



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board of Education

Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday,
March 15, 2022**

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

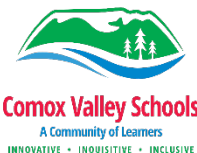
Accountability and shared responsibility

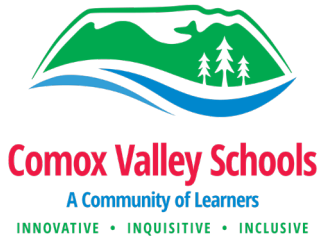
Open and engaging communication

Celebration of learning

Strategic Priorities

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





REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
7:00pm

Attendance In-Person & Zoom:

Trustees:

Michelle Waite, Vice Chair
Sheila McDonnell, Trustee
Janice Caton, Trustee
Kat Hawksby, Trustee
Sarah Jane Howe, Trustee
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee - Via Zoom

Staff:

Tom Demeo, Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Hooker, Secretary-Treasurer
Geoff Manning, Assistant Superintendent
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Ian Heselgrave, Director of Operations
Sean Lamoureux, Director of Inclusive Education
Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction
Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction
Shaun Jones, Acting Director, Information
Technology

Regrets: Tonia Frawley, Board Chair

Recording Secretary: Heidi Bell, Sr. Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Michelle Waite called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation.

2. Adoption of Agenda

1 item added to the Board Standing Committee Reports

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the March 15, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

[Caton/Howe]

CARRIED

3. Board Meeting Minutes

Pages 1-7

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the February 22, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

[Howe/Hawksby]

CARRIED

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. Record of In-Camera Meetings / Reports

Page 8

- February 22, 2022 – Regular In-Camera Board Meeting

6. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair, Tonia Frawley sent her regrets. The Vice Chair, Michelle Waite extended her gratitude to the district, staff, and students who participated, attended, and supported the District Musical. The SpongeBob Musical was presented live and via Zoom on March 8-12, 2022. It was a specular event and enjoyed by all.

Staff and trustees met with both MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard and MLA Josie Osborne and engaged in meaningful conversations.

7. Presentations / Delegations

None

8. Education Committee Meeting - March 8, 2022

Pages 9-10

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the Education Committee Report as presented.

[McDonnell/Howe]

CARRIED

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: TBA
DATE: April 12, 2022
TIME: 6:30 pm
LOCATION: TBA

9. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

i. District News – Verbal Update

- Since September, SD71 as a district has raised over \$15,000 for several causes, some examples are:
 - Miracle Beach raise \$3361.00 for Ukraine
 - Huband Park raise \$1200 for Habitat for Humanity
 - Cumberland Community School raise \$1042.85 for local homelessness
 - Mark R. Isfeld raised \$9014.67 for Terry Fox the second highest donation in BC

- Mark R. Isfeld hosted the grade 7 year-end basketball tournament
- 3 graduating basketball players, Emma Warren, Meghan Linegar and Reese Douglas have been selected to participate in the North Island girls grade 12 all-start team
- Skills Canada was held at Vanier Secondary on March 12. There were 250 competitors in 16 different events, from 19 schools in four school districts. Senior event gold medal winners from SD71 were Caleb Elsasser (Vanier) in the automotive event and Austin Harris (Highland) in the electronics event. Both are now going to the Skills Canada provincials
- A number of Youth apprentices from SD71 received \$1000 awards
- Isfeld grad and Explore student, Rio Crystal, won the Arctic Ultra endurance test, which began outside of Dawson city and ended at the Arctic Circle. Rio was the youngest competitor in the race.
- Principal, Lucinda Wolters was the featured member in this months Principled Magazine – the BCPVPA’s magazine. The article speaking to “Day in the Life” and can be found on SD71’s Twitter and Facebook pages

ii. COVID-19 Protocols Update – Director of Instruction, Jay Dixon

Director Dixon gave an update on the before and after Spring Break changes to the COVID-19 protocols in the district.

iii. New Graduation Requirement - Director of Instruction, Jay Dixon

As part of the provinces commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Anti-Racism the Ministry of Education has implemented an Indigenous focused graduation requirement. Secondary students will be able to meet these new requirements through a variety of existing course offerings and some new course options. This will have a phased in approach that will come into full effect in the 2023-2024 school year.

iv. Transition Plan – Director of Instruction, Vivian Collyer

On March 8, 2022, a Transition Plan meeting was held at Courtenay Elementary. It consisted of school teams from Royston and Courtenay Elementary, Principals and Vice-Principals from both schools, parent representatives from both schools, classroom teachers, counselors, LST’s and support staff.

