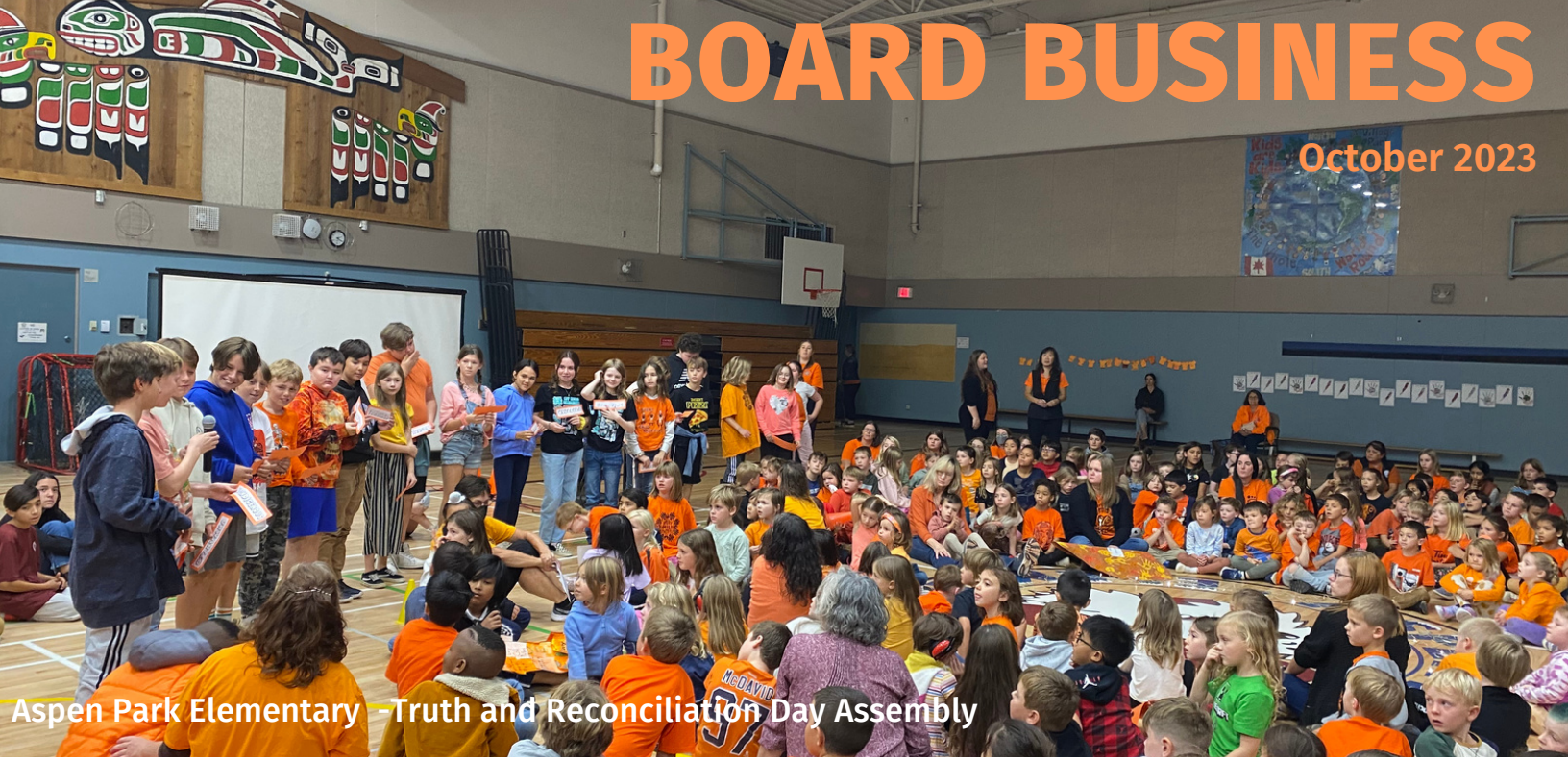


BOARD BUSINESS

October 2023



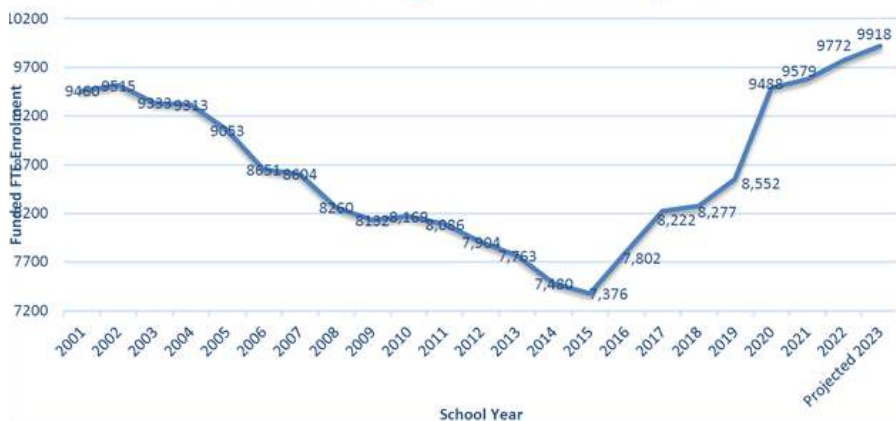
Aspen Park Elementary - Truth and Reconciliation Day Assembly

