



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board of Education

Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

7:00pm

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
607 Cumberland Road, Courtenay, BC V9N 7G5
250-334-5500

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS - INNOVATIVE ♦ INQUISITIVE ♦ INCLUSIVE

Vision

An inclusive learning community that embraces diversity, fosters relationships and empowers all learners to have a positive impact on the world.

Mission

To inspire engaged, compassionate, resilient lifelong learners and cultivate a collaborative community together.

We Value and Believe In

Trusting relationships based on respect, integrity and ethical behaviour

A commitment to Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

Equity, inclusion, dignity, and acceptance for all

Global awareness and environmental stewardship

Innovation, creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking

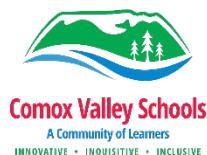
Accountability and shared responsibility

Open and engaging communication

Celebration of learning

Strategic Priorities

Educational Excellence
Community Engagement
Organizational Stability & Environmental Stewardship
Physical Health & Mental Well-Being



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
7:00pm

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

<http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca>

Alternatively, 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'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.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the March 16, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

3. Board Meeting Minutes

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the February 23, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

4. Old Business

None

5. Report on In-Camera Meeting

None

6. Board Chair's Report

7. Presentations / Delegations

- A. Building Connections for Valley Families Project** – Live via Zoom, presentation by Kris Johnson, Building Connections for Valley Families Coordinator for the Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative, and Joanne Schroeder, Connections Steering Committee Member & Director of External Partnerships with HELP (UBC)

8. Education Committee Meeting

No meeting in March

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: TBD
DATE: April 13, 2021
TIME: 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Zoom Meeting (live and recorded)

9. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

- i. District News** **Pg.20**
 - General
 - COVID-19 Update
 - Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA)
- ii. Huband Boundary Recommendation Update**

B. Assistant Superintendent

- i. School Calendars Update**

C. Secretary-Treasurer

- i. Preliminary Grant Funding Announcement**

D. Human Resources

- i. Retirements and Recognition** **Pg.22**

10. Board Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report

No meeting in March

B. Policy – Ad Hoc Committee Board Report

No meeting in March

C. Facilities Committee Board Report

No meeting in March

11. Board Business

A. Motion: Janice Caton, Trustee (City of Courtenay) – Briefing Note

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education to consider enhancing mental health services and education for all K-12 students and to provide school districts with the necessary resources and funding to support the students and teachers.

B. Notice of Special Public Board Meeting

TOPICS: School Calendars and Huband Boundary Recommendation Decision
DATE: April 06, 2021
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

12. Board Correspondence

None

13. Public Question Period

14. Adjournment

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
7:00pm

In Attendance Via Virtual Zoom Meeting:

Trustees:

Sheila McDonnell, Board Chair
Michelle Waite, Vice Chair
Janice Caton, Trustee
Tonia Frawley, Trustee
Kat Hawksby, Trustee
Sarah Jane Howe, Trustee
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee

Staff:

Tom Demeo, Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Hooker, Secretary-Treasurer
Geoff Manning, Assistant Superintendent
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Ian Heselgrave, Director of Operations
Esther Shatz, Director of Instruction (Student Services)
Allan Douglas, Director of Instructional Services K-12
Josh Porter, Director of Information Technology

Regrets:

Paul Berry, Director of Instruction (Health & Safety)

Recording Secretary:

Marlene Leach, Sr. Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Board Chair, Sheila McDonnell called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the February 23, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Board Meeting Minutes

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the January 26, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

CARRIED

4. Old Business

None

5. Report on In-Camera Meetings

A. In-Camera Education Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 09, 2020

- Other

B. In-Camera Meeting - February 23, 2021

- Other

6. Board Chair's Report

None

7. Presentations / Delegations

**A. School Food Programs – Live via Zoom, presentation by Maurita Prato, Executive Director of LUSH Valley Food Action Society.
Board Information**

8. Education Committee Meeting – February 09, 2021

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Education Committee Board Report as presented.

CARRIED

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: TBD
DATE: April 13, 2021
TIME: 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Zoom Meeting (live and recorded)

9. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

- i. District News**
Board Information

B. Assistant Superintendent

i. Proposed District Calendars

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education accept the draft 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 regular Calendars and Distance Learning (Navigate) Calendars for consultation purposes as the proposed calendars for the next school years.

