



BOARD BUSINESS

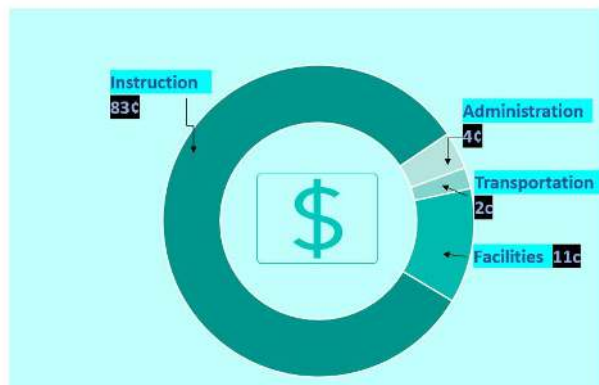
May 2022

Tipi teaching at Nala'atsi

BOARD PASSES PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2022-2023

Comox Valley Schools is fortunate to be in solid financial position thanks to some substantial growth that started in 2016, following several years of declining enrolments. The vast majority of funds the district receives goes towards supporting student instruction.

How each \$1 dollar is spent



Budget 2022-2023 features a small surplus and SD 71 is one of the few districts that is not projecting reductions in staffing or services for next school year. Trustees and Senior staff have worked very hard in past years to right-size and ensure the District is not in a structural deficit. Overall 2022-23 Revenues are estimated to increase to approximately \$105,987,327. Based on our preliminary staffing and cost pressures, SD71 estimates operating expenses to be \$103,202,327. As part of the balanced budget, \$2,785,000 in funding is allocated to purchasing Capital Assets and increase Local Capital Reserves for specific projects like portables. This budget is revised based on actual enrolment reported to the Ministry on September 30th. Grants are recalculated in December based on September enrolments. In February, the final amended Budget is submitted into the Ministry of Education.

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 Board Chair Tonia Frawley

Update from Superintendent/CEO of Schools Tom Demeo

SD 71 Budget 2022-2023

Grad 2022

Trustee Elections - Info Night

**WATCH
MAY 24
BOARD
MEETING**

BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board Meeting Highlights - May 2022



Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Tonia Frawley

It's been one year since the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children were discovered at a Kamloops residential school. These government-funded compulsory boarding schools were part of a policy meant to assimilate indigenous children and destroy indigenous cultures and languages. Some 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were taken from their families during this period and placed in these schools. At least 3,200 children died while attending a residential school, though advocates have said this number is likely much higher. Former TRC chair Murray Sinclair estimated some 6,000 children may have never made it home.

We are committed to reconciliation in the Comox Valley School District and will continue working to bring Indigenous perspectives into our classrooms, so that students can learn about the history and worldviews that shaped societies here in Canada for thousands of years prior to colonization.

I would also like to share my deepest condolences to the victims and families of the terrible shooting in Texas. This was a horrific event and we must do our best to ensure this never happens here.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

There continues to be a steady stream of good news coming in from schools in our community. It's been great to see many functions and activities occurring that haven't taken in place in-person in two or three years. I saw the smiles on the faces of participants in the district wide track meet recently and it was wonderful to see the many parents in attendance. As usual the most popular activity was the dunk tank, many thanks to the vice-principals and principals who took the plunge.



Brooklyn Elementary recently raised \$2300 -- exceeding their original target of \$800. Congratulations on this awesome event. The generosity of our school community continues to amaze me!



MAY 2022

BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - May 2022

Trustee Info Session coming in June

(Date to be confirmed)

Do you have a passion for education and a desire to help govern a public school district? Have you always thought of running in municipal politics? If so, you might want to consider running for election as a School Trustee Candidate!

On October 15, 2022 voters in BC will elect mayors, councilors, area directors, school trustees and others to fill four-year terms on municipal councils, regional district boards, school boards, and other public organizations.

School trustees sit on a board of education to govern a local school district through strategic planning, policy setting to support the strategic plan, and monitor student progress throughout their term. They represent the communities within the school district by acting as a collective interface between the public and school district management. Trustees operate at a governance level to ensure that the management of facilities and the educational requirements of students are provided in a progressive and educationally sound manner.

Comox Valley School will be holding an information session for people interested in becoming a Trustee. Stay tuned to our website for more details.

SD 71 Welcomes Ukrainian students

Several Ukrainian families have arrived in the Comox Valley and some students are now entering schools with the support of the district and community groups. Each student will have unique needs and the district is working to provide supports as they adjust to their new schools. There are 11 students here at the moment and they are participating in classes at varying levels. When this first happened ELL teachers worked to ensure translation supports were available and we've conducted language proficiency assessments to determine their comfort level speaking English. Our experience with International students does help us somewhat with this work welcoming and supporting these students. We'll add supports as they are required.



Graduation Ceremonies: 2022

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>If Outside</u>	<u>If Inside</u>
GP Vanier	June 25	3 pm	Exhibition Grds	Rink #1
Mark Isfeld	June 18	1 pm	Gym	Gym
Highland	May 28	2 pm	Filberg	Gym
Glacier View	June 23	1 pm	Simms Park	Gym
<u>Nala'atsi</u>	June 16	7 pm	Band Hall	Band Hall

BOARD BUSINESS

May News

SD 71 dominates Canadian Improv games

Comox Valley Schools have won big at the Canadian Improv Games! Highland Secondary School's entry into the Hybrid Senior Finals won first place in all of Canada! Congratulations to "Technically ...it's improv!" team members Olivia Parsons, Ava Bayers, Owen Valmorbida, Nicolas Costantino and teacher Lisa Williams on this amazing accomplishment! In the Hybrid Junior Competition, Mark Isfeld and GP Vanier's teams finished tied for first place overall, congrats to both teams for this incredible feat. SD 71 schools also took home three of the top four spots in the senior competition with Vanier placing third and Isfeld nabbing fourth place. The Canadian Improv Games is a loving competition between teams of high school students trained to perform spontaneous, improvised scenes. Teams compete in Regional Tournaments, all in hopes to attend the week-long National Tournament & Festival in Ottawa.

