

BOARD BUSINESS

January 2022



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE



Old Lake Trail school fully demolished

The old Lake Trail school is now fully demolished. In late December, 140,000 pounds of salvaged material were taken away on transport trucks to be repurposed.

CREATING A LONG-TERM FOOD STRATEGY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

What makes an effective, sustainable food garden program? SD 71's director of instruction, Vivian Collyer has been working on the creation of a long-term food strategy. This involves extensive research into what makes an effective school garden learning program. There are many different pieces and components to food systems. Research shows school gardens need to be an authentic and relevant experience in order to thrive. One key question being investigated is how do we embed Indigenous ways of environmental stewardship into what we are teaching? There are many different opportunities but its important this makes sense at a local level. There are many things to consider as we aim to create gardens that are learning environments. SD 71 is currently engaging with researchers at UBC and Royal Roads universities to find out what sort of resources are needed to have a sustainable program. We expect to have an application package ready for schools to consider soon.



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

Update from new Board Chair
Tonia Frawley

Update from
Superintendent/CEO of Schools
Tom Demeo

Long-term food strategy update

SD 71 reviewing catchments for
Royston, Cumberland and
Courtenay elementary schools

School ventilation update

Board adopts Equity and Non-
Discrimination Policy

**WATCH
JANUARY 25
BOARD
MEETING**

BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board Meeting Highlights - January 2020



Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Tonia Frawley

As we were wrapping up the holiday season, the province was faced with an extension of one week for the students to return to school. With all hands-on deck, our school district once again stepped up to the plate. Although, this may have been challenging on our families and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding. During this time our SD71 team came together to meet, discuss, plan, and implement what the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Orders required of us to ensure that the educational needs and safety of our students and staff were met. We have all learned some new terms along the way and will continue to revisit our working documents.

We all need to continue to work and collaborate, to calmly listen to each other and be kind to one another. We will be stronger as a school district and community because of it. We will get through these challenges together.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

As we begin the new year, there is a lot of great news and interesting developments from around the district. The beginning of the year has been challenging, with the delayed start of in-person learning and the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to impact how we operate our schools. Thankfully, so far, SD 71 is operating safely with all schools open for learning with enhanced protocols in place that were adapted as we deal with the omicron variant. We have worked to create a three-stage process for if we do have to move into a functional school closure and our HR team has been working tirelessly to keep teachers, EAs and supports available for students. This month, we have Kindergarten registration opening for incoming students and there are a variety of orientation opportunities available for families and caregivers.

We have the Royston-Courtenay Elementary Boundary Review underway and we are working to compile comments for the Board to consider, as well as answering incoming questions on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed the many thoughtful and insightful comments and questions. We'll have more information for families soon.