Discussion and a fluid plan were created to help students and families in their transition from Royston Elementary to Courtenay Elementary.

B. Assistant Superintendent

i. Cross Boundaries

Cross boundaries were held the whole month of February this year. Normal requests are around 200 applications with a 50% Elementary and 50% Secondary split. This year we had a total of 73 requests, 80% were from

elementary. Decisions on cross boundaries are expected to be delivered in mid-April.

ii. Graduation

Graduation will go back to a regular grad ceremony.

Highland Secondary – May 28th @ The Filberg

Vanier Secondary – June 25th @ Outdoor Fairgrounds (weather permitting)
or alternatively the Comox Valley Sports Center

Mark Isfeld Secondary – June 18th @ school field

Glacier View Secondary Centre – June 23rd, 1:00 pm at Simms Millennium Park

C. Secretary-Treasure

i. Funding Announcement

On March 11th the Ministry held their funding announcement. The funding formulas and per student allocations have not changed. The Classroom Enhancement Fund and the Annual Facility Grant are also unchanged. Due to student growth, the district has seen an 8% increase in bricks and mortar schools in the past 3 years. With the projections we have submitted to the Ministry the approximate operating fund revenue is estimated at 100.1 million.

D. Human Resources

i. Retirements and Recognition

None

10. Board Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report – No meeting in March

i. Notice of Motion – Establishing a onetime trustee memorial bursary in honour of Bunny Shannon

Staff will prepare a Briefing note and recommendation at the Aprils Public Board meeting.

Janice Caton, Trustee

B. Policy Committee Board Report – March 7, 2022

Pages 11-12

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the Policy Committee Board Report as presented.

[Hawksby/Howe]

CARRIED

C. Facilities Committee Report – No meeting in March

11. Board Business

A. Formal Acknowledgement of Climate Crisis

Pages 13-17

Trustee McDonnell spoke to her recommended motion pertaining to a formal acknowledgement of climate crisis.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) recognizes that there is a global climate crisis and that we have a shared responsibility to reduce our GHG emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. To that end, we refer the matter to the Superintendent to consider next steps for consideration at our June Board meeting.

[Caton/May]

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

B. VISTA - Janice Caton, Trustee

Trustee Caton opened with an acknowledgement of Elder Fran Prince. Elder Fran always attended the VISTA meetings and honoured us with an opening blessing. Elder Fran Prince recently passed, and VISTA would like to acknowledge Elder Fran, the K'ómoks First Nations and the Indigenous community for lose she will be dearly missed.

Trustee Caton gave an update on the VISTA Branch Business meeting, which was held on March 5, 2022.

12. Board Correspondence

A. Correspondence: from **Adriana Proton, Deputy Corporate Office, City of Courtenay** to **Brenda Hooker, Secretary Treasurer, School District 71 (Comox Valley)** – Courtenay City Council Resolution – Letter of Support for the Ministry of Children and Family Development Childcare New Spaces Applications.

Page 18

B. Correspondence: from **BCSTA** to **Board Chairs and Secretary Treasurers**
The Board Chair, Secretary Treasurer and the Director of Operations will complete this survey by April 8, 2022.

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13. Public Question Period

None

14. Meeting Adjourned – 8:45 pm


MOTION:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn this meeting.

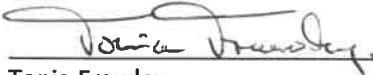
[Howe/May]
CARRIED

Board Approved on:
April 26, 2022

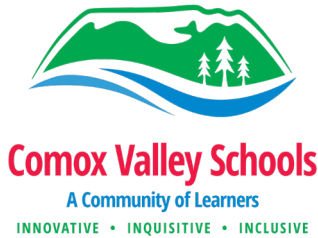
Certified Correct:



Brenda Hooker, CPA, CGA
Secretary-Treasurer



Tonia Frawley
Board Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
7:00pm

Attendance via Zoom:

Trustees:

Tonia Frawley, Board Chair
Michelle Waite, Vice Chair
Sheila McDonnell, Trustee
Janice Caton, Trustee
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee
Kat Hawksby, 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
Sean Lamoureux, Director of Inclusive Education
Vivian Collyer, Director of Instruction
Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction
Shaun Jones, Acting Director, Information
Technology

Regrets: Sarah Jane Howe, Trustee

Recording Secretary: Heidi Bell, Sr. Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

1 item added to Board Business

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the February 22, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

[May/Hawksby]

CARRIED

3. Board Meeting Minutes

Pages 1-10

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the January 25, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

[Waite/May]

CARRIED

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the February 15, 2022, Special Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

[Waite/May]
CARRIED

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. Record of In-Camera Meetings / Reports

Page 11

- January 25, 2022 – Regular In-Camera Meeting
- February 15, 2022 – Facilities In-Camera Committee of the Whole Meeting

6. Board Chair’s Report

Page 12-13

The Board Chair gave a short overview of her written Board Chair Report.

