talks about the time when she first lost her ability to hear. Her experience has empowered her to support students who suffer from hearing impairment or loss.

"Obstacles don't prevent you from your calling, they prepare you for them." – Amy Fountain

NO - BLUES BROOKLYN



To combat **#BlueMonday**, January 18 as a day of seasonal sadness, Brooklyn celebrated a fun-filled theme day, *Tropical Funday Monday*. Each class was tasked to dress up in tropical attire to inspire positivity and a cheerful mindset throughout the day. The Brooklyn Ambassador Team and staff spirit leaders also challenged students to get as many participants in a class as possible. Don't *despair*, the entire school really got into the *spirit* of having fun!

SPOTLIGHT: LINK TRANSITION PROGRAM IN ACTION



Each month one District program will be profiled to showcase our innovative, inquisitive and inclusive approach to education. This month we profile the Link Transition Program (LTP).

LTP is a partnership with North Island College (NIC) and targeted towards students with special needs as they transition from Secondary School to adult services. The program includes focus on community access, work experience and healthy living, and is supported by a teacher, an educational assistance and a work experience program worker.

Through various workshops, site visits and guest speakers, students work on job readiness and employment skills, as well as increasing successful experiences as they investigate diversity within the community.

LTP also helps young adults to identify and familiarize themselves with community agencies such as the Advocacy Centre, transit system, employment services and public health services to increase their confidence and independence.

Since September, students have been involved in shopping, cooking, volunteering with LUSH Food Action Society, and partaking in outdoor recreation including snowshoeing.



Miracle Beach Young Readers



Miracle Beach launched a reading club in October to encourage students to read 20 chapter books. With help from the teacher-librarian, students chose books that are suitable for their reading level & interests. Ten students have successfully completed their first round. Staff are witnessing an increased level of excitement about reading, and many students have shown improvement in their reading ability in a very short time. To date, there have been over 400 books read – an overwhelming and unanticipated response from students.