JANUARY 2022

BOARD BUSINESS

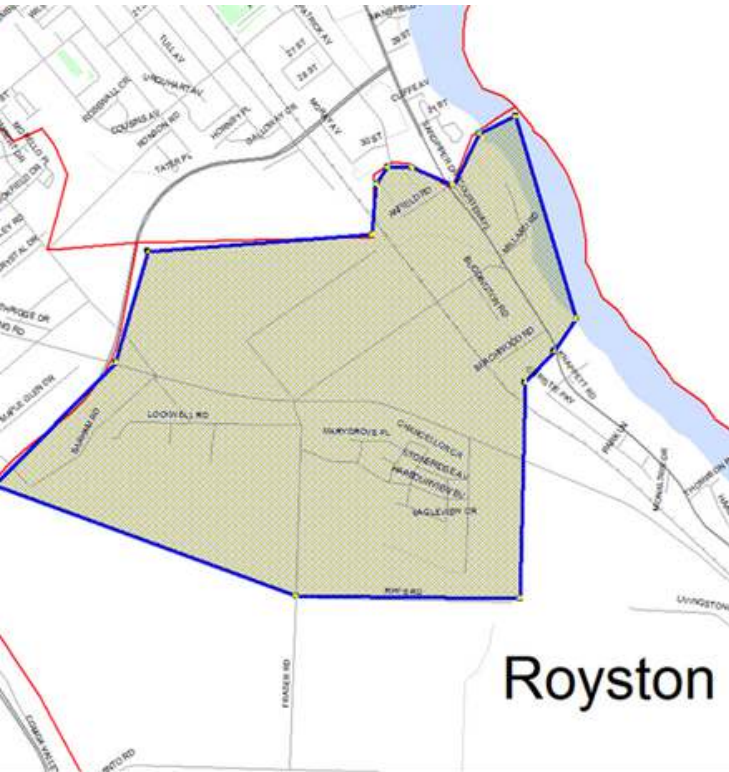
Board Meeting Highlights - January 2022



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE



Boundary Review Feedback Process

Comox Valley Schools is currently exploring a possible boundary adjustment that shifts the Courtenay Elementary catchment boundary further south (including parts of Fraser Road, Comox Logging Road, South Island Highway and Ridge development).

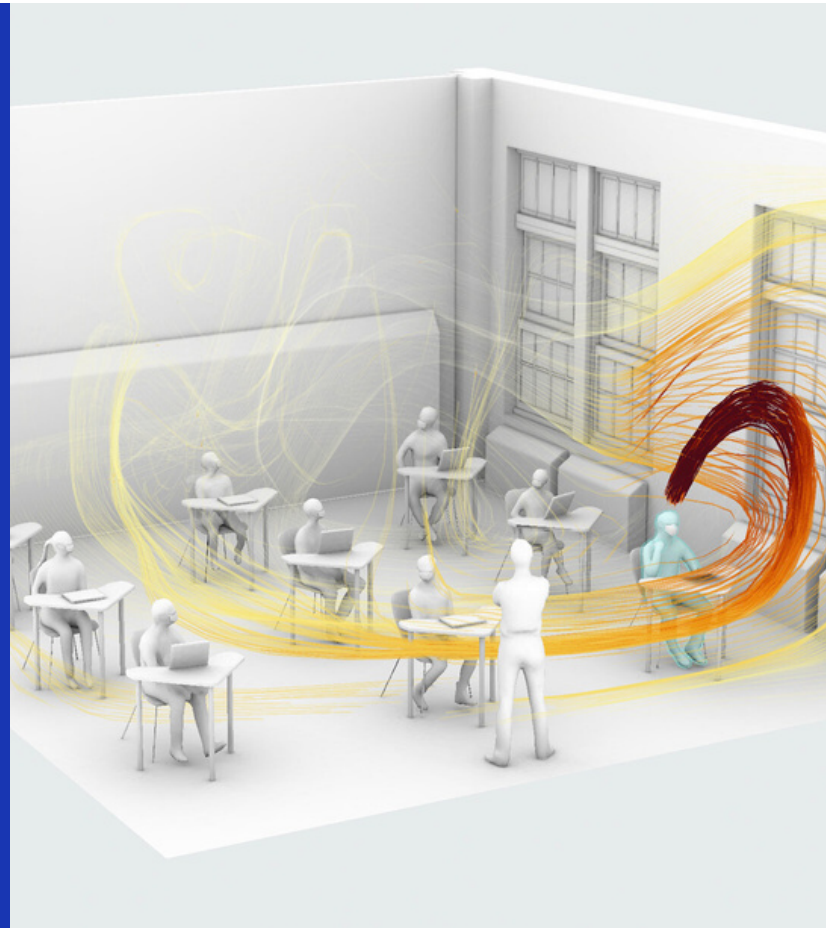
This change would mean some residents within the Royston Elementary School catchment area would change to be within the catchment area for Courtenay Elementary School. This catchment boundary shift would impact approximately 40 students from 15 families at this point in time. Courtenay Elementary has space for more students with enrolments currently under capacity. This is a longer-term solution that will lead to more balanced enrollments amongst district elementary school.

Information and the [FAQ](#) can be accessed on our website.

Ventilation updates and improvements

Good ventilation in classrooms is an important component of providing a safe learning environment and protection from communicable disease. SD 71 has been updating school ventilation systems – the building controls (DDC system) in all schools have been updated throughout the district to the most modern standard. Every classroom in the district has a dedicated unit ventilator that provides fresh air to the classroom. We have increased maintenance and monitoring of systems – HVAC filter changes are being conducted at twice the normal rate. This fall, we started a trial using units with HEPA air filters and we have initially ordered 100 at a cost \$100,000.