7. Presentations / Delegations

None

8. Education Committee Meeting

No Meeting in February

Next Education Committee Meeting:

TOPIC: Operations
DATE: March 8, 2022
TIME: 6:30 pm
LOCATION: TBA

9. Strategic Direction

A. Superintendent

i. District News – Verbal Update

- Denman Island Community School – Literacy Week. The whole school participated in a reader’s theatre in the forest, nature inspired puppets, practical literacy lessons including cooking and making playdough and a Drop Everything and Read Day.
- Elementary basketball season was very successful with a large turn out and support from stakeholders
- Cumberland Community School installed a new Gaga Ball court. This was a gift from a previous industrial ed teacher, Mr. Dave Munro
- Indigenous Education is launching an update of the Indigenous Education website

- Vanier Secondary - Aspire to Action class started a number of activism challenges, encouraging community involvement, leadership and social awareness while integrating English, BC First Peoples 12 and Social Justice
- Ecole Robb Road celebrated their Ecole Robb Road Olympics week. Classes were placed into 5 different teams, represented each by a colour from the Olympics rings. Constable Paul Jones joined the opening ceremonies and showed the students his Olympic torch, which he used in the movement of the Olympic flame
- Airport Elementary's grade 2/3 class built a Kindness Cart and delivered notes of gratitude and encouragement along with a snack to all staff
- Mark Isfeld Secondary had a special Valentine's Day – All staff and student arrived at school on the 14th, each having a personalized Valentines posted somewhere in the school. Over 1100 Valentines were posted for students and staff to find
- Mark Isfeld grad, Sydney Sunderland published a children's book titled: I Am Everyone In Between. An amazing accomplishment and testament to the learning and growth that can stem from the capstone process
- Queneesh Elementary started a 6-week reading skills initiative, the results were amazing and heartwarming and significant progress was made in such a short time
- Glacier View student, August Jones was chosen as the designer of the Pink Shirt Day. The theme for the shirt was, Be Bright, Be Bold, Be You!
- Mark Isfeld Secondary hosted the senior boys basketball Island Championship. The Isfeld Ice team finished the regular season with a 22-1 record and recently went on to win the triple-A North Island crown in Nanaimo. Isfeld is the fourth-ranked triple-A team in BC
- Vanier senior boys basketball team won the 4A North Island tournament and is competing in the 4A Island tournament at Mount Doug Secondary, Victoria
- Robotic71 teams continue strong showings and will compete for a coveted spot in the Vex World Robotics Championship in Dallas Texas in April
- Comox Valley School District Musical 2022 – The SpongeBob Musical, March 8-12. Tickets can be purchased on the CV Schools website
- Student distribution of COVID-19 tests are now being delivered to schools

B. Assistant Superintendent

i. Enrollment

As of Feb 22, the district has received 464 new kindergarten registrations and 89 additional registrations in 1-12. We are projecting 570 K's by the start of September 2022.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

i. Cumberland Child Care – Media Release

There was a media release last week regarding the Cumberland Child Care. The district is now looking at the design of the center and a RFP will be posted shortly.

D. Human Resources

Page 14

i. Retirements and Recognition

Board Information

10. Board Standing Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Board Report – February 14, 2022

Pages 15-52

2021-22 Amended Annual Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer walked the Board through the Board Report. Staff answered all questions.

Recommendation:

*THAT the 2021-22 Amended Annual Budget be given first reading
[Caton/May]*

CARRIED

Recommendation:

*THAT the 2021-22 Amended Annual Budget be given second reading
[Caton/Hawksby]*

CARRIED

Recommendation:

*THAT in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the School Act, all three readings of the
2021-22 Amended Annual Budget be given at tonight's meeting
[Caton/McDonnell]*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recommendation:

*THAT the 2021-22 Amended Annual Budget be given third and final reading
[Caton/Hawksby]*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recommendation:

*THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the
Finance Committee Board Report as presented.*

[Caton/McDonnell]

CARRIED

B. Budget Advisory Committee – February 15, 2022

Pages 53-65

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the Budget Advisory Committee Board Report as presented.

