



BOARD BUSINESS

November 2022

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools

NEW VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR OF BOARD FOR COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS

Comox Valley Schools is pleased to announce Trustee Michelle Waite has been elected as Board Chair and Trustee Susan Leslie as Vice Chair for the next year. They will serve in their respective roles until October 2023.

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 Chair Michelle Waite



Vice Chair Susan Leslie

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Update from Board Chair
Michelle Waite

Update from
Superintendent/CEO of Schools
Tom Demeo

New Board of Education for
Comox Valley Schools

Student and Family Affordability
Fund

District News

Trustee Janice Caton and Trustee Shannon Aldinger were declared BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Board representative and alternate, respectively.

In addition, Trustee Christi May Sacht and Trustee Chelsea McCannel Keene were declared BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Board representative and alternate, respectively.

Comox Valley Schools would like to thank outgoing Chair Tonia Frawley, Trustee Sheila McDonnell and Trustee Kat Hawksby for their work and steadfast dedication to our students.



BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights November 2022



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Michelle Waite

It's an honour to be chosen by my colleagues on the Board for Comox Valley Schools to be Chair for SD 71 and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role on behalf of the communities of the valley.

I'm looking forward to continuing the progress of past Boards by working closely with fellow Trustees, the Superintendent, Senior Leadership and our many amazing partner groups here in the Comox Valley.

Students are front and centre of everything we do, and I am committed to doing all we can to provide inclusive learning environments that support our students in achieving success. You are the reason we are here. As Trustees, we are accountable for your achievement and well-being. We will do our very best to manage the resources at hand to help each and every one of you succeed, graduate and to be prepared for your future.



Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

It's been an incredible start to the 2022/2023 school year so far and I am awed by the dedication of our staff in our schools. This is the first year in a while that our schools are operating relatively normally. It's been inspiring to see our students return to normal activities, such as the many meaningful Remembrance Day assemblies that were held throughout SD 71.

I'd like to thank the many district partners who are working with SD 71 on how to best allocate the provincial Student and Family Affordability Fund for our students. We are thankful for the feedback that was gained through the consultation process with our principals and local community groups. The consultations focused on using the funds creatively and flexibly to have a broad impact on students most in need of supports. Also, a highlight since the start of the school year is the new SD 71 Student Council consisting of two representatives from each of our secondary schools. I thoroughly enjoy meeting with students in-person and hearing their interesting and thoughtful perspectives.



NOVEMBER 2022



BOARD BUSINESS

November News

New home for Grad Attire Program

Comox Valley Schools Grad Class Attire Program has a new home located upstairs at the Comox Valley Dodge dealership. The dealership is kindly donating space on the upper floor of the new building at 278 Island Highway North in Courtenay.

The long running Grad Class Attire program aims to give all students the opportunity to wear a lightly worn gown or suit on graduation day without the financial burden associated with purchasing a brand-new outfit or having one made for their milestone event. Grade 12 students from all Comox Valley Schools can schedule an appointment for choosing and fitting an outfit. The program offers a wide variety of suits, dresses, shoes and other grad attire accessories.

This is an important program that enables students to come choose their special outfit for grad free of charge. We are very thankful to Comox Valley Dodge for this generous donation of space.

SD 71 staff volunteered their time to help set up the new location between November 4-18. The new space is now open for fittings and donations. Dates for fittings are December 10, February 11, March 11 between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The program is operated by SD 71 staff volunteers.

Donations can continue to be dropped off at GP Vanier Secondary on school days between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Items can also be dropped off at Comox Valley Dodge during operating hours. There is a huge demand for smaller sized suits, pants, shirts and accessories. Financial donations are also accepted to help offset costs to repair, or purchase required items students may need.

The Grad Class Attire program will operate out of Comox Valley Dodge at 278 North Island Highway (Old Canadian Tire building) from November 2022 to March 2023.



Band and Choir Festival Returns

After a two year hiatus, the Comox Valley Schools Band and Choir Festival returned with three days of shows. Opening day featured the choral portion of the festival and the other two days of music showcased concert bands. All three days were adjudicated by some of Canada's best school music educators who gave constructive feedback in real-time for students. Schools from all over the island performed including SD 71's Isfeld Sr. Choir, the Highland Choir, Isfeld's Sr. Band, Highland's Sr. Band, Vanier's Concert Band, Highland's Jr. Band and Vanier's Grade 9 Band. Bravo to all who participated and thank you to the many spectators who came to watch and support our students.