CARRIED

C. Secretary-Treasurer

i. Enrolment Projections 2021-22 – Verbal Report
Board Information

D. Human Resources

i. Retirements and Recognition

None

10. Board Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report – February 17, 2021

Recommendations:

THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for 2020-21 in the amount of \$122,952,276 receive its first reading.

CARRIED

THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for 2020-21 in the amount of \$122,952,276 receive its second reading.

CARRIED

THAT the Board unanimously agree to suspend the requirements of the School Act to have the third reading of the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at a subsequent meeting.

CARRIED

THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for 2020-21 in the amount of \$122,952,276 receive its third and final reading.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

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

CARRIED

B. Facilities Committee Board Report– February 17, 2021

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve DDC upgrades for Brooklyn and Queneesh Elementary Schools. The funding for the project will first come from the Federal COVID-19 fund and the remainder from Local Capital Reserve, to a maximum of \$425,000 from the Facilities reserve.

CARRIED

Recommendation:

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

CARRIED

C. Policy – Ad Hoc Committee Board Report - February 01 and 22, 2021

Janice Caton, Trustee – Verbal Report

Board Information

11. Board Business

A. Board Committees 2020-21

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Board Committees 2020-21 schedule as presented.

CARRIED

B. Trustee School Liaisons 2020-21

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Trustee School Liaisons 2020-21 schedule as presented.

CARRIED

C. Notice of Motion: Janice Caton, Trustee (City of Courtenay)

The Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education to consider enhancing Mental Health services and education for all K-12 students.

Board Information

D. BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council Meeting – February 20, 2021

Janice Caton, Trustee - Verbal Report

Board Information

12. Board Correspondence

None

13. Public Question Period

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Board Approved on:

March 16, 2021

Certified Correct:

Brenda Hooker, CPA, CGA
Secretary-Treasurer

Sheila McDonnell
Board Chair



LUSH VALLEY



Presentation to

SD 71- Feb 23rd, 2021-
The power of our
partnership!

WHO ARE WE?

Vision: A region where healthy, local food is at the heart of community well-being.

Mission: We support the Comox Valley community in gaining food-systems skills and knowledge to increase food security, self-sufficiency, and local food production across the region.



LUSH VALLEY

DID YOU KNOW?

FOOD SECURITY

exists when all people, at all times have availability and access to safe, sufficient, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.



1 IN 5

20% of Comox Valley children experience poverty



31%

of Comox Valley Food Bank users are children



LUSH VALLEY

Food Action Society



Delivering 'Good Food Box' hampers by School Bus!



Good Food Box Program- Outcomes-(SD 71 Students and Families made up $\frac{1}{3}$ of our GFB Recipients) From April 8th, 2021- December 18th 2021; We supported approximately 200 households of SD71 students and families, with **3833 Good Food Boxes (each box is a week's worth of fresh food)!**

Good Food Box 2020 Stats

- Total "GFB units" distributed April-December 2020: 11,447 (one third of recipients are students and their families)
- Households served: 604, including 1567 people
- Waitlist 72 (From December)
- Partnered with 18 farmers, roughly \$150, 000 going to Comox Valley producers
- Partnered with School District 71, Indigenous Education, and many community agencies and organizations.

Healthy Student Meal Program

Serving 800+ students each week!





LUSH VALLEY



Local Food in Comox Valley K-12 Schools

An Aggregation Feasibility Report
and Business Plan

March 2020

Steering Committee

Steering Committee

- Arzeena Hamir, Amara Farm and CVRD Board Director
- Charlene Sieffert, Siefferts Farm Market
- James McKerricher, LUSH Valley and Butchers Block
- Shawn Thir, Executive Director, Courtenay Elementary Community School Society
- Gerald Fussel, Principal, Lake Trail Middle School
- Megan Cowling, Brooklyn Elementary and Regional PAC
- Carmen Wakeling, Eatmore Sprouts
- Karen Grober, Fiesta Greenhouses
- Bruce Carlos, District Principal Indigenous Education
- Jenn Meilleur, Farm to School BC
- Maurita Prato, Lush Valley Food Action Society (ex officio)
- Jill Hatfield, Regional Agrologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture (ex officio)

- **The Steering Committee met 4 times over the course of the project between October 2019 and February 2020**

Project Objective

To explore and assess opportunities for regional food aggregation in the Comox Valley to supply the K-12 school system and other potential markets.