This year, the hybrid tournament was held online with teams competing from throughout Canada. Performances were filmed of the three local teams in front of a live audience in the Comox Valley. The finals were online this year with filmed footage.

First Place winners - Technically.....It's Improv

Olivia Parsons
Ava Bayers
Owen Valmorbida
Nicolas Costantino



Photo Credit: Josh Langhorn

GP Vanier hosts ADAPT injury prevention event

On the morning of Tuesday May 10, 2022, all grade 10 students took part in the ADAPT program at GP Vanier. ADAPT (Alcohol & Drug Awareness and the prevention of Trauma) Program is an injury prevention program that provides students with a realistic look at the impact of poor decision-making and the immediate and long-term consequences of trauma. Through the lens of health care providers, students follow the journey of a trauma victim from injury occurrence, to transport, to treatment. The program refers to real life scenarios and concrete ways students can stay safe.

The event included members of the RCMP, Courtenay Fire and Rescue, an ER doctor, a car crash survivor and paramedics.

The main presentation was held in the front drop-off area and first responders used the jaws of life to access a "patient" trapped in a heavily damaged vehicle.

As we head into summer, Comox Valley Schools would like to remind people to be extra careful when operating a vehicle. Please do not text or use electronic devices while driving and never consume drugs or alcohol before driving.





First Indigenous Rugby Day at GP Vanier

The first ever Indigenous Rugby Day in SD 71 was a big hit with participants as over 80 Indigenous students from Comox Valley Schools in Grades 6 to 8 attended for a day of skills training and flag rugby games held at G.P Vanier Secondary School.

Local Elder Fernanda Paré welcomed students and shared her inspirational story of recently participating in the Times Colonist 10K. Students were also welcomed by Elder Rick Peters (traditional name is Sitaluk) from Khowutzun Nation (Cowichan) who sang and drummed to open the event.

Players were divided into groups to start the day for a series of skill development drills lead by coaches from Rugby Canada, Thunder Rugby and support from Comox Valley based Rapids Rugby. After lunch, teams were formed for some action-packed games of flag rugby. No experience playing rugby was necessary for students to participate. Helping make this event possible was a grant from Rugby Canada and HSBC, and many different volunteers.

This event took a community to make happen and featured:

- co-organizers Mireille Appelbe (Vice Principal at Brooklyn Elementary) and Cheryl Graham (Indigenous Support Worker at Brooklyn Elementary);
- 13 Indigenous education staff from several Comox Valley Schools;
- seven coaches coordinated by Thunder Rugby (including from UVic);
- two youth volunteer coaches from Highland Secondary;
- two international students;
- Aimee Burley with Comox Valley Rapids Rugby.

This event was held in conjunction with Indigenous Thunder Rugby from Victoria. Their goal is to see more Indigenous youth take up rugby. Based on the smiles seen on students playing rugby that day, they've found some future talent.





BOARD BUSINESS

May News

Announcing our 2022 CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE WINNERS



The goal of Concours is to stimulate students' interest in the French Language, improve French speaking skills, and provide experience presenting in public. Concours helps students refine their French abilities and public speaking skills, and gives them experience planning, researching, and writing a presentation on a topic of their choice. Students in grade 6 and 7 French and Late French immersion began work on their Concours in January after returning from winter break. Over the course of 10 weeks, they researched wrote and memorized three minute speeches on a topic of their choice. Students competed for first to represent their class, then to represent their schools.

SD 71 students shine in French speaking contest

Two Comox Valley Schools students recently came in first place at the Concours D'art Oratoire French speaking skills contest provincials.

Congratulations to Hadley Unrau, Grade 7 French Immersion student at Ecole Puntledge and to Gabrielle St. Pierre, Grade 7 student at Ecole Puntledge for coming in first place in their respective categories.

Honourable mentions to Gabriela Morin, Jillian Hammett and Luna Lund for their verty strong showings!

The first in person gathering was held at the Puntledge Learning Commons to hear the 4 finalists in each category present. The winners in each category were then asked to represent SD71 at the provincials.

Congratulations to all who participated! They are all winners for their efforts, participation and stretching their comfort zones both with technology and the presentation of their speeches.

First district wide track meet in 3 years is a hit!

After a two year hiatus, the district wide track meet returned with vengeance. Students in Grades 6 and 7 from around the district had to qualify for this event at four local jamborees before advancing to this round. Students competed in events such as long jump, high jump, hurdles, shot put, softball throw, and several running events. Hundreds of parents attended to watch their children participate and smiles were seen all around on spectators and participants.

Students received ribbons for coming in places 1 to 8 and everyone received a ribbon for qualifying to this event. Of course, the most popular spectator sport for students was the vice-principal and principal Dunk Tank to raise money for local charity YANA. Students lined up for the chance to dunk their school's leaders and cheered loudly each time someone was sent into the chilly water. The cold weather didn't stop several of our brave school leaders from taking the plunge. Many thanks to the organizers of this great event.

