

BOARD BUSINESS

September 2022



New Local Education Agreement reached between SD 71 and K'omoks First Nation

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL HOLDING FIRST MEETING

An exciting development is happening this September when the districts' first Student Advisory Council meets for their first meeting at GP Vanier Secondary on Wednesday, September 28. SD 71's students are at the heart of our schools and their opinions play an important role in the decisions that affect them. Council members will meet eight times throughout the school year. The council will participate in discussions and consultations to provide input on various aspects of the education system.

COURTENAY CHANGES SCHOOL ZONE TIMES

Last spring, the District held a meeting with municipal groups. The City of Courtenay has now changed the times of their school zone speed limits to: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The district has also been in meetings with the Ministry of Transportation, the CVRD, City of Comox and Village of Cumberland regarding possible changes in those communities. We hope that other jurisdictions will follow Courtenay's example soon!

SD 71 CONSULTING PARTNER GROUPS ABOUT THE STUDENT AND FAMILY AFFORDABILITY GRANT

The District has met with partner groups to discuss the spending of the Student and Family Affordability Grant. We have asked schools to complete a questionnaire to gather feedback on their needs. Once the information has been submitted, partner groups will meet again to discuss next steps. The one-time funding will be provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care directly to school districts to help expand school meal programs and cover some additional fees.

SD 71 ENROLMENTS APPEAR TO BE UP AGAIN

Rough enrollment numbers will be available Friday, September 30, 2022. SD 71 schools have gained a significant amount of students over last year's start up. Schools are experiencing significant growth in the Lerwick corridor, as well as at Cumberland Community School and Royston Elementary.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON CUMBERLAND CHILD CARE CENTRE

Starting on September 26, the contractor for the new Cumberland Child Care Centre will begin mobilizing and preparing the site. This includes clearing trees and fencing will be constructed. Signage will be posted.

The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks 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 - LEA

Update from Superintendent/CEO of Schools Tom Demeo

First consent week in SD 71

School emergency info session

District News

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BOARD BUSINESS



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Board Meeting Highlights - September 2022



Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Tonia Frawley

The school district just completed the successful signing of the LEA with the K'omok's First Nation on August 31, 2022.

It was a beautiful event at the K'omoks First Nation Band Office and thanks to the Nation for hosting us.

This process began last fall and a district team worked closely with the Nation to forge a new document that will be in place for the next 5 years.

The document is aimed at improving Indigenous Grad rates and insuring successful transitions for school age students.

One of the key highlights of the document is the establishment of a new position called the K'omok's Success Advisor.

This is a teaching position dedicated to improving the success rates of K'omok's students and working closely with K'omok's families and the school district to increase educational opportunities and track the success rates for all K'omok's First Nation students.

We look forward to seeing the results of this work.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and that you are adjusting to being back in school. While you were away, our district was busy growing and operations staff were busy working on our schools. In some cases, this meant finding creative ways to add more classrooms. More families are choosing to call the Comox Valley home, and this is impacting our schools. We've gone from looking at closing schools a few years ago, to having to apply for a school expansion. Many of our schools are close to being full – this means we may have to look at new creative ways to ensure we have space for all of our students. I know people are experiencing varying levels of comfort as classes resume and many of the restrictions that were in place previously are lifted. The health and safety of our school communities remains our first priority. We will continue to work closely with public health to ensure our schools are safe learning environments. As we move into the 2022-23 school year, let's continue to treat each other with respect, kindness and patience. It is these qualities that truly make the Comox Valley a special community and great place to call home.



SEPTEMBER 2022

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SCHOOL SAFETY DURING AN EMERGENCY OR CRISIS: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Information session October 5 at 7 pm

GP Vanier Secondary Auditorium

Presenters

Paul Berry, Emergency Management Educator and Response Specialist

Jay Dixon, Director of Instruction (SD 71)

Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications (SD 71)

Corporal Torri Cliffe, RCMP

Constable Monika Terragni, RCMP



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Learn about SD 71's school emergency program

How do schools prepare for emergencies in SD 71?

What should parents/guardians do during emergencies?

How are emergencies at schools communicated to parents?

There will be a presentation and Q+A session.

Some light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

SEPTEMBER 2022

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September News

SD 71 holds first Consent Week activities

SD 71 schools took part in Consent Awareness Week from September 19-23.

Students and staff learned how to foster a culture of consent in schools through programming, events, and discussions involving faculty, staff, and consent education experts. All of our secondary schools held activities. As well, there were some staff focused discussions at the primary level.