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

Operations team outlines growth

Director of Operations Ian Heselgrave and Manager of Capital Projects Molly Proudfoot outlined the current growth related space and school capacity challenges the district is facing. The district currently has 10,140 students which is well over the capacity of 8628. Growth is occurring faster than anticipated and there are space challenges at several schools -- particularly at Cumberland, Valley View and Aspen along the Lerwick Rd-Ryan Rd areas. The new admin space on Idiens Way will allow the district to free up some classrooms at Airport Elementary. The district is applying for expansions at Cumberland, Aspen and Valley View schools but may need to add portables in some situations or examine other available options to meet anticipated growth.

Funded School Age FTE Enrolment by Year



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.

Enrolment growth in SD 71

Strategic Plan Renewal

Board Working Plan

Moving forward with the Strategic Plan Renewal

The Board voted to extend the current Strategic Plan for one more year as the district begins its Strategic Plan Renewal process. A timeline and process to update the strategic plan has been developed. The engagement process and synthesis of the data will be a focus for the 2023-2024 school year, which will result in a new five-year strategic plan for the 2024 to 2029 school years.

Board Working Plan outlines key priorities for year ahead

The Board passed a motion supporting the Board Working Plan, which contains 2023-2024 focus strategic plan priorities, and annual strategic and fiduciary responsibilities. This living document will guide our work for 2023-2024.

**WATCH
OCT 24
BOARD
MEETING**

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BOARD BUSINESS



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Board Chairperson Update

Board of Education Chairperson, Michelle Waite - ᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ



It is with excitement that our Board of Education is implementing two important planning and goal focussed documents for our current school year.

The Board Working Plan aligns our work in three general areas which are broken down on a monthly schedule:

1. Board tasks that require completion such as ministry, district, and board driven requirements and deadlines.
2. Monitoring by way of information, evidence and discussion in key areas in our district including education, finance, human resources, capital and operations.
3. Governance functions which include strategic planning, liaising with schools, partner and rights holder groups, our provincial bodies of the BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA), BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA), school community, and other important areas connected to the role of elected office as trustees.

The Focused Strategic Plan centers our work together over the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking forward to the work we will be doing together for our next multi-year strategic plan for Comox Valley Schools.

I truly believe a dream without a plan is just a wish. Another way to look at this is a dream written down becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true.

The creation, evolution and actioning of both our Work Plan and Focused Strategic Plan will guide the important and critical work of our Board and District for students, families, staff and school communities throughout the Comox Valley. Recently, many of our trustees attended a learning session with our counterparts from Vancouver Island. Many thanks to the planning team for this jam-packed and informative event and to Trustee Caton for her work in leading the VISTA team.

Our Board participated in an advocacy event with other board representatives from across B.C. We met with MLAs in Victoria to share information regarding the key issues of improving student outcomes, recruitment and retention, and capital and deferred maintenance.

With the fall weather season upon us including atmospheric rivers and calls home for dry footwear, it is important to recognize the team that keeps our buildings safe and dry, our grounds and exterior equipment useable and operational. The SD 71 Operations team is not always visible to our students and school communities, but their exceptional work supports the educational work that happens rain or shine. Thank you very much!

We continue to invite you to attend our Public Board meetings and Open Committee meetings. Or if preferred, watch live the or recorded sessions on the district website, as it best suits you. Gilakas'la

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DISTRICT NEWS



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New accessible playground opens on Denman

The new \$190,000 playground has opened for students at Denman Island Community School. The playground has an accessible area with a rubber surface to enable students of all abilities to be able to enjoy activities with their peers. The space features adaptive equipment such as a wheelchair-accessible "we-go-round." There were nine designs to choose from and the school solicited input from students, PAC and families before landing on this layout. The accessible ramp will be installed soon.



GP Vanier wins Jr. Girls North Zone Tourney

Highland Secondary School recently hosted an action packed weekend of Jr. Girls volleyball. After 28 games, there was nearly a 3-way tie for 1st. After following the rules regarding breaking a tie in a round-robin tournament, the final results are as follows:

1. Vanier - Congratulations!
2. Timberline
3. Isfeld
4. Carihi
5. Highland
6. NISS (North Island Secondary School)
7. Brooks
8. ADSS

The top 6 teams will advance to North Islands held at Timberline Secondary on Oct. 27th/28th.

