

BOARD BUSINESS

April 2024



Strategic Planning consultation at Cumberland Community School

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

Superintendent Morrow provides Strategic Planning update

Dr. Jeremy Morrow provided an update regarding the strategic planning process now currently underway. We've completed four public in-person community engagement sessions. The constructive dialogue and the ideas and issues raised will be helpful as we move forward with four writing sessions that will result in the new strategic plan for Comox Valley Schools. Next, we are bringing together more than 30 participants – including elders, vice-principals and principals, teachers, educational assistants, support staff, parents, students, and trustees – for the district writing team. This team is responsible for creating a new Strategic Plan to guide our work over the next few years. A writing team will be meeting over four days in late April and early May to review all the input gathered as well as other sources of evidence and data about how students are doing. The team's task will be to synthesize the information and data compiled to date into the learning focus for Comox Valley schools over the next few years.

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.



Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Terms of Reference passed by board in unanimous vote

The board voted to accept the Terms of Reference for a Gender Based Violence Working Committee and they also appointed Trustee Shannon Aldinger as the Chair of this committee. The board had passed a motion in June 2023 to establish this committee. The committee will review district policies, administrative procedures and other practices that relate to gender based violence, to identify gaps in our district's approach and response to gender based violence, to identify and develop resources and best practices, to consult with community-based subject-matter experts, and to make recommendations to the superintendent and board.

WATCH
APRIL 23
BOARD
MEETING



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BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

Codes of Conduct to be updated to reflect digital device restrictions

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has amended the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order to promote provincial consistency and to support boards of education in ensuring their schools have appropriate policies in place to restrict student personal digital device use. All boards of education are to include one or more statements restricting student use of personal digital devices at school. SD 71 is now aligning our Code of Conduct and other policies pertaining to digital devices to reflect the new provincial rules. All school Codes of Conduct will be updated and an implementation plan was rolled out by Associate Superintendent, Jay Dixon. Once schools have drafted updated Codes of Conduct, they will be seeking feedback from each school community. Information about the new codes of conduct will be shared over summer in the lead up to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The impact of the new digital device rules will be monitored and adjustments will be made as needed, based on feedback and evaluations, once the new school year is underway.



Strategic Planning consultation at K'omoks First Nation Hall

Board Chairperson Update

Board of Education Chairperson, Michelle Waite - č̣ę̣ę̣ḥạθ̣ę̣



I am pleased to present our report for April, another month marked by significant contributions and engagement within our school district.

Our journey towards a brighter future for Comox Valley Schools continues and this month we held four Strategic Plan public consultation sessions. Thank you to everyone who participated in-person and virtually to share your stories, thoughts, and ideas to help form our next strategic plan. As shared over the past few months, this plan is our roadmap for the coming years, aiming to enhance educational experiences, support student well-being, and foster an environment of innovation and excellence. Later this month and into May, we are bringing together a team to review, analyze and synthesize all the data gathered from the surveys, in-person sessions, and conversations with our school communities regarding the areas of focus for the strategic plan.

We are also now working on planning and budgeting for the next school year. We look forward to our budget consultation process as we continue to navigate the challenges of inflationary costs, and operational funds that need to be allocated to modular purchases for our growing district. While the majority of the district's budget is pre-allocated to operating and capital costs (i.e. school construction, additions, seismic upgrades, teachers, educational assistants, programs/services and supplies), there is some room to address priorities identified by the community. We look forward to hearing insights into how to best serve our students' needs.

DISTRICT NEWS



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April 2024

Buzz in the air at 9th Annual District Spelling Bee!

With 30 contestants from 10 different schools stepping up to the challenge, the District Bee was nothing short of spectacular.

The participants, representing the best of the best from across the district, did not disappoint, offering up spellbinding performances that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

The competition was fierce, but in the end, three students emerged victorious, spelling their way to the top with remarkable skill and poise.

Jones Peters from Ecole Robb Road clinched the first place with his exceptional spelling abilities, setting a high standard for future bees.

Kai Rasmussen from Airport School took the second place, showcasing his impressive linguistic skills and determination.

Kiz Hamersley from Nides rounded out the top three, demonstrating a strong command of the English language and a cool head under pressure.

Special thanks are extended to Alexandra Seymour, Sarah Heselgrave, and Jay Dixon for their invaluable support and dedication to making this event a resounding success.

We can't help but give a 'hive-five' to all our participants. Your dedication, courage, and love for spelling truly made this event one for the books!



Trades students learning bike mechanics

The Vanier Trades Class is in top gear with their Bike Maintenance unit! Under the expert guidance of Mr. Jordan Sanchez, Vanier students are learning the nuts and bolts of bike servicing.

They're not just fixing chains and aligning wheels; they're keeping our School Cycling Program rolling smoothly! The shop is filled with hustle and bustle as they work on the District Bikes.

A big shoutout to our industrious students for making every cycle safe and sound for our student community!



Highland students learn rescue techniques

Highland Secondary's EMR course was fortunate enough to be able to learn and train with Comox Fire Rescue! It was an awesome experience for students as they delved into the realm of first responders.

The course features insightful details on emergency call response and some hands on training. They learned about Comox Fire's collaboration efforts with BC Ambulance and other emergency response protocols. This was an enriching course for students interested in the world of emergency response. A huge thank you to Comox Fire Rescue!

April 2024



April 2024

Military members buddy-up each Friday at Airport Elementary

For the rest of the school year on Fridays, military members from 19 Wing Comox are reading with students in the library. This is part of the school's ongoing efforts to promote reading and literacy. Military members coordinate with Airport's Teacher Librarian upon arrival to select books and be paired with students for reading sessions. Thanks to everyone involved!



Students gather at Mark R. Isfeld for Model United Nations Conference

Last week, Comox Valley's future diplomats gathered at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School for the Model United Nations Conference. The event, which drew nearly 40 student participants from various schools, was a vibrant forum for discussing global issues and honing diplomatic skills.

A highlight of the event was the guest speech by Coun. Will Cole-Hamilton, who spoke about the importance of green infrastructure in urban planning.

The conference featured sessions where students, representing different countries, debated topics such as sustainable development, election integrity, and the role of technology in modern governance. Their aim was to negotiate resolutions that would address complex international challenges, mimicking the operations of the real United Nations.



Lake Trails holds free Earth Day clothing store

Lake Trail Community School hosted its 3rd Annual Earth Day Free Clothing Store, an initiative aimed at promoting sustainability and community spirit in the face of environmental and economic challenges. The event, organized by the Lake Trail Community Education Society (LTCS) and supported by Comox Strathcona Waste Management, offered the public free access to clothing and on-site repair services, fostering an environment of sharing and sustainability. The Free Clothing Store was stocked through a community-driven clothing drive held from April 3 to April 18, encouraging locals to donate gently used clothing and accessories. Students got first dibs on items before the doors were opened to the community after school.

Many thanks to everyone who donated their items to this great event.