The Project will support the Steering Committee to assess readiness for an aggregation initiative and, based on these results, evaluate options for aggregation models that could support economies of scale related to food storage, preparation, storage, distribution, transportation and small-scale processing for producers and schools in the region.

4 Recommendations

1. Establish an Organization-run Aggregation Model (LUSH Valley)
2. Operate as a Non-Profit Program
3. Develop and Grow Key Partnerships
4. Work Towards Securing Infrastructure





Comox Valley Farm2 School Coordinating Circle:

Draft Vision:

Food is medicine and nourishment. We celebrate the intimate connection between children, healthy food, community, culture, and planet. Local food is at the centre of our schools, integrated into all aspects of learning - in school yards, classrooms, farms, and Indigenous community.

Lens: We do this work with a focus on cultural safety, social justice, sustainability, and collective action toward Reconciliation. We are part of the global climate action movement.

Goals: Centralized School / Food Coordinator and Hub, 2. Food Programs at Every School 3. Food Literacy Curriculum Development 4. Community Supports for School Food

Having a regional food-system education coordinator would support these 4 goals



Coalition for Healthy School Food



- 140 non-profit **member organizations** in every province and territory
- Thousands of experienced and passionate community-based school food practitioners, Indigenous leaders and national health, education and philanthropic organizations

A National School Food Program for Canada

- Strengthen the health and well-being of students, their families and communities.
- Support job creation in agriculture, food service, construction and other hard-hit sectors.
- Support infrastructure and equipment such as kitchen and cafeteria retrofits, greenhouses and gardens, and the purchase of appliances and tools.
- A crucial support to families, especially women as schools reopen (similar to childcare).
- Take pressure off of the family budget and be a support for the millions of children and youth who are unable to access healthy food.



Next Steps- LUSH Valley and SD71

- We need more support for our 2021 Good Food Box program- which supports our local farmers and the local Economy and our vulnerable students and families. Would the SD enter into conversations on how to get more local food into classrooms/homes for students?
- Supporting School Gardens and Food Literacy in Classrooms- We will run a small pilot in spring 2021 with 4 school gardens, and are awaiting a final report from Farm2School. Will SD71 enter into conversation with LUSH and other partners regarding a regional food literacy coordinator?
- Would SD 71 be interested in support the Coalition for Healthy School Food (LUSH Valley is a member).



DISTRICT NEWS



Cumberland Forest Society creates guide for educators

A new K-9 Educator Resource Guide has been developed by the Cumberland Community Forest Society (CCFS) to support teachers and education program partners to share the story of the Cumberland Forest with students in our District. Tina Willard-Stepan, Facilitator and Environmental Educator for Cumberland Community Forest Society and Comox Strathcona Waste Management, was involved creating the new teacher resource package along with Meaghan Cursons, CCFS Executive Director.

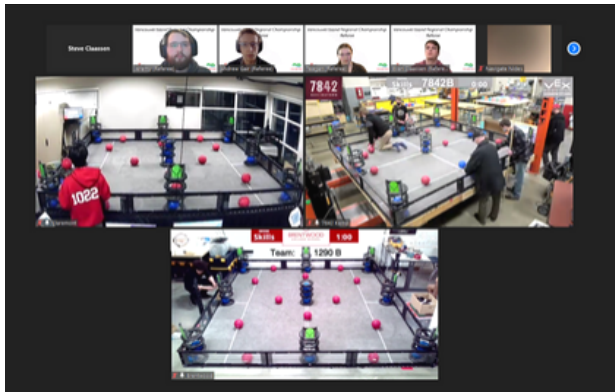
The goal is to encourage curiosity and connect more deeply to the land while learning about stewardship of natural spaces.

Read more about the resource guide at
www.cumberlandforest.com/cumberland-forest-educator-resource-now-online/



Vex Vancouver Island Championship

The District hosted the Vancouver Island Vex Robotics Regional Championship held virtually via Zoom March 6th. Among 20 teams, 7842 NIDES teams won three (3) of the four spots in the Robot Skills Challenge, as well as four additional judged awards. Winners advance to the virtual Vex Worlds, May 17 to 22 (usually held in Louisville, Kentucky in April).



