

BOARD BUSINESS

March 2023



Timeline set for 2023-2024 budgeting process

The board of education has approved the timeline for the budgeting process for next school year. The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) is accountable for the public funds that support the school district. One of the Board's responsibilities is the adoption of the District's preliminary budget. Thus, Comox Valley Schools is beginning the preliminary budgeting process for the 2023-2024 school year. SD 71 is reaching out for feedback regarding our 2023-24 Budget Preparation. We value feedback from Comox Valley residents with regards to this process.

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.

MARCH

SD 71 budgeting process and consultations

April 11 Annual Budget - Open Committee of the Whole Meeting

Discuss and consider the implications of the Preliminary Operating Grant Announcement, any funding model changes, and any potential budget shortfall or enhancement. Opportunity for District Staff and Partner Group presentations.

Mid-April Public Budget Consultation Survey

Public Budget Consultation process for will include a budget development survey advertised and posted on the District website.

April 25 Regular Board Meeting

Ongoing work and adjustments by management team to refine budget options and ensure that priorities connect to the district's core business (student success) and adhere to Ministry policy and guidelines

May 9 Annual Budget - Open Committee of the Whole Meeting

To share input from Public Budget Consultation process, Partner Group feedback, and consider preliminary balancing options.

May 17 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

To review staff recommendations to balance the 2023-24 Annual Budget.

May 30 Regular Board Meeting

Tentative approval 2023-24 Annual Budget Bylaw.



Amended Budget 2022-2023

Update from Board Chair
Michelle Waite

Update from
Superintendent/CEO of Schools
Tom Demeo

Board Meeting Highlights

District News

**WATCH
MAR 21
BOARD
MEETING**

Information and feedback regarding SD 71's budgeting consultations
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/budget-2023-2024-consultation/>

BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - March 2023



Board Chair Update

Board of Education Chair, Michelle Waite

Gilakas'la, there is a lot going on in our district at the moment, so I thought I would share some information about a few happenings in our schools.

Our District Musical can't go without mention. The cast, pit crew, stage crew and every single person involved in the production, execution and delivery of Matilda deserves a standing ovation. As well, It is important to share the importance of today's date March 21 and recognition of the following two items:

Today, is World Down Syndrome Day, with the goal of raising voices to promote inclusion, rights and well being. Our Board and District are committed through policy, District processes, and education to "equity and inclusivity in all contexts, activities and places." Today is also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Our Board and our District are committed through policy, District processes and education to "supporting the education of how to act directly or as a bystander against all forms of discrimination."

Our board is committed to ensuring our schools are inclusive places for everyone.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

Comox Valley Schools has a number of important board policies and administrative procedures. School district policies are high-level statements that guide decision-making, while administrative procedures are detailed instructions that explain how to implement those policies in practice. Both policies and procedures play important roles in ensuring consistency and quality in the education system in British Columbia. In recent weeks, SD 71 staff have been working to update the administrative procedure regarding first aid administration in our schools. We are doing this to ensure all of our schools are up to date with the latest WorkSafe BC and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. SD 71's Administrative Procedure 160 regarding First Aid covers important topics such as first aid attendants in schools, first aid equipment in schools, facilities for injured students, proper procedures in the event of injuries, drills, treatment & transports, dispensing medications and several other issues regarding first aid administration in our schools. All of our administrative procedures can be found on our website.

Our district and schools assess students in many different ways. Students are assessed constantly in the classroom by teachers. There are also standardized assessments such as the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSAs) and numeracy and literacy exams in Grades 10-12. School completion rates, grade to grade transitions and post-secondary transitions are some other ways we assess how we are performing as a district. None of these methods of assessment should be looked at on their own - it's vital to examine as complete a picture as possible when determining how students and our schools are performing. I invite you to explore Comox Valley Schools' data available on BC School System Performance for some snapshots into how our schools and students are performing. We use this vital information to look at how we can improve student outcomes. <https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/>



BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

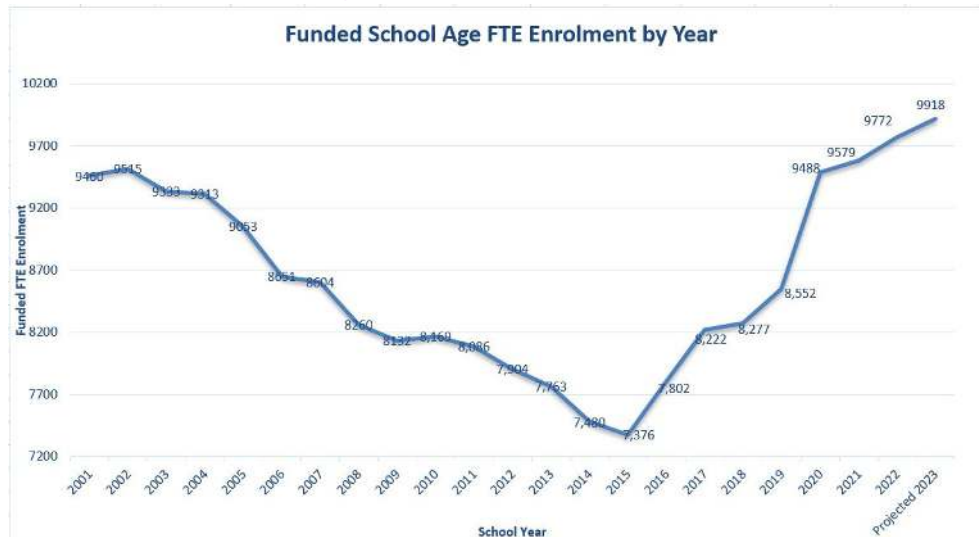
A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board Meeting Highlights - March 2023

District forecast to grow again

Assistant Superintendent Geoff Manning provided an overview of school registrations for next school year. As of March 21, there are over 680 students registered to attend SD 71 next year. This puts the district in position to be growing again next year. While enrolments aren't known until late-September, it appears more students are entering our schools than will be leaving in June.



Board asks Superintendent to examine Student Health and Safety in SD 71

The board passed the following motion: the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) directs the Superintendent to review all the District Policies and Administrative Procedures related to Student Health and Student Safety, with a focus on Student Health and Wellness, and provide a comprehensive report, including recommendations, to the Board.

Vancouver Island's trustees converge on the Comox Valley

School District 71 welcomed school trustees from throughout the island to the Comox Valley on the first weekend in March. The district was delighted to host the the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA). The event showcased student a wonderful student performance by Ecole Puntledge's Little Bears. The Little Bears performed two welcome songs and dances to the delight of the audience. Participants were welcomed to the conference by Hereditary Chief Rob Everson who shared powerful words about reconciliation work and our schools. Vista's current president is SD 71 Trustee Janice Caton, who worked tirelessly to organize the event. School District 71 would like to thank the participants and the presenters for making the event a success. We would also like to acknowledge Heidi Bell for the behind the scenes magic that made it possible for SD 71 to host this very worthwhile conference.



Amendments needed to school calendar for next year

Assistant Superintendent Geoff Manning provided an update on some revisions to the school calendar for next school year. Looking at next year's calendar (2023-2024) there are two specific amendments that are needed:

1. Make October 2, 2023, a Non-Instructional Day in lieu of the Stat. Holiday (Reconciliation Day) on Saturday, September 30th in order to be in line with the Provincial Stat. Holiday.
2. Move the August 31st Non-Instructional Day to September 5th. This will make the first official day of school with students in session September 6th. The first change will allow the district to be in line with the provincial Stat. Holiday, which is a recommendation from the ministry. The second change is based on feedback from the CVPVPA, CDTA and CUPE requesting that one of the August days be moved into the school year calendar.

