

BOARD BUSINESS

June 2022



Women in Trades event at Sandwich

BOARD PASSES 2023-2024 CAPITAL PLAN SUBMISSION

The Board for Comox Valley Schools voted to pass a motion that accepted SD71's 2023-2024 Capital Plan submission for the Ministry of Education's Capital Plan Program. Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions from Boards of Education are used by the Ministry to determine which priority capital projects may be included in the Ministry's Capital Plan for the following fiscal year. The capital plan submissions also provide the Ministry with important insight into future year capital priorities, which can be used for longer term government planning and the determination of potential future capital funding requirements for the public education system. The Ministry will provide each school district with a written response to their Five Year Capital Plan submission once the assessment of all submissions is complete and funding for fiscal year 2023/24 is announced.

Seismic Mitigation Priorities

1. Cumberland Community (proposing demolition of annex building)
2. Courtenay Elementary
3. Airport
4. NIDES

New School, Addition, Expansion Priorities

1. Cumberland (expansion of main school building)
2. Royston Elementary
3. Brooklyn Elementary
4. Mark Isfeld Secondary

SD 71's submission is due in two phases this year: June 30th for major capital and September 30th for minor capital and the building envelope program. Boards of education must provide a Board Resolution in support of its annual Five-Year Capital Plan submission to the Ministry. Boards are to provide a separate Board Resolution for Major Capital program submissions and one for Minor Capital program submissions. The Building Envelope Program also requires a separate Board Resolution as it is a dedicated Call for Submission from the other Programs.

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

Capital Plan Submission

Motion passed to explore new student council

Trustee Elections - Info Night

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JUNE 21
BOARD
MEETING**

BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

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Board Meeting Highlights - June 2022



Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Tonia Frawley

We accomplished a great deal this year, and we should all be proud of how far we have progressed towards achieving safe and welcoming schools as the pandemic winds down. We remain committed to remaining laser-focused on our work to ensure our students front and centre of all our governance decisions.

It has been an incredible year for our students thanks to the dedication of every staff member. Each day throughout the year, beautiful stories of progress, accomplishment and deeper learning were seen and felt in every classroom across our system. Our students enjoyed safe, clean and welcoming buildings where they felt supported to learn and grow. They had access to the latest technology, supports, and resources they needed to succeed. They were able to start each school day knowing they had a team of caring adults who would help them achieve their full potential. No matter what your relationship with Comox Valley Schools, now is the time to pause, reflect and celebrate those accomplishments and appreciate that it takes an amazing team of professionals to perform the complex work of ensuring each and every student is supported in their unique pathway to success and the future.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

As the school year winds down, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for your support as we worked our way through another year of learning during the pandemic. The school year began with COVID-19 protocols that continued to evolve throughout the year. This winter was challenging, as staff and students had to cope with the mental strains of over two years of pandemic related news and impacts on our schools. We began 2022 with new school closure protocols but thankfully were able to keep our schools open for students to learn in-person. As Spring Break came to an end, we started to see our schools slowly return to more normal learning conditions. It was heart warming to see the return of the district musical and school sports with audiences cheering our students on. We had the first district wide track meet in three years and hundreds of parents came out to watch and cheer on their children. To finish off the year, we had some incredible graduations ceremonies that were very well attended by families and members of our communities. Congratulations to our grads and 51 retirees!



BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - June 2022

Trustee Info Session June 27

(7 pm at 607 Cumberland Road - board office)

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 on June 27 at 7 pm at the board office.

Board passes motion to explore student council

Comox Valley Schools Board passed a motion asking the superintendent to look at the options as well as the process required to set up a student council. The group would include representation from all of the high schools in the district, including NIDES/Navigate and Nala'atsi.

Superintendent to examine creation of gender violence committee

Following the presentation made by DPAC at the May Board meeting, there was a motion passed by the board stating that the Board of Education for School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) establish a district wide committee to address the issues of gender-based violence amongst students.

Board votes to support 55+ Games

The Board voted to support the jointly prepared application for the 2024, 2025 or 2026 55+ Games to be held in the Comox Valley and City of Campbell River. Another motion was passed that stated SD 71 will commit to providing in-kind support of services and facilities should the bid be successful.

[Click below to see 2022 year in review communications slide show](#)



Compiled by Craig Sorochan, Communications Manager

BOARD BUSINESS

June News

SD 71 rolls out text emergency notifications

With the recent tragic school shooting in Texas and some incidents here locally that have caused schools to implement emergency procedures, Comox Valley Schools is taking this opportunity to remind people that we have a detailed School Emergency Plan that covers what to do in the event of several different types of emergencies.

All Comox Valley Schools staff are regularly trained on emergency protocols and drills are practiced at each school. We would like to remind all parents and guardians of our emergency protocols and what your response should be in these situations

If an emergency occurs, please check SD 71's social media pages, website and local media outlets for information and updates.

There have been some inquiries from families regarding possible text notifications from the district in the event of an emergency. We are taking steps to make this possible.