Zoom screen capture of Robot Courts from Claremont Secondary in Victoria, Brentwood College in Mill Bay and Highland Secondary (NIDES 7842)

Full details of winning teams in our District News story online
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/valley-students-continue-their-excellence-in-robotics-in-virtual-tournament/>

Sharing with Sheila Episode 4

In this episode, Sheila Powell, HR Manager, sits down virtually with Carrie Dumont, Youth and Family Program Worker.

Each video in this new podcast series shines the spotlight on a staff member from one of our employee groups to highlight their unique contribution to support student success.



SCHOOL STORIES



G.P. VANIER RESURRECTS THE CINDERELLA PROJECT

A team of students and staff at G.P. Vanier Secondary School have picked up the torch to continue an important donation project to outfit graduates in style.

Known as the Cinderella/Prince Charming Project, the former community-run program is designed to ensure every graduating student in the District has access to special attire to make their graduation ceremony stylish, memorable and affordable.



The project aims to tackle the stigma attached to underprivileged students by giving everyone the opportunity to wear a gown or suit on graduation day without the financial challenges associated with purchasing a brand new outfit or having one special made for their milestone event.

The project was formerly operated by a volunteer community group with most of the clothing acquired from Carosel Consignment Store. Although Vanier will oversee the project, all graduating students in the District will be able to benefit.

"Anyone who wants to pick out a gown or a suite can and will be given the choice to keep it or return it," explained Kelley Giorgianni, Work Experience Coordinator and project volunteer. "Everyone deserves to feel the magic of this special day and we want to make that happen for all our graduates."

Read more about the project and how to donate or volunteer, visit the District news article online at

www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/latest-news/

James Fazeli-Sinaki, Mark R. Isfeld Grade 12, has won a \$5,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada, a charitable organization that recognizes secondary students who have overcome adversity and are pursuing a university education upon graduation.

When not studying to maintain his straight-A grades, James volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Courtenay. Last year, he was selected as a Rotary Youth Exchange Ambassador to travel to Italy, but unfortunately the trip was cancelled due to COVID. Read more details about James in the [Comox Valley Record article online here.](#)

ISFELD SENIOR WINS SCHOLARSHIP



James is one of three Vancouver Island recipients of a **Horatio Alger** scholarship. Learn more about the organization and the award online [here](#).

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Education

DATE: March 16, 2021

RE: Human Resources - Retirements and Recognition

Retirements

Debra Lovett, Science Library Clerk, Learning Resource Centre, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 20 years of service with the district.

Elizabeth Goodger, Teacher, Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 28 years of service with the district.

Gail Robertson, Teacher, Brooklyn Elementary, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 35 years of service with the district.

Marie-Christine Roberti, Education Assistant, Student Services, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 10 years of service with the district.

Marlies Tinkler, Teacher, Aspen Park Elementary, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 26 years of service with the district.

Nicole Deluca, Teacher, Brooklyn Elementary, will retire effective June 30, 2021 after 26 years of service with the district.

TRUSTEE REPORT

TO: Board of Education

DATE: March 16, 2021

FROM: Janice Caton, Trustee

RE: Motion

As indicated by Island Health Authority Medical Health Officers, Dr. Sandra Allison and Dr. Charmaine Enns during the COVID-19 Town Hall presentation on March 4, 2021, the impact of this pandemic on student mental health and wellbeing will take approximately ten years to overcome and deal with. In response to this information, it is important that the Ministry of Education along with school districts, ensure that the mental health and wellbeing of students and staff are a priority. This would take funding, resources and training. I am asking the Ministry of Education to fully fund this important initiative to help and support our students needs.

When we talk about mental health, we often refer to anxiety, depression and suicidal concerns. However, mental health is not only about those health issues, but also about other disorders that are likewise devastating for students and their families. The rise in eating disorders in younger children and adults is just one of the many serious mental health challenges children and young adults face today. Studies have shown that mental health affects children at younger ages. We need to develop mental health literacy and resources that will inform, support and encourage all students to ask for help when they need it.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education to consider enhancing mental health services and education for all K-12 students and to provide school districts with the necessary resources and funding to support the students and teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Caton

Janice Caton
Trustee