[Frawley/McDonnell]

CARRIED

C. Policy Committee Board Report – February 7, 2022

Pages 66-67

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the Policy Committee Board Report as presented.

[Waite/May]

CARRIED

Trustees discussed needing more time to conclude the Board meeting.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) extend the meeting up to 9:30 pm.

[McDonnell/Caton]

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Facilities Committee of the Whole Board Report – February 8, 2022

Pages 68-77

Presentation by Quinton Talbot-Kelly, Cornerstone Planning Group,
Kevin Reid, Real Estate Professional & District Staff

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed her briefing note and spoke to the financial history and proposed solution for solving the administration space issues within the district.

Quinton Talbot-Kelly gave a high-level, key findings presentation explaining the results of the Feasibility Study-Space Assessment.

Study Intentions:

- Identify space accommodation strategies to increase teaching space
- Decrease administrative service fragmentation around the region
- Address functional space challenges where feasible

4 options were presented to the Board, including the costing, assessment & recommendations for each option.

Kevin Reid gave an overview of the present real estate costs and protentional of 2448 Idiens Way, Courtenay. A purchase price of 1.72 M was agreed upon and considerable amount of time has passed since. There has been a significate uplift in the market since then with an updated market value of 2.5 M with the high potential of a sale within 90 days.

- i. Bylaw for the Purchase of 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay – Briefing Note

Recommendation:

*THAT the Bylaw for 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay be given first reading
[Caton/May]*

CARRIED

Recommendation:

*THAT the Bylaw for 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay be given second reading
[Waite/Hawksby]*

CARRIED

Recommendation:

*THAT in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the School Act, all three readings of the
Bylaw for 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay be given at tonight's meeting
[Caton/May]*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recommendation:

*THAT the Bylaw for 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay be given third and final reading
[Waite/Hawksby]*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recommendation:

*THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the
Facilities Committee of the Whole Board Report as presented.
[Waite/Hawksby]*

CARRIED

11. Board Business

A. Notice of Motion – Formal Acknowledgement of Climate Crisis

Deferred to March
Sheila McDonnell, Trustee

B. BCSTA Provincial Council Verbal Update - Janice Caton, Trustee

12. Board Correspondence

Page 78-79

- A. Correspondence: from Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education & Katrina Chen, Minister of State for child Care to Education Partners, Child Care Stakeholders, Providers and Operators – Accountability for Child Care Transitioning to the Ministry of Education.**

13. Public Question Period

None

14. Meeting Adjourned – 9:06 pm

MOTION:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn this meeting.

[May/Caton]

CARRIED

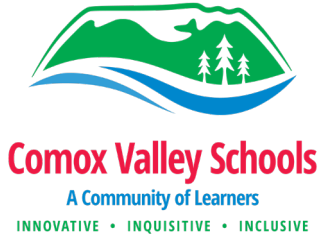
Board Approved on:

March 15, 2022

Certified Correct:

Brenda Hooker, CPA, CGA
Secretary-Treasurer

Tonia Frawley
Board Chair



Comox Valley Schools

School District No. 71
Office of the Secretary Treasurer

RECORD OF IN-CAMERA MEETINGS

TO: Board of Education **DATE:** March 15, 2022
FROM: Office of the Secretary-Treasurer
RE: Record of In-Camera Meetings

RECORD PURSUANT TO SECTION 72 OF THE *SCHOOL ACT*

Matters discussed and decisions reached at the Special and Regular In-Camera meetings held since the last such report:

February 22, 2022 – Regular In-Camera Meeting

1. Receipt of and updates on two land/property matters
2. Receipt of and updated on three other matters

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm and adjourned at 6:51 pm.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
BOARD REPORT

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Time: 6:30 pm
Venue: Maintenance Yard

Attendees:

Michelle Waite, Trustee
Sheila McDonnel, Trustee
Tonia Frawley, Trustee
Tom Demeo, Superintendent
Geoff Manning, Assistant Superintendent
Brenda Hooker, Secretary Treasurer
Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional, unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with their families and teach their children.