We've selected a unit that is being deployed into classrooms where there is a demonstrated need based on the lack of windows, air flow etc. We are also looking at some new technology that may enable us to make our current filters even better.



BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - January 2022



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

All are welcome here



SD 71 Adopts Equity and Non-Discrimination Policy

The Comox Valley Schools Board of Education has voted to adopt an Equity and Non-Discrimination Policy with the goal of having schools in the district equitable for all and free of discrimination.

The new policy has been guided by the work of a special ad hoc committee that was established at the request of the board in December 2020. The committee worked in conjunction with the education policy committee on creating the language that formed the original draft of the policy. In June 2021, the board passed a motion to have the draft policy circulate to all partner groups and community for feedback.

We held several months of engagement with education and community partners and this policy has been well received. We will be working on developing new administrative procedures that will determine how the policy is enacted and implemented in the district. Once again we'll be considering the feedback we received from partners as we create procedures to roll-out the policy in schools.

The policy follows the letter and spirit of the Canadian Humans Rights Act, B.C. Human Rights Code, the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the B.C. Multiculturalism Act. These Acts shall be observed, supported, and enforced, so that all members of the SD 71 community may work together in an atmosphere of respect where differences are honoured.

"We are very grateful for the efforts of the special committee, education policy committee, district staff, and many education partners who helped create this important policy for Comox Valley Schools," said Tonia Frawley, Board Chair for Comox Valley Schools. "It's essential that all students and staff in SD 71 attend schools and school related events that are equitable for all and are free of discrimination."

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools is committed to inclusive, equitable treatment and opportunities for all individuals throughout the system. Comox Valley Schools staff will begin implementing the new policy in spring 2022.

We would like to thank the many community and school partners who contributed their feedback and insight into this important policy.

The Equity and Non-Discrimination policy as adopted by the Board on January 25 can be [seen here](#).

BOARD BUSINESS

January News



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE



Arden Elementary to be one of 12 Active School Travel Pilot Programs in B.C

Arden Elementary is among 12 schools across the province taking part this year in the Active School Travel Pilot Program.

The Program is designed to increase the number of students using active transportation, such as walking or biking, in their daily commute between home and school.

Schools in the program receive up to \$10,000 in cash funding to support participation in the pilot and implementation of Active School Travel projects, and access to in-kind capacity building supports and resources from a team of public health practitioners, community planners, researchers, and evaluation experts at BC Healthy Communities.

Several other SD 71 schools currently have active travel maps on our website: Aspen Park Elementary, Brooklyn Elementary, Cumberland Community School, Huband Park Elementary, Ecole Puntledge Park, Ecole Robb Road Elementary and Valley View Elementary.

Special Indigenous Focused Pro-D Day Feb 18 -- Beyond The Poster On The Wall --

There is an exciting opportunity for SD 71 teachers and staff on February 18th, when a district wide Indigenous education focused Pro-D day will take place. Jo Chrona will be the keynote speaker for the all-staff morning session on TEAMS Live. Jo is an educator with over 20 years experiences teaching in both the K-12 and post-secondary systems in British Columbia.

In this session we will briefly examine:

- What educational experiences look and sound like when they are grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning.
- How Indigenous knowledges/perspectives enhances learning for all.
- How this work is also anti-racist education.
- How we disrupt narratives of deficit
- What might be next steps in our own learning

Schools will then be participating in two modules available district wide or will create their own session focusing on Indigenous education.



BOARD BUSINESS

January News



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Post-secondary in opportunities Grade 12

Dual Credit Academic and Trades students are starting to transition into their next steps. Students from all Comox Valley schools can register in first year courses and/or a program to gain experience, knowledge and skills as they prepare to graduate.

Some of the Trades students will also be graduating early, heading out to work with local businesses accruing apprenticeship hours that they use towards their Red Seal trades ticket.