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DISTRICT NEWS

March 2023



Matilda captivates sold-out audiences

Tickets were in hot demand with all five performances selling out for this year's District Musical, Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. The show featured students from all SD 71 secondary schools, with a talented cast of 43 students, who brought their unique personalities and interpretations to each character. The team at GP Vanier did a fantastic job hosting this year. The show was directed by Lori Mazey and the choreographer was Emma Wilde. The performance included a 14-piece live orchestra lead by musical director Regan Livingstone. Lori, Regan and Emma put in countless hours of work with students rehearsing in the lead-up to the shows and Comox Valley Schools is very grateful for their dedication to our students. Many more students worked on the production team supporting with props, costumes, hair, make-up, lighting and sound. It was truly a massive undertaking, and the final result was spectacular.



Cabane a Sucre's return a success

SD71 French immersion schools and Ecole au Coeur de l'île recently joined forces for Cabane à Sucre – a French-Canadian cultural event, featuring a traditional feast for over 400 people and performances. It was a huge collaborative success between Ecole Au-cœur-de-l'île, Ecole Robb Road, Ecole Puntledge Park and Ecole Mark R. Isfeld Secondary. Visitors enjoyed an authentic French-Canadian meal, maple taffy on snow, and many activities - including bouncy castles, face painting, and live music by Fiddlejam - followed by performances from schools. Students from Ecole Robb Road performed a Metis jig and sang a French song. And guests were greeted by Bonhomme Carnaval! Bravo to everyone who helped make this event a success!



DISTRICT NEWS

March 2023

Spelling bees create a buzz at Brooklyn

There was a buzz in the air at Brooklyn Elementary for the 8th SD 71 District Bee! The District Bee has been running since it took over from Canspell several years ago. This was the first time in three years that everyone has come together again under the same roof for the district Bee. Each student at this event qualified at their local school's spelling bee event. This year's Bee had 26 participants, ranging from Grade 4 to 7, from nine schools. Participants went through 7-rounds before determining the top 3 Bee champions. The event was hosted by Brooklyn's Sarah Heselgrave (set to retire this year). And the special judge for the day was Superintendent Tom Demeo. There was a packed audience of keen families and students who cheered on competitors. The top 3 District Bee spelling champions are:
1st place - McLaren Walmsley from Hornby
2nd place - Emma Tu from Valley View
3rd place - Chase Petersen from Brooklyn
Covid stopped this event for a few years, so it was really fantastic to see schools embrace their spelling bees!



Robotics71 off to world's in Dallas

Three Comox Valley Schools' Robotics71 teams are off to the Vex Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas this April after very successful performances at the Island Regionals. Congratulations to teams 7842X, 7842P and 7842F for advancing to the world stage! Robotics71 Team 7842X consisting of Nicholas Horel (Vanier) and Reese Schroeder (Highland), and Team 7842P's Elliot Patterson (Vanier) and Zander Hole (NIDES) won the 40-team tournament as alliance partners. Team 7842X also won the Robot Skills Challenge and is ranked 143 in the world as of the end of the season.

7842F, a team of Grade 9's consisting of Timothy Sterk (Highland), Zane Radawiec (Isfeld), Franklin Warren (Highland) and Eric Wunderlich (Isfeld) also won a berth to the world championships as the top middle school "excellence" winners – finishing the season with a ranking of 86th in the world. Robotics71 is a district-wide program offered to Comox Valley Schools students from all secondary and middle schools. 800 of the top teams from 40 countries are meeting in Dallas. Good luck to our Robotics71 teams and we'll keep you up to date on their progress.



DISTRICT NEWS

March 2023



Humanities Week a success at Isfeld

Congratulations to Ecole Mark Isfeld Secondaire for holding a very successful series of events for Humanities Week. Students participated in a wide range of events with the theme of "Raise Your Voice".

- Monday featured "The Living Library," a series of talks with smaller groups of students by professionals in Humanities-related careers.
- On Tuesday, Isfeld, Vanier, and Highland students participated in the Comox Valley Schools Model United Nations conference to discuss Child Trafficking. 46 students took on the role of delegates and members of the International Press Corps. Each student will represent a different country or news agency during discussions, debates, and resolution-making. It was amazing to witness how engaged and prepared student were.
- Wednesday morning, Waneek Horn-Miller, Indigenous advocate and Mohawk Olympian shared insights about the healing power of sport – and sport as a vehicle for reconciliation. Later, students showcased their written work to peers and judges during the Performance Poetry event. There were some incredible poets and performances.
- Thursday and Friday, there was a plethora of special guests sharing their insights with students.