All things Operations in SD71

1. **Welcome:** Michelle Waite
2. **Presenters:** Ian Heselgrave, Dan Dagleish, Russell Roy, Renee Lanoix, Molly Proudfoot, Tree Murdock
3. **Ian Heselgrave; Director of Operations**
 - a. Ian gave a slide presentation that explained an overview of district operations. The presentation included everything from new builds to lawnmowing. He gave a good synopsis of the size and scope of the work and the budget considerations involved in running the operations department for SD71. A general overview on the planning cycle was included as well as a maintenance cycle for all of the buildings, properties and operations vehicles.
 - b. He also introduced:
 - i. Dan Dagleish: Manager of Operations
 - ii. Russell Roy: Manager of Health and Safety
 - iii. Rene Lanoix: Manager of Custodial Services
 - iv. Molly Proudfoot: Manager of Capital Projects
 - v. Tree Murdock: Sr. Admin Assistant Operations

4. Stations:

- a. Trustees were taken on a tour of the maintenance buildings and yard. The tour included several stations where carpenters, custodial personnel, electricians, plumbers and mechanical maintenance personnel spoke about their role as employees of SD71. The sessions were hands on and the trustees were given the opportunity to get some hands on experience with some of the tools and equipment that our operations staff use on a daily basis. Some of the topics at stations included:
 - i. Door hardware
 - ii. Safety and Cleaning supplies
 - iii. Fire Panels and Security systems
 - iv. Plumbing and "Eye" technology
 - v. Vehicle maintenance

5. Conclusion:

The evening concluded with a wrap up and trustees were encouraged to ask questions at each of the stations and at the conclusion of the session. It was a very engaging evening and trustees left with a better sense of the various facets of the operations department in SD71.

**POLICY COMMITTEE
BOARD REPORT**

Date: Monday, March 7, 2022
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Venue: Zoom Meeting

Committee Members:

Michelle Waite, Chairperson
Kat Hawksby, Trustee
Tom Demeo, Superintendent

Regrets: Janice Caton, Trustee
Brenda Hooker, Secretary Treasurer

Recording Secretary: Heidi Bell, Senior Executive Assistant

A. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Policy Committee and called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

B. Items for Discussion

1. Policy 25 – DRAFT Child Care and Draft Administrative Procedure 553 – Child Care Centres and Before & After School Programs

Draft Policy 25 was written based on the BCSTA template and the New Westminster Policy.

The Policy Committee Recommends:

THAT the Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the Child Care Policy as presented.

Draft Administrative Procedure 553 – Child Care Centres and Before & After School Programs was already written in 2019, but not approved by the Board. Due to the changes within the district since 2019 and the new Draft Policy 25 – Child Care this procedure is being revised. Should be ready by April’s meeting.

2. Policy Reviews

- a. **Policy 7 Appendix – Trustee Elections Bylaw**
- b. **Policy 8 – Board Committees**
- c. **Procedural Bylaws**

These Policies are being revised and reviewed by the Secretary-Treasurer. An update will be given at the next Policy Committee meeting.

3. Update on Administrative Procedures

The Superintendent gave an update on the AP's. The next phase will be worked on during Spring Break.

C. Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Via Zoom

D. Adjournment – 1:33 pm

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Shelia McDonnell
RE: Recognize Climate Change

DATE: March 15, 2022

Background

For more than 50 years, we have known that climate change, driven by increasing rates of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of fossil fuels, infrastructure construction, travel, resource extraction, industrial agriculture, and globalization, has caused an accelerating overall rise in temperature that manifests in extreme weather events such as wildfire, floods, droughts, extreme precipitation, rising sea-level and coastal erosion. The impacts are no longer remote – droughts in Africa, floods in Southeast Asia- but have been more than amply evident at home in 2021, with the Heat Dome, fire and drought, rains and flooding and extreme winter chill. As we have dealt with issues of global pandemic, residential school evidence, disturbing breakdown of democratic process in Canada and, now, the invasion of Ukraine and possible nuclear war, the Climate Crisis has come in and out of focus, but continues as the true existential threat for humanity.

