



BOARD BUSINESS

February 2024

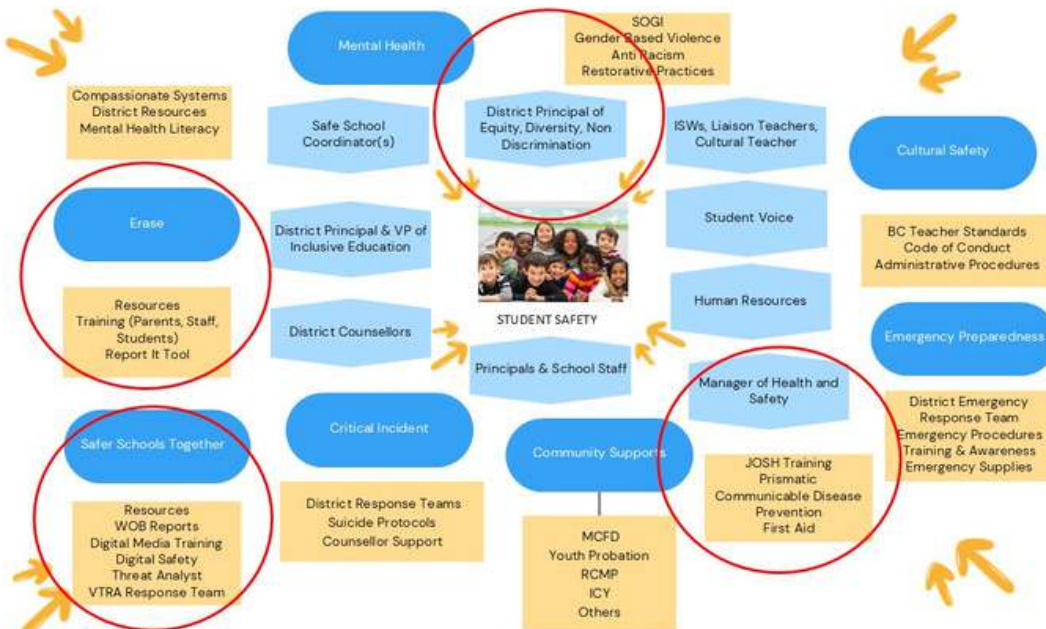
BC Lions -Power Within presentation at GP Vanier

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

How Are We Doing Report for 2023-2024

At the February 25, 2025, Comox Valley Schools Board Meeting, Associate Superintendent Joe Heslip presented some local and provincial data from the "How Are We Doing" Report on Indigenous students in B.C and our schools for the 2023-24 school year. The presentation revealed many positive improvements but showed there is still work needed to close some systemic gaps. The Board engaged in discussions on how to effectively utilize the data to narrow achievement differences. The report underscored the need for collective responsibility to further improve upon some of the progress that's being made in recent 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.



WATCH
FEBRUARY
25
BOARD
MEETING

Safe Schools presentation shines light on web of safety work in schools

Associate Superintendent and Safe Schools Coordinator Jay Dixon delivered a comprehensive update on school safety initiatives. The presentation outlined the various supports, training programs, practices, and procedures implemented to ensure student and staff safety across the district. Emphasizing a collective approach to safety, Dixon shared an overview of the Safe School framework, highlighting the multiple layers of safety measures in place. The district collaborates with Safer Schools Together, a Ministry-contracted organization that monitors online behaviors and provides reports to schools, assisting with local investigations when necessary. Training programs, including the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) and Prismatic, focus on developing preventative safety measures. An ERASE video was shown, outlining reporting mechanisms, training opportunities, and available support resources for students and parents. The Board discussed challenges in disseminating safety information, particularly about digital communication trends, such as interpreting emojis. An update on the District Emergency Response will be provided next month.



Comox Valley Schools



Gamutalagalis (Dave Dawson) leads drum circle at Highland Secondary

Amended Budget for 2024-2025 Approved

The Amended Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was presented by Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Nelson and Director of Finance Candice Hilton. Adjustments to the budget followed the finalization of enrollment numbers in September 2024. Notably, 96% of operating revenue is funded through the Ministry grant, with an increase in operating funds this school year attributed to growth in online and inclusive education enrollment. Expense adjustments were made to support new learners, and two new positions—Manager of Human Resources and 0.6 VP for Indigenous Education—were added to support district needs. Additionally, one-time surplus funds were utilized to fund two term positions: a District Principal of Equity, Diversity, and Non-discrimination and an Indigenous Knowledge Specialist. The district remains focused on living within its means while addressing inflationary and operational pressures. Following a thorough review and discussion, the Board approved the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2024-2025, with a total budget bylaw amount of \$163,483,016.

Board Members

Michelle Waite, Chairperson (Lazo North)
 Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson (Village of Cumberland)
 Susan L Leslie (Town of Comox)
 Janice Caton (City of Courtenay)
 Shannon Aldinger (City of Courtenay)
 Chelsea McCannel-Keene (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)
 Cristi May Sacht (Puntledge, Black Creek)





DISTRICT NEWS

February 2025



Courtenay Elementary Montessori Students Share Their Learning on Waste Reduction and Recycling

Students from Courtenay Elementary School's Montessori program recently visited the Comox Valley Schools Board Office to present their learning on waste reduction and recycling to Superintendent Morrow and Associate Superintendent Lamoureux.

As part of their studies, the students have been exploring how waste is processed in the region, including visits to the landfill and the regional district recycling centre. Their learning extends beyond the classroom, focusing on real-world applications of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

During their visit to the board office, the students provided thoughtful feedback on ways to improve waste reduction efforts within the district. They also shared how their learning connects to land-based education, a key priority in Comox Valley Schools' new Strategic Plan.

The district appreciates the students' enthusiasm and leadership in sustainability education and looks forward to seeing how their learning continues to make an impact in the community.



BC Lions "Be More Than a Bystander" Presentations in Comox Valley Schools

Recently, students across Comox Valley Schools had the opportunity to learn from BC Lions players Patrice René and Dylan St. Pierre as part of the Be More Than a Bystander program, developed in partnership with the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC).

This program empowers youth in grades 8-12 to understand and address gender-based violence, fostering leadership and respect in their schools and communities. Using multimedia and real-life scenarios, the presentations equip students with strategies to take action as bystanders and create safer environments for all.

Through engaging discussions, Q&A sessions, and breakout workshops, students gained valuable tools to challenge harmful behaviors and promote positive change.

A huge thank you to Patrice René, Dylan St. Pierre, the BC Lions, and EVA BC for bringing this important message to our schools.