BOARD BUSINESS

November News

\$2000 reward for vandalism information

Comox Valley Schools is offering a reward of \$2000 for information regarding multiple incidents of vandalism at schools so far this school year. If a report leads to charges or restitution for damages, the district will provide up to a \$2000 reward. The district is working closely with the RCMP to identify those who are responsible for these acts and others at our school properties. The district has some surveillance and digital evidence that is being analyzed and handed over to the police. Last school year, SD 71 spent in excess of \$30,000 on vandalism and loitering related costs. That amount is about 50 per cent higher than two years ago and three times more than three years ago. So far this year, the district has spent over well over \$20,000 on vandalism and loitering related costs and it's early in the school year. This is money that should be used to support students. The district is hoping that anyone with information about vandalism at school property will call the board office or the RCMP and make a report. SD 71 will be working with Comox Valley Crimestoppers with the hopes of finding those responsible and preventing future damage to school properties.



Busy Bees at Aspen Park are learning to code

The Gr. 1 'Busy Bees' in Mrs. Shelly's class had a chance to learn and code using Ozobots, which they turned into little bees. After discussing all the technologies that exists around us in our daily lives, students extended their capabilities by learning all about colour coding. Groups of students created story maps of a garden and created a coding map for their Ozobots, or 'busy bees' to complete. There was a lot of trial and error to make changes where needed, but students solved problems by working together or incorporating new ideas from others. This was a truly inclusive event with everyone having a ton of fun while learning a lot at the same time. Way to go little Busy Bees! Who said Gr. 1's couldn't be coders?

Isfeld Junior Boys Volleyball team shines at provincials

The Ecole Mark R Isfeld Ice Junior Boys volleyball team showcased a never-say-die attitude to finish 11th out of the 24 team Junior Boys provincial championships in Kamloops this past weekend ! They were also the #1 island team at the tournament finishing ahead of the other 3 teams representing the island. Congratulations to the Isfeld Junior Boys on an amazing Provincial championships with one of the best finishes of any Junior team from the Comox Valley in some time. Each and every player on this Junior Boys volleyball team from Ecole Mark R Isfeld made their school and community very proud with how they represented on and off the court.



BOARD BUSINESS

December News

Everyone Deserves a Smile ramping up!

2022 marks the 19th year for the Everyone Deserves a smile campaign – and 15th in the Comox Valley. This massive effort is lead by the amazing Madam Stefan out of Ecole Puntledge Park.

Last year, the EDAS crew delivered 898 packages to local shelters and agencies, as well as an additional 400 packages to shelters in Victoria and Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The team is hoping to add to that number this year. Items needed include:

- Woolen or part wool socks;
- Toques;
- Mitts/gloves;
- Scarves.

Organizers are requesting XL sizes for men and non-binary, and medium sizes for women. The original target is to outfit 740 men, 511 women and 103 non-binary.

Most schools have donation boxes and there are drop-off boxes throughout the Comox Valley.

Students from throughout the Valley will spend Dec. 8-9 putting together the packages, which will be delivered to locations throughout the Comox Valley on the weekend of Dec. 10. The delivery portion of the project will conclude on Dec. 17, with packages being taken to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.



Ecole Robb Road class weaving for EDAS

Students in Grade 6 at Ecole Robb Road recently made some interesting connections with BC's curriculum. This summer, teachers had a pro-d session around linking Design Thinking, the UN Sustainability Goals and Curriculum. Teachers learned how students could support community through their schoolwork and lessons. With this information, teachers worked with their students and built looms this fall. Then, students had English language arts lessons and wrote cards for Everyone Deserves a Smile. Students are now using their looms to knit scarfs and once completed, they will donate them to go in EDAS bags for those in need.

This class is also connected to another EDAS group in Montreal who are donating to a homeless shelter. "My favourite part of this project is helping others, it's also cool how you can turn a single board into a scarf," said Grade 6 student Ezra Webb.