On February 28, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest report

In it, the authors reinforce the message: *This report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction,*” said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC. *“It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks.”* https://www.ipcc.ch/2022/02/28/pr-wgii-ar6/?fbclid=IwAR0Mk-en99tHQ_hJr_GREphtDpiZZQTufC_oi93w_Cy99vE9dtdwdvOOLhQ

Environmental Sustainability is one of the key Goals for SD71 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. We have committed to “optimize infrastructure to support learning and to foster environmental stewardship”. The Goal highlights the two aspects of Climate-related concerns – operational and pedagogical- which need to be addressed together. Our district has taken many steps to reduce our environmental impact over the years. In the early 2010s, BC Hydro sponsored a seconded position that enabled us to review our operations and implement a plan to improve energy efficiency, replace aging furnaces with boilers, improve insulation, changing lighting and install timers and more. Constant improvements in energy efficiency are part of our operational work-plans and reported regularly in the Climate Change Accountability Report. The district undertook an environmental assessment of our school grounds, identifying opportunities remediation and for learning activities. We have outdoor learning spaces and school gardens. We have supported Active Travel initiatives and created an Environmental Studies stream with a part-time lead teacher position dedicated to supporting teacher practice in this area. One of the strengths of this program has been the persistent focus on Hope hand-in-hand with Collective Action- a message that must infuse all our learning and inspire our students.

Our District Annual report on progress made on Strategic Priorities lists many successes. But if we are to succeed, we need more than good stories. We require complete culture shift. We need to look at our entire resource stream; what is the carbon footprint of the things we buy, how they will be used and disposed of? What is their life-cycle, are there better choices? When we issue school supply lists in August, are we tracking the Locker-cleanout days in spring? Are we still land-filling paper, textbooks, buildings? We have pack-in, pack-out lunches- what is the real learning outcome for students and parents? We have compost pails, but what about the orange peel we just don't have time to put in there? We have environmentally-focused courses but are we pivoting to ensuring that all our students will have the core competencies and skills to adjust to the changing climate-economic scene. Are we reviewing all our offerings through the future climate-change imperatives lens? We have early adopters and enthusiasts, how do we engage the disconnected? If we are serious, we cannot make the change without every person making every decision count. Our core work is to foster student success, is there any point to continuing to graduate students if there is no future for them and their children? We are doing a lot. Are we doing enough?

Mobilizing our District to make significant progress on our collective responsibility is urgent. Our district has a stewardship role over significant areas of land and buildings in the valley. Our operations generate thousands of trips per day. The Valley cannot achieve the reductions that will make a difference to the climate threats we face without our whole-hearted, mindful commitment. Over the past year, as Trustees we have attended many meetings with fellow Boards and with municipal partners stressing the importance of working together to adapt, mitigate and prevent further impacts. The BCSTA has a Climate Action committee exploring actions for the education system. Many districts have passed climate resolutions, created policies, developed action plans, and allocated resources. The Sunshine Coast now has solar panels at every school, the Richmond Board recently passed a 3-year action plan, based on a year of research, discussion, and consultation. Our neighbours, SD69 Parksville- Qualicum, established a stakeholder committee, co-chaired by two Trustees to develop a Board policy, administrative procedures, and implementation plan.

This approach complements the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) initiative the Ministry of Education has introduced to all districts. FESL stresses the “shared commitment to support student success and equity of learning outcomes for every student”. It begins with a strong Strategic Plan, which SD71 has in place, and which guides our operations. The next step is to develop the implementation plan for each Strategic Goal - an informed, measurable set of strategies and targets with short and long-term priorities. FESL requires that plans and actions are inclusive and engage the range, breadth and diversity of perspectives and partners. We have a shared responsibility and can only achieve our outcomes if all the partners are fully engaged in understanding the issues, identifying the opportunities, “buying-in” to actions and ready to take responsibility. That means building a process from the start that includes representation from Trustees, Senior Management and administration staff, Principals and vice- principals, teachers, support staff, parents, and most importantly, the students themselves. FESL guides us to begin by gathering information, hearing ideas from partners and identifying the strategies that have support and indicators for success. This phase will put the district in a position this fall, with a new Board, to review the Strategic Goals, confirm the Implementation plan and then build alignment with the 2023 budget process. I know that this may seem like another weighty project added to the To-do lists of our Superintendent and his hard-working team, but I believe it is the ideal time to undertake the engaged, multi-stakeholder development of implementation plans at both district and school level in operations and educational practices. The process builds in capacity with informed and engaged

participants, who bring their expertise and connections to their partner-group, who will be ready to take action, build and promote shared action and reach out to the stragglers.

As a last piece of information, I refer you to the report I made to the Board in 2013. The information and suggestions made in the report still stand and are, if anything, more pertinent than ever. Let us not let the current opportunity be received and filed as well.