Dual Credit Academics

- English
- Business
- Health Care Assistant
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Office Administration
- Criminology
- Biology
- Psychology

Dual Credit Trades

- Carpentry Foundations
- Electrical Foundations
- Plumbing/Pipefitting Foundations
- Auto Mechanical Foundations
- Welding Foundations

These courses are transferable to most other institutions and are commonly required for a student's first year at college / university.

*Students may take any course at NIC or VIU as long as they meet the pre-requisites and the courses align with the students' career interests.

Dual Credit Academic parent night on Wednesday, January 26th, at 7:00pm via Zoom

At this session we will discuss:

- Sponsored tuition in a college or University program
- Planning your grade 12 year to include dual credit
- Entrance requirements for classes and programs
- Transitioning into full time studies or another institution for the following year
- Early Childhood and Health Care Assistant programs
- Office Administration Opportunities
- General study course offerings
- And more



BOARD BUSINESS



January News

Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

SD 71 PAC - Promoting Peer Social Competence

comoxvalleyschools.ca for more details

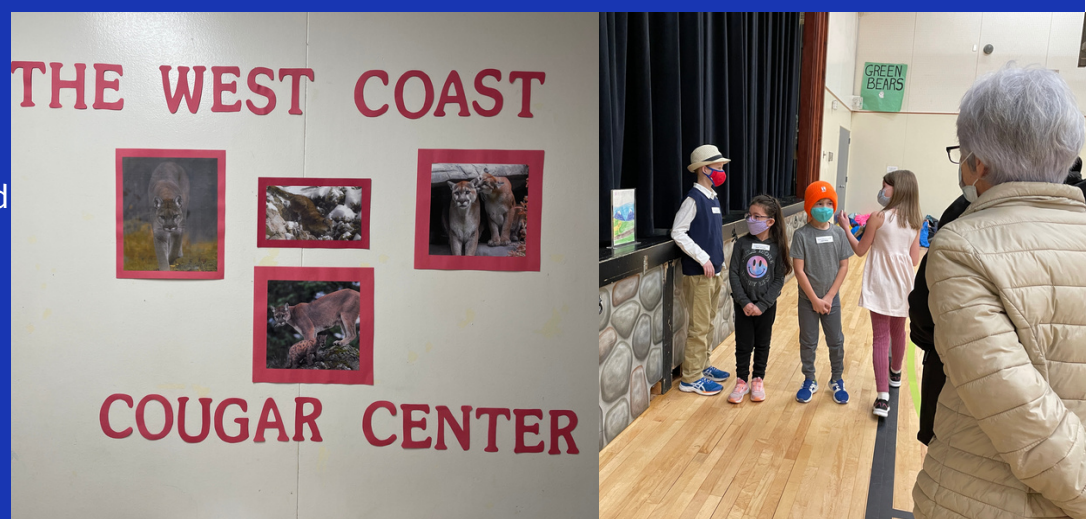
SD71 DPAC welcomes back Christopher Burt to present: Promoting Peer Social Competence. Peer social competency, or the ability to engage and manage friendships, is a key skill first learned during the preschool years. For school-aged kids, this is further developed mostly through learning emotional regulation skills.

This seminar helps parents/caregivers understand the next stage in kids developing peer social competency and gives suggestions on how they can support their school-aged kids hone these skills.



Cougar Talks in Royston

Royston Elementary grade 2/3 teacher, Ms. Sirrs hosted a fantastic celebration of learning with her grade 2/3 class when they presented the West Coast Cougar Centre. The children are cougar experts indeed and could show us how high and how far an adult cougar can jump, as well as how to stay safe around cougars. Families were invited to ask questions and share their learning experiences with the student experts.



JANUARY 2022

BOARD BUSINESS



January News

Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Kindergarten Registration for 2022-2023

Kindergarten registration is now open as of January 24th for programs of choice. Registration for neighbourhood schools opens January 31st. Navigate Fine Arts eCademy opens February 24th and Compass registration opens March 3rd.

