



Board Business



Collaboration in action at Cumberland Community School.

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.

Board Meeting Highlights – Nov. 23

Board Elections - Chair and Vice Chair positions, provincial committee representatives

Trustee Caton's tribute to Elizabeth "Bunny" Shannon

Superintendent Update - Everyone Deserves a Smile

Assistant Superintendent update – Growth projections

Secretary Treasurer Update - Cumberland Childcare and New Spaces applications

Trustee Hawksby's motion to acknowledge Truth and Reconciliation Week next September.

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No vaccine mandate for SD 71

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Trees planted by students at Mark Isfeld High School



Strategic Reports

Superintendent Report

Tom Demeo highlighted the work underway and coming for the 18th annual Everyone Deserves a Smile (EDAS). Led by a special student leadership club and a group of teachers at École Puntledge Park, beautifully decorated “envelopes of love” filled with woolen socks, toques, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, sugar cookies, and a hand made card will be provided to 1,270 people in the middle of December.

Due to the floods, the district has instituted a number of measures to reduce travel and fuel consumption. All sports games and field trips have been postponed until early December. (see more in news)

A reminder to make sure you are familiar with COVID-19 rules around travel and visiting locations that require the BC Vaccine Card. (see more in news)

Assistant Superintendent Update

Geoff Manning reported on some of the growth projections and trends expected for Comox Valley Schools. More growth is expected in the years ahead.

Secretary Treasurer Update

Brenda Hooker informed us that progress is being made on the Cumberland Childcare project and also on applications for more childcare spaces at Comox Valley Schools.

Tribute to Elizabeth “Bunny” Shannon

Trustee Caton acknowledged the passing of one of Comox Valley’s most passionate advocates for public education. Bunny was a trustee for 19 years and championed many important causes in our schools. We’ll miss her glowing smile.

Board Elections 2021-2022

Board Chair - Tonia Frawley
(Comox)



Vice Chair – Michelle Waite
(Area B - Lazo North)



Trustee Janice Caton and Trustee Sarah Jane Howe were declared BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Board representative and alternate, respectively.

Trustee Sheila McDonnell and Trustee Kat Hawksby were declared BC Public School Employers’ Association (BCPSEA) Board representative and alternate, respectively.

Thank you to Sheila McDonnell for your work as chair over the past year.



District News

Temporary Travel and Fuel Restrictions

The Province of B.C. has implemented two temporary emergency Orders designed to restrict non-essential travel in some areas and to prioritize fuel for essential vehicles. The school district is implementing the following measures for the duration of the orders:

- temporarily postponing games and sporting events at all levels
- postponing field trips (except for trips that are accessible via public transit or walking)
- postponing some in-person events
- conducting meetings online wherever possible (board and committee)
- re-scheduling school activities that require parents/caregivers to drive
- encouraging carpooling or utilizing public transit
- encouraging active school travel (walk, bike, scooter)
- continuing with in-school practices but encouraging carpooling and shared pick-ups

Holiday Travel Reminder

As we look forward to the upcoming holiday season and many people make plans for family visits and vacations, please familiarize yourself with the federal rules and regulations surrounding cross border travel. As part of the federal requirements, anyone who has travelled out of country and is not fully vaccinated, cannot attend a school setting for 14 days after re-entering Canada.

It is very important you are familiar with the specific rules pertaining to your family or child if you plan on leaving Canada on a holiday. It's important to note that rules differ depending on you or your child's vaccination status.

MINECRAFT CHALLENGE

Minecraft challenge extended

The deadline for the Minecraft Challenge has been extended until January 12 to allow students more time to complete their projects. We are hearing there are some serious projects in the works and can't wait to see them. Students have looked at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to choose a problem and craft a solution that may have an impact on our community or better yet, the world. Learn more at <https://learn71.ca/minecraft-challenge/>

Comox Valley Schools will not require proof of vaccination for staff

After consulting with health experts and thorough discussions at an in-camera meeting, the Board for Comox Valley Schools will not be mandating COVID-19 vaccines for staff at this time. The decision was made after examining local information, and consultations with the local Medical Health Officer and Vancouver Island Health Authority. Comox Valley Schools continue to operate safely and are low-risk settings.

Green Success at Lake Trail Middle School

One week of waste has been diverted from the landfill by Lake Trails students because of their new green stations. The school has created special sorting bins to facilitate the diversion.

Compost is being picked up by Earth Warriors Composting, and is supported by Leadership and Life-skills students. The school is making efforts to be as waste free as possible in collaboration with the Comox Valley Regional District.



Tree planting underway at Mark Isfeld High School

You might notice some new additions to the front of Mark Isfeld High School as efforts are underway to enhance the habitat and surrounding areas of the school. The Isfeld Environmental Club is leading the charge. The club is all about creating positive environmental change within our school and community. Their two biggest campaigns currently are planting trees around the school and implementing a school-wide compost system. They also volunteer almost every weekend with local environmental organizations, primarily Project Watershed, doing activities such as pulling invasive plants, transplanting trees and cleaning up trash.