Schools held contests, presentations, workshops, school announcements, consent quizzes, consent talks, educational videos and poster making sessions by students.

Secondary students took part in the #Webelieve you challenge. As part of Consent Awareness Week, #WeBelieveYouDay was held on Tuesday, September 20th. This was a day to share support for survivors of sexual violence.

Secondary staff at GP Vanier made a bulletin board to promote consent awareness and then followed up with lessons about consent.

Staff and students were invited to have thoughtful conversations about consent. Students took part in in-depth presentations about consent, and were also provided with information about supports available for students who have experienced sexual violence.

This week was a significant opportunity to reflect, champion, and celebrate consent as a cornerstone of all relationships, not just intimate ones.



BOARD BUSINESS

September News



Paddling Together: Indigenous Literacy 101

Late this past summer, over 60 Comox Valley Schools leaders spent the day together in the local Big House (Kumugwe) and were led through a variety of exercises and teachings by Hereditary Chief Wedlidi Speck -- it was a very good day. The teachings focused on "the Tribes of the Comox Valley" the Pentlatch, Eik'sen and K'omoks. Chief Wedlidi did a masterful job at explaining the geographical and social histories of Indigenous peoples in the Comox Valley and surrounding areas.

As a chief and spiritual leader, Wedlidi is recognized for his knowledge on traditional protocols and indigenous relational practices. He is a story keeper and name-keeper for his families.

Arden's Active Travel initiatives ramping up

Arden Elementary School's next Active School Travel Grant initiatives are coming up quickly, beginning on October 3rd to 7th, when they are undertaking their 2nd Bike, Walk, n' Roll Week, and a Sign Waving afternoon.

The school will also be introducing their Wheelie Wednesday program where the school parking lot will be closed for the day to allow kids the opportunity to bike and scooter during play time.

The Active Travel Grant team is also hoping to pilot three longer Walking School Bus routes during the Bike, Walk, n' Roll event. A Walking School Bus (WSB) is an organized group of students who walk to school together with the support of one or more adult leaders. The group walks along a pre-determined route with planned stops along the way to pick up more children.

As part of the Bike, Walk, n' Roll event the school will have three "Drive to Five" drop off zones, where volunteer adult supervisors collect and walk with children in supervised groups.

The goal the of the Active Travel Pilot Program is to encourage Arden students to get more active in their travel to school, to attempt to address the barriers to active school travel in our catchment, and to raise awareness in our school community about the importance of active school travel as it benefits children and their self-regulation and hence their learning, their overall health, and the environment. Many thanks to everyone involved!



BOARD BUSINESS

September News

Cumberland unveils new diversity mural

Cumberland Community School recently unveiled a beautiful new diversity mural that is located on a wall of the main school at the end of Ulverston Road by the bus drop. Local Cumberland artist Sham designed, planned and painted a mural on the outside wall of the school with the PAC helping raise funds for supplies. Cumberland school's House of Allies Club came up with the idea and theme of the mural called "You are welcome here."

The mural is covered in a special coating that ensures any graffiti can be easily washed off. Check it out if in the area!



Terry Fox Runs underway in SD 71

The sounds of music and laughter filled the air at Aspen Park Elementary School as the school held it's annual Terry Fox Run to raise funds and awareness for cancer research.

Students warmed up by taking part in a dance party that included stretching and calisthenics. Then students were encouraged to do a lap or two around a course that was set up by the school's PAC.

At the end of the run, parent volunteers handed out popsicles to the delight of runners.

Last year, SD 71 schools raised over \$30,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Watch for the run coming soon to your school!

Construction begins on new Cumberland Child Care Centre

Starting this week (September 26), the contractor for the new Cumberland Child Care Centre will begin mobilizing and preparing the site. Fencing will be installed along with signage, see below overview of project area. In order to construct this new facility, an un-official disk golf course has been removed and the equipment returned to the owners. In the near term, contractors will begin preparing the site, including select removal of trees in consult with a Project Arborist. Once completed, the facility will provide much needed child care spaces for families in Cumberland. Funding for the centre is through the Ministry of Children and Family Development's ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund.



Congrats to Highland Secondary's Stephanie Baker for being selected to participate in the Lifetouch Memory Mission project. Stephanie will be travelling to Guatemala in January to assist in the building of a school, made from recycled materials, for one week. Stephanie is the first BC administrator to be selected to participate.