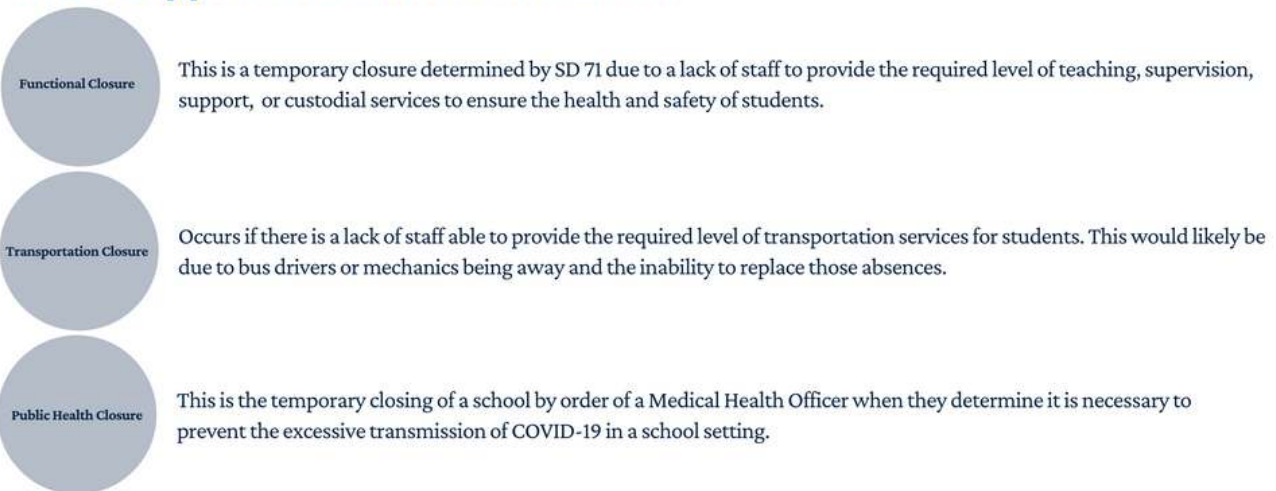
Information about the various program options and a handy orientation video is on the student registration website at www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration/



SD 71 School Closure Protocol

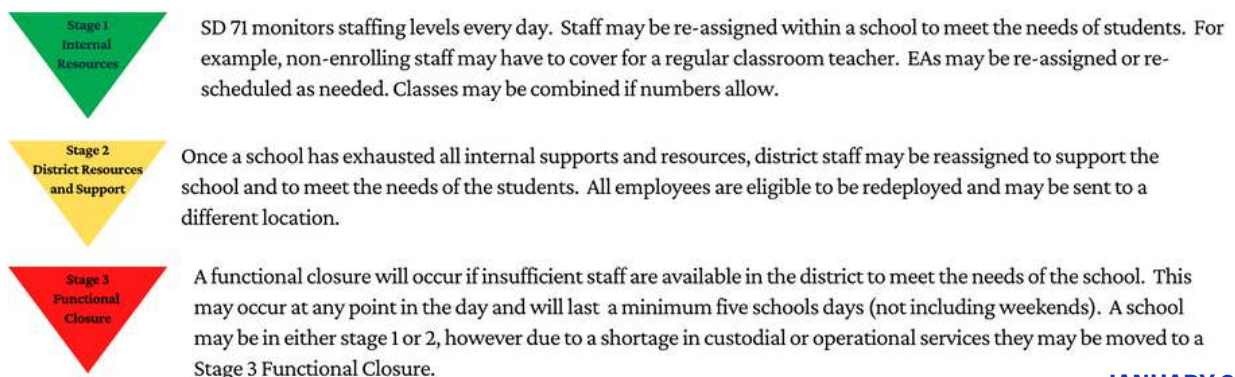
Comox Valley Schools is prepared to close schools if needed and a school closure protocol has been developed based on direction school districts received from the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education. So far, no schools in SD 71 have had to close since the January 10 return to in-person learning.

Three types of school closures



Functional Closure Process for SD 71

In the event of a functional closure, all available staff work remotely either from home or from a school site. All students learn remotely from home. A functional closure could last an indeterminate amount of time, but will be a minimum of 5 school days (not including weekends). SD 71 has a three stage process for moving into a functional closure.



JANUARY 2022