Hundreds of trades teachers gather at Vanier

Trades teachers from throughout BC gathered at GP Vanier for a pro-d day conference organized by Steve Claassen, District Trades & ADST Coordinator. Close to 300 people were onsite learning about innovative practices for the British Columbia Technology Education Association (BCTEA) annual gathering.

The BCTEA represents Technology Education teachers and those teachers promoting the development and growth of Applied Design Skills and Technologies (ADST), Makerspaces Trades and Tech Ed in British Columbia schools.



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Walk for Wenjack - GP Vanier

During Truth and Reconciliation week, staff and students at GP Vanier were asked to explore the theme of compassion while participating in a school wide reflection activity. Continuing with this theme, Social Justice 12 students created a series of facts and reflective questions that were placed along one of the trails behind the school for the annual Wenjack Walk. Students viewed video clips and engaged in discussions before walking the path. Along the path, classes stopped at the questions and engaged in conversations.

After the walk, students completed a reflection activity that was created by Social Justice 12 students. They were also encouraged to visit the Wenjack display in front of the library. Questions along the path and in the reflection activity focused on Chanie, residential schools, colonization, Truth and Reconciliation, empathy and compassion. An extension activity was provided to connect students with experiences closer to home on Kuper Island. Compassion will be an ongoing theme this school year at GP Vanier.



Big turnout for Salmon Day at Ecole Puntledge

Congratulations to the Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary PAC for hosting an incredible afternoon of fun in the rain for Salmon Day! The event, a celebration of all things salmon, featured live music and refreshments, displays from organizations including DFO and Morrison Creek Streamkeepers and a spawning tour of Morrison Creek. Hundreds of people came out for this fun filled event and spawning salmon filled the nearby creek for participants to view. Many thanks to all the volunteers at this great event.



DISTRICT NEWS

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September 25 - October 2
Truth and Reconciliation Week



Truth and Reconciliation Week in Comox Valley Schools

The Comox Valley School District has always been at the forefront of recognizing and honoring the significance of Truth and Reconciliation. This year, schools across the district have gone above and beyond to ensure that the message of Truth and Reconciliation is not just heard but deeply understood and internalized by students, staff, and the community. To follow is a summary of some of the events and activities from Truth and Reconciliation Week in SD 71.

École Robb Robb Road delved into a paper doll project inspired by the Take Action Virtual Faceless Dolls Campaign. This initiative aimed to humanize Orange Shirt Day and foster discussions around the diverse cultures under the Indigenous umbrella. The school also engaged in story walks, readings, and a Truth & Reconciliation assembly, emphasizing the importance of Kwak'waka in their weekly announcements.

Arden Elementary organized a school-wide Orange Shirt Day Spirit Walk, with classes engaging in art projects and book readings that shed light on the experiences of Indigenous children in residential schools.

Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary took a comprehensive approach, with students learning about residential schools, healing relationships, and honoring Indigenous contributions. The school also focused on the 94 calls to action, emphasizing the work that remains.

Lake Trail Community School introduced their students to the First Peoples Principles of Learning, while also using the Canadian Geographic BIG MAP to educate about Indigenous lands and history.

Airport Elementary held a week-long series of activities, including book talks, resources for teachers, and a whole school assembly.



Above: Courtenay Elementary students and staff shared personal stories, engaged students in art projects symbolizing the significance of Orange Shirt Day, and held an assembly featuring Indigenous music and literature.

Denman Island Community School emphasized reading and discussions, with students expressing their feelings on a board at the front of the school and participating in an assembly.

FAE and Compas at NIDES registered with the National Truth and Reconciliation website, engaging in live streams, book readings, and collaborative art activities.

Aspen Park Elementary dedicated the week to discussions and lessons about Truth and Reconciliation, culminating in a school-wide experience where classes shared their learnings.

Below: Royston Elementary organized a school-wide circle and a moment of silence, emphasizing the power of collective



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Below: Highland Secondary focused on educating students about the importance of Orange Shirt Day, culminating in a 1 km commemorative walk and had lessons and themes relating the Truth and Reconciliation throughout the week.



Below: GP Vanier held daily activities leading up to a student-led, Indigenous-focused assembly, celebrating with food and shared experiences.



Huband Park took a holistic approach, integrating literature, music, art, and guest interactions to deepen understanding. The school also emphasized continuous learning beyond just the designated week. Valley View engaged students in various activities, from bulletin board displays and painted orange rocks to age-appropriate lessons on residential schools. Each school's unique approach to Truth and Reconciliation Week underscores the district's commitment to fostering understanding, empathy, and a brighter future for all. The collective efforts of these schools serve as a beacon of hope, ensuring that the message of Truth and Reconciliation resonates not just for a week but for generations to come.