Throughout the week, there were various games, breakout activities for the grade 8s and 9s, a museum artifact trivia contest, and a humanities careers scavenger hunt.

It was a great week of learning for everyone involved and huge props to team Isfeld for putting this incredible week together for students!



Showcase Concert returns

The district showcase concert at Highland Secondary featured performances by feeder schools Airport, Brooklyn, Navigate, Aspen and also Highland. There was a packed house as families were able to come together for the first time in over three years for this show. The evening was MC'd by Assistant Superintendent Geoff Manning, but the real show was the incredible performances by students. The four elementary schools started things off with some awesome renditions, and the Highland Jr. Jazz Band wrapped things up at the end of the night. Thank you to Highland Music teacher Nancy Cox for hosting the event. And a huge thank you to all the music teachers at the participating elementary schools for doing such a great job preparing students. It was a beautiful evening of music for all!



200 students complete Naloxone training

Over 200 Comox Valley Schools students have completed voluntary Naloxone Injection Training in recent weeks. Many thanks to Isfeld PHE teacher Brittany Keeping for organizing Youth to Hope volunteers to come work with students for this important training opportunity. Youth to Hope provides youth with education surrounding harm reduction, substance use and overdose prevention.

MARCH 2023

DISTRICT SPORTS

March 2023



Vanier student takes home Gold at Wrestling Provincials

Twelve SD 71 wrestlers recently represented the Comox Valley at the BCSS Provincial Championships. This year the Provincial Championship was held at the Pacific Colosseum in Vancouver with over 490 wrestlers from secondary schools all over the province, competing for top honours in each weight class.

Congratulations to Unya Hollmayer from GP Vanier! She stepped up and took home a first place finish - after coming off a third place finish in the 2022. Unya is currently in Grade 11 at Vanier and the team looks forward to having her back for another year and another chance at a first place finish. Her proud teammates cheered loudly from the crowd for her final match which she won after initially falling behind.

Owen Caissie (Isfeld) is the lone graduating Provincial Qualifier for the Comox Valley Wrestling team this year. Owen was able to put together a very competitive season in his first year of wrestling and helped to lead the team both on and off the mat.

Eleven of SD 71's twelve Provincial Qualifiers will return for competitions next year - set to build on this year's success.



Jr Girls and Jr Boys Final 4 tournaments a success

The Elementary Jr Girls and Jr Boys recently held their Final 4 basketball tournaments. This was the first year of the March Madness style Final Four formats and it was a huge success.

In the Jr. Girls tournament, teams from Aspen Park, Ecole Puntledge Park, Brooklyn and Miracle Beach played in front of big crowds at Isfeld. In the finals, it was a close defensive game, but in the end, the victorious team was Ecole Puntledge Park defeating Aspen Park. Congrats to all participants and thanks to all the coaches for dedicating their time throughout the season.

In the Jr Boys tournament, teams from Aspen Park, Ecole Puntledge Park, Ecole Robb Road, and Brooklyn played before big crowds at GP Vanier. The winning squad was Aspen Park Elementary - coached by Ann Lewis who is retiring after 28 years with SD 71. We wish Ann all the best in retirement and thanks for your dedication to our students.

Excellent work to everyone who played and came out to support.

Looking forward to next year's Final Fours already!



Students learning to curl wraps with Funspiel

Some lucky students from Arden, Aspen Park, Ecole Robb Road, Huband Park, Queneesh and Brooklyn elementary schools recently took part in a Junior Learn to Curl Funspiel at the Comox Valley Curling Rink. Schools took part in several practice sessions learning skills in the lead-up to this event. There were lots of smiles on students faces as they took part in several different fun challenges and some mini-games for the Funspiel final event. Many thanks to Mickey Colburn of the Comox Valley Curling Centre for organizing these fantastic events for students!