

Open Committee of the Whole Meeting

Report to the Board

April 08, 2025

In Attendance at Meeting:

Committee Members:

Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson
Sarah Jane Howe, Board Vice Chair
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee
Janice Caton, Trustee
Shannon Aldinger, Trustee
Susan Leslie, Trustee

Staff:

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Sean Lamoureux, Associate Superintendent
Josh Porter, Director of Information Technology
Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

Regrets: Carrie McVeigh, Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets: Janice Caton, Trustee

Recording Secretary: Marlene Leach, Senior Executive Assistant

Committee Members:

Partner Groups in Attendance:

Comox District Teachers Association (CDTA)
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 439)
District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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.

The Board Vice Chair chaired the meeting, welcomed attendees, and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. MOTION TO APPOINT ACTING SECRETARY-TREASURER

Motion: (COWO-2025-04-08-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) appoint Associate Superintendent, Joe Heslip, to the role of Acting Secretary-Treasurer in addition to his role as Associate Superintendent, for the Open Committee of the Whole meeting held April 08, 2025.

[Leslie/May Sacht]

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: (COWO-2025-04-08-02)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the April 08, 2025, Open Committee of the Whole agenda as amended.

[McCannel-Keene/May Sacht]

CARRIED

4. EDUCATION

a. PRESENTATION: Inclusive Education 101 - PowerPoint

Pages 1-17

Sean Lamoureux, Associate Superintendent, Tracy Pederson, District Principal Inclusive Education, Tara Ryan, District Vice-Principal Inclusive Education

The Associate Superintendent briefly reviewed what the department of Inclusive Education does and introduced Tracy Pederson and Tara Ryan who provided their personal education and work history around Inclusive Education and presented on the topic throughout the PowerPoint presentation. The presenters answered many committee member questions during and after the presentation. The Inclusive Education team mentioned that if committee members have further questions, to contact them via email.

At 8:21 pm, Chairperson Waite moved a motion to extend the meeting by up to 30-minutes.

Motion to Extend the Meeting: (COWO-2025-04-08-03)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) extend this meeting by up to 30-minutes.

[Waite/Aldinger]

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. POLICY

a. DRAFT REVISION Policy 1 - Foundational Statements Discussion – Briefing Note, Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent

Pages 18-26

The Superintendent reviewed details of the briefing note and the work that has been done at the Ad Hoc Policy Committee meetings. The intention is a new direction supported by the Board's Strategic Plan's values and Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being. The Board was soliciting partner feedback during the meeting for an open and meaningful discussion, including new perspectives, inclusivity, and clarity. Suggestions will go back to the Ad Hoc Policy Committee and then for approval at a future public board meeting.

Trustee McCannel-Keene, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee asked for partner groups to share their thoughts and bring any points of interest forward.

- Trustee - provided input around connotation of certain words, page 22, top paragraph, last sentence – release word “integrate”, and use “centre” or use “imbed” (Associate Superintendent).
- DPAC- page 1, sentence, Our purpose... – should “Create” be uppercase?
- CDTA – curious of territorial acknowledgement, different than what we have been using. Associate Superintendent Heslip answered that this is still evolving language, and we are learning all of the time.
- CDTA - Formatting – using spacing and font that is supportive to learning abilities. Aptos font makes it more accessible.

The Chairperson shared that some of the policies will be living documents and will evolve. Many positive comments were received from the Committee of the Whole meeting attendees. Not having numbering in the document was also welcomed. The Superintendent is appreciative of the direction that Trustees are going; it is where we want to go collectively, doing business in a different way. Partner input and their questions make us better.

6. **ADJOURNMENT – 9:01 pm**

Motion: (COWO-2025-04-08-04)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adjourn the April 08, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:01 pm.

[Waite/Leslie]

CARRIED