If you provided your cell phone number to your child's school in the fall and you would like to receive text notifications, simply text "Y" to 978338 to enroll. Please ensure the number you provided is current with your child's school.



Isfeld Ice Girls Rugby place 2nd in BC!

Congratulations to the Isfeld Ice Girls Rugby team for placing second in all of B.C. at the BC High School Rugby Championships. This awesome accomplishment capped off an incredible season that saw them finish the season ranked second in B.C. The team went undefeated during the regular season, and for the first time were able to beat GP Vanier and Shawnigan Lake. Isfeld won both the junior and senior sevens

tournament and this is the first time Isfeld has players going on the play university rugby next year. This was the first year back on the field after a two year break. Mark Isfeld has a significant class of graduating girls moving on to play high caliber university rugby.

- Jessica Postle – Central Washington University
- Emma Grootendorst – University of Victoria
- Olivia Jean – St. Francis Xavier



GP Vanier wins Island Junior Boys Title

Two Comox Valley Schools were in the Island boys Jr. Rugby finals and Vanier ended up winning the game over Isfeld in a very close match 10-7. Both teams were all smiles and this was the first season back after a two year break. It's great to have boys and girls rugby back on the pitch!

BOARD BUSINESS

June News



Thank you Glacier Newcomers Alumnae Association

A local non-profit the Glacier Newcomers Alumnae Association's fundraising efforts are making a big difference for students by providing funds and food for several SD 71's lunch program. Over the last two years, the Glacier Newcomers Alumnae Association has donated thousands of dollars and food for lunch programs at nine Comox Valley Schools helping feed many students. In September, the Glacier Newcomers approached SD 71 and suggested they donate funds and food products to help vulnerable learners get a good meal while at school. The Association decided to collect funds through 50/50 draws, personal donations and dry goods to their monthly meetings and donate them to

SD 71 schools. To date, School District 71 has already received \$7500.00 and numerous wagon loads of food.

When the Glacier Newcomers Alliance arrive at a school, they meet the administration, drop off a wagon full of goods and visit with students. Schools often take a picture and write a thank-you note. The Glacier Association's members also stop at the board office to drop off their donations which are collated, and tax receipts and thank you letters are mailed to all donors. Their members contributions have exceeded all expectations and these donations are making a big difference in our schools for students. Comox Valley Schools has many different community groups that help support our students and we are fortunate to have close connections with non-profits, charities, different levels of government and private businesses. The Glacier Newcomers Alumnae Association is a women's social club run by members and is a member-funded, non-political, non-religious, non-profit organization. The association encourages members to develop new and enhance existing friendships through various recreational, social and special interest activities.

Glacier View's Boy's Club serves up lunch for school

Boys Club students at Glacier View served up sandwiches for the school community recently! They did the shopping, planning and prep for the event to give back to the school. Staff and students lined up for some freshly made sandwiches in the rear courtyard of the school and the sounds of classic rock and laughter filled the air. The group is based on the foundational principles of mentorship and connection, as tools for teaching, healing and prevention. The group explores topics such as emotional regulation, respectful relationships, distress tolerance, mindfulness and substance use. It provides a safe place to share and discuss issues and how to channel that energy into leadership and self-efficacy. They meet once per week on Tuesdays over lunch for mentorship, education and lots of laughs.



BOARD BUSINESS

June News

SD 71 expresses gratitude to Ni'noxsola

The Ni'noxsola (or Wise Ones) have been working in Comox Valley Schools for the past four years and recently, the district held a luncheon at Crown Isle to share gratitude to for their work providing cultural perspectives and promoting inter-generational relationships for students in our schools.

This event was the first time that the Indigenous Education Council, Ni'noxsola, trustees and senior board staff have all come together.

The event was opened with a welcome from K'omoks Councilor Charlene Everson and her mother Mary Everson, who is a member of the Elders Advisory committee. Former Ni'noxsola David Dawson was joined by Nala'atsi student Nicholas and Indigenous Education Council member Darren for two traditional songs.

The most powerful moments of the event were when the Wise Ones took the stage to share their perspectives on the program. Elder Evelyn Voyageur recounted, until recent developments, there was no way for Indigenous students to get credit for studying their own culture the same way they would if they were enrolled in subjects like music or playing sports, and she stressed the need to make more changes in the curriculum to support the students.

"I know it's making a difference," she said. "The children, you can see the difference in them."

There are currently six Ni'noxsola and there are hopes to add two more for next year.

- Dr. Evelyn Voyager
- Edna Leask
- Bryce Mercredi
- Sheila Buchanan
- Annie Joseph
- JoAnn Restoule

Board Chair Tonia Frawley expressed our, "deep gratitude for the incredible difference you are making in our schools and for our students."

Students and staff are very fortunate to have Ni'noxsola working with our community of schools.

An Elders Advisory Committee guides the work of this beautiful program which pairs a Wise One with a local school. Ni'noxsola provide the presence of calmness, wisdom, and cultural strength by sharing stories and traditions with their host schools while they connect with students, staff and administration on their visits.