We have all been through difficult years and are suffering from “covid breakdown” and other strains. The Climate Crisis message can seem discouraging. Yet, all the evidence shows that the solution to despair lies in Collective Action. Elin Kelsey, environmentalist, and educator has brought her message to Comox Valley School. *“It is NOT too late if we get together and take action, NOW.”* ... (refer to her book: Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis). Mary Pipher, psychologist and author (Reviving Ophelia) sends the same message in her book The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves Our Collapsed Culture – based on her experience in organizing to fight the pipeline through the Bakken in Nebraska. Community, sense of place, meaningful work, potlucks – the secrets of moving forward together AND making the change we need for a better world.

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Board of Education SD71 (Comox Valley) recognizes that there is global climate crisis and that we have a shared responsibility to identify and implement tangible actions to achieve significant reductions in GHG emissions. To that end, we will establish a multi-partner Climate Action Taskforce to coordinate a process, to understand our current situation and to create recommendations of alignment with provincial, federal and SD71 strategic goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila McDonnell
Trustee

To: Trustees and Senior Management, SD 71 Comox Valley
From – Sheila McDonnell

Report on Meeting attended August 15 held by the City of Courtenay
CEEP- Community Energy & Emissions Plan Quickstart Workshop

Dear Colleagues

In August, I participated in day-long workshop by Dale Littlejohn, CEEP facilitator and a BC Hydro rep. CEEP is a planning exercise sponsored by BC Hydro to help communities understand and engage partners on strategies to meet Green House Gas Reduction Goals. I also participated in an hour-long introductory webinar on Aug 12. Other participants include reps from various municipalities, Wing 19 (the base), VIHA, and business. I found the meeting very interesting and felt it was unfortunately organized during the summer when our key staff people were unable to attend.

Courtenay and other municipal bodies were mandated by the provincial government in 2007 to set GHG (Greenhouse Gas) reduction targets. GHG emissions are directly linked to climate change and reductions through regulation, education, incentives and best practices, and changes in infrastructure and operations are urgently required. The CEEP program is intended to help us understand the magnitude of the challenge and explore how we can start to work toward the goals. As a major employer and operation, the School District must play a role in helping meet the GHG reduction targets for Courtenay and the other municipalities- we are major contributor within the area; in particular our physical assets have long-life implications for decision-making.

Courtenay's commitments, expressed in its OCP and the Regional Growth Strategy, are 20% reduction by 2020 and 2% per year thereafter. Based on assumptions of 1.9% Annual growth through population, Courtenay produces approx. 4000 GHG per capita and will need a reduction of 40% per capita. Unfortunately, since the targets were mandated our GHG emissions have grown, not reduced. Between 2007-2010, the population grew 3.9% and energy use grew 6.8%. The long-term goal is to reach 1 ton/person/year by 2050. If we continue as now, we will be at 4 tons/person/year. One Ton of carbon is a lot of energy! Reaching our targets for 2020 and beyond will require urgent, significant and focused change. Business as usual is NOT an option.

The CEEP process helps each community focus on opportunities to take action, identifying opportunities in all sectors and rating the results of different options. Over \$72 million is currently spent on energy community-wide. 60% of our emissions are vehicles, 27% in building and 13% in waste. Some of the possibilities include "Energy Diets" - social marketing to change patterns of use have proven quite effective with the public. Investments in local operations and projects toward carbon neutral buildings are common. Transportation is very significant- "mobility fuels" are expensive and high GHG so efforts to switch fuels (Comox now has electric cars and bicycles for staff use) and reducing trip distance can be good strategies. Shifting infrastructure to cycling and walking is important. Courtenay has 265 million light vehicle kilometers driven annually; a 10 of 20% reduction is significant.

http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/local_government_district/ps_communities/ceep/ceep_quickstart.html

In coming months, Courtenay move forward with the CEEP process to identify priorities. It is important that the School district engage with all the municipal areas in which we operate to help reach the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy. Emissions related to our operations are a significant part of the numbers outlined above and our collaboration on climate action will be needed. We will need to evaluate our operations and make changes in more dramatic ways than we have done so far.

What can the School District do?

Our partnership with BC Hydro began several years ago with creation of our district energy conservation position and we have made some progress toward reduction in energy use. We have installed solar panels on some schools, improved heat loss from buildings, installed motion/timers on lights. But we will need more to meet GHG goals.

Some interesting possibilities suggest themselves.

- Develop a sustainability Plan (as is mandated in one of our policies) to meet municipal goals. (Wing 19 has a newly established Sustainability Program with staff designated to manage it)
- Establish a ZERO Waste target and plan accordingly.
- Make Zero Waste mandatory at all schools and our operations. It must be more than the voluntary effort at a few schools.
 - o really check how many computers, freezers, fridges etc are left on all summer – or not needed
 - o increase recycling compliance- no more text-books in dumpsters) take the time to remove spines and don't landfill bond paper; monitor locker cleanout
 - o review school supplies list-
- Undertake transportation review and make trip reduction a goal
- Review district programs to see if more can be delivered at neighbourhood schools
- Reduce moving people around- use skype for meetings, remote links
- Assign staff to work at schools nearer their homes
- Look at 4-day week
- Share buildings and services with municipal and other partners. (Use Cumberland equipment in Cumberland, don't take lawnmowers to Hornby)
- Engage with partners in environmental management and make this a focus of education programs as well as operations

I am sure that GHG reduction does not immediately seem like a high-priority for running a school district. It may not seem to be the core function of education. Nevertheless, I came away more convinced than before that we must drastically remake our operations – for the sake our core function. There are potential savings from green investment, there are health benefits from many actions relating to reduced car-use. But ultimately, it is clear that climate change is real and is occurring even more quickly than forecast. There is no point in educating students for a 21st century future if there is in fact no future at all. And if we continue on a business as usual basis that is what will happen. There are many challenges no doubt, and it is not clear if there is political will or public interest in taking the necessary steps. But we are a learning organization, we understand science, and we care about the future of children. It is the right thing to do. We must grasp the critical nature of the issue and act.

In the short-term, I'd like to suggest several actions

- 1) Invite City of Courtenay staff to make a presentation about GHG emissions and the CEEP process
- 2) Participate on an ongoing CEEP Action group looking at strategies and priorities for GHG emission reduction
- 3) Request Senior Management to look at Zero Waste programs in place in other school districts and municipalities and report back on development of a plan.
- 4) Request Senior Management to review our Energy Sustainability plan and report to us on goals and priority actions.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

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March 7, 2022

File No. 0470-20

Comox Valley Schools
School District No. 71
Office of the Secretary Treasurer
Sent via email only: Brenda.Hooker@sd71.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Hooker,

Re: Courtenay City Council Resolution – Letter of Support for the Ministry of Children and Family Development Childcare New Spaces Applications

On behalf of Courtenay City Council, I am pleased to write you in support of the Ministry of Children and Family Development Childcare New Spaces Applications.

At its February 28th, 2022 meeting, Courtenay City Council passed the following resolution:

“THAT Council provide a letter of support for School District 71's Ministry of Children and Family Development Childcare New Spaces Capital fund applications for 150 total new childcare spaces at Glacier View and Arden Elementary.”

The City of Courtenay is behind this initiative and recognize the importance of creating additional childcare facilities at both Arden Elementary School and Glacier View School.

Yours sincerely,

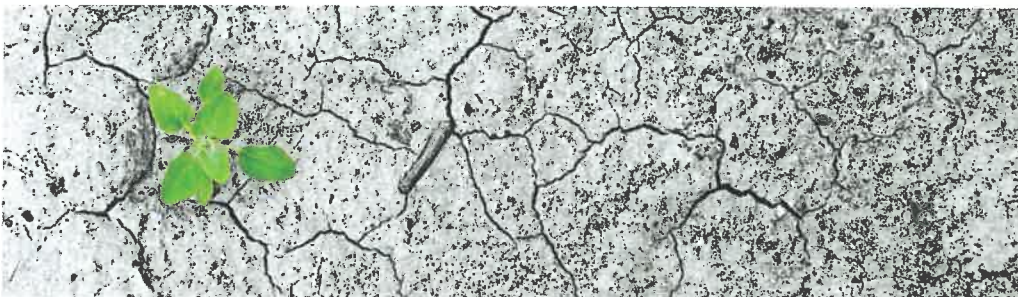
CITY OF COURTENAY



Adriana Proton
Deputy Corporate Officer



SENT TO BOARD CHAIRS AND SECRETARY-TREASURERS



Climate Change Survey

BCSTA's Climate Change Working Group would like to understand how your district has been engaged in climate-change initiatives.

The goal of conducting this survey is to review and document current best practices for lowering emissions in school districts across the province.

The deadline to submit your feedback is **April 8**.

Please ensure your feedback is submitted via [this survey link](#).

Thank you for your participation.

The BCSTA UPDATE brings you breaking news and reports for B.C. school trustees.