



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 27, 2025
7:00 pm

Attendance In Person:

Trustees:

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

Staff:

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent of Schools
Carrie McVeigh, Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Sean Lamoureux, Associate Superintendent
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications
Shaun Jones, Manager of Information Technology

Regrets: None

Recording Secretary: Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

1. 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 Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Pages 1-4

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the May 27, 2025, Public Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

3. Board Meeting Minutes

Pages 5-12

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-02)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the April 22, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Sacht/Leslie

CARRIED

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4. Unfinished Business

- A. Build Public Childcare, CUPE Request for Support – Response**
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-03)

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) directs the Superintendent to prepare a report for the Board to explore implications and alignment of partnering in the proposed pilot, and report back to the Board with recommendations.

Sacht/Howe

CARRIED

5. Record of In-Camera Meetings

Pages 13

- April 22, 2025 – Regular In-Camera Meeting
- May 13, 2025 – Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting

6. Board Chairperson Report

Pages 14

The Board Chairperson provided the Board with their report highlighting AccessAbility Week, recent advocacy with the Minister of Education on professional learning funding, gender-based violence action plan, ferry priority boarding review, and child care funding. Gratitude was expressed for the Minister's engagement. Graduation season is underway and Pride Month is approaching in June, celebrating the theme of 'Unbreakable Pride and Unshakeable Power'. The Chairperson thanked all for their ongoing commitment and support.

7. Presentations / Delegations

- A. Special Track Meet – Presentation**

Pages 15-25

Jina Taylor, District Lead Teacher for Physical Literacy, Mat Zadvorny, Teacher and Amanda Lange, PE/Leadership Teacher

The Board received a copy of the 'Event Program' and presentation highlighting the district's 'Special Track Meet', held on May 13, 2025. Inspired by a similar event hosted by the Surrey School District, the initiative was led by Comox Valley Schools staff members Mat Zadvorny, Amanda Lange, and Jina Taylor. The inclusive event is growing in numbers celebrating students of all abilities, emphasizing inclusion, community collaboration, and physical literacy. The event featured accessible, activity-based stations including wheelchair races, obstacle courses, and a mini-marathon.

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Trustees offered support in the expansion efforts of such an event to other districts and highlighted the value of positioning it as a learning experience for all students. Appreciation was expressed to all those who made the event possible.

8. Strategic Direction

A. Learning Services

i. Superintendent District Report – Verbal

The Superintendent acknowledged the following accomplishments as reflections of strong leadership, collaboration, and student voice throughout the district.

- National recognition for NIDES teacher Carolyn Ganga for equity-focused work with BCTF and Canadian Association of Labour Media.
- Celebrating 'Indigenous Brilliance, Knowledge & Resilience' with all students and staff through a virtual session this week with Denise Augustine.
- Glacier View students presented mental health work at a provincial Mental Health in Schools Conference.
- Over 125 students participated in the 2nd Annual Special Track Meet.
- FAe/NIDES winning the Reading Links Challenge.
- Congratulate Taelen Stuve gymnastics BC Bronze medal.
- Hornby Island's cultural exchange to Quebec City.
- Launch of graduation season, starting with Highland Secondary.
- Mark R. Isfeld raising nearly \$12,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation, placing them at the top 4 in the province and #1 on Vancouver Island.

The Superintendent also expressed appreciation to staff for their commitment during this busy time of year.

ii. Strategic Plan Update - Verbal

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent

The Superintendent provided a verbal update, noting that over the summer school strategic plans will be finalized with a written report submitted to the Board and plans posted online in the fall. Operational goals will also be reflected on the website. Assessment criteria are in development, with year-over-year comparisons expected as part of the fall update.

B. Business Services

i. Further Budget Information and Public Consultation Review – Briefing Note

Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 26 -31

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer presented a summary of feedback received through the 2025–26 budget consultation process, including 285 survey responses and input from meetings with DPAC, IEC, and other partners. Key themes included increased support for neurodiverse learners, mental health services, equity in access, and sustainable arts programming. Most respondents favored reductions in administrative costs if funding is limited. The next draft will be presented on June 10th with the Board scheduled to adopt the preliminary budget on June 24, 2025.

Trustees identified inconsistencies between respondents’ identified priorities and areas suggested for budget reduction, noting possible misalignment with the Strategic Plan. It was noted that this may reflect the diversity of respondent perspectives. There was also discussion on how to strengthen student engagement in the budget process, acknowledging that student voices are heard through other avenues, and they may not frame their input in financial terms, though their feedback often requires resource allocation.

ii. **Teacher Staffing (Contractual vs Discretionary) – Briefing Note**
Carrie McVeigh, Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 32-36

The Secretary-Treasurer outlined the 2025–26 teacher staffing plan, which includes 8.5 additional FTE due to enrolment growth, bringing total staffing to 670.15 FTE. Contractual staffing is determined by class size/composition requirements which involves Classroom Enhancement Funding, making reference also to the teacher restored language. Discretionary staffing supports such as inclusive education, curriculum leadership, and specialized areas, are guided by data and system needs. The plan reflects strategic, equitable, and fiscally responsible allocation of resources.

9. **Board Standing Committee Reports**

A. **Open Committee of the Whole Board Report – May 13, 2025**

Pages 37-39

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-04)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receives the May 13, Report to the Board dated May 13, 2025, as presented.

Howe/Leslie

CARRIED

Next Open Committee of the Whole Meeting:

TOPIC: Celebrating the 2024/2025 School Year and Final Draft Budget
2025-26
DATE: June 10, 2025
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

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B. Ad Hoc Policy Committee Board Report

Pages 40-46

Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee

A revised version of Policy 1 was provided to the Board prior to adoption, reflecting a last-minute edit to a word.

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-05)

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receives the two Reports to the Board dated April 29, 2025, and dated May 14, 2025, as presented.

McCannel/Howe

CARRIED

i. Revised Policy 1 and Policy 4

Pages 47-59

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-06)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adopt revised Policy 1 – Foundational Statements, as presented.

McCannel-Keene/Leslie

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2025-05-27-07)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adopt revised Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct, as presented.

McCannel-Keene/Howe

CARRIED

ii. Next Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting:

Thursday, June 12, 2025

10. Board Business

A. Indigenous Education Council (IEC) - Verbal Report

Susan Leslie, Trustee

The past IEC was on the land for their capacity building sessions at the Brooklyn Creek area which included a Big House experience in the afternoon.

i. Next Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Meeting:

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

B. Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Board Report

Pages 60-62

Shannon Aldinger, Trustee

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The committee will continue its work into 2025–26, with a final report expected by December 2025. Key findings included; gaps in understanding of terminology, outdated curriculum resources, and inconsistent processes for reporting incidents. Emphasis was placed on the need for more education for students and staff, particularly in Grades 4–7 and at the secondary level. A budget recommendation was submitted to support a dedicated district coordinator position and educator release time to advance this work.

A request was made to break down the committee’s ongoing work connected to the Terms of Reference. It was noted that the report intended to support the related budget request.

- i. **Next Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Meeting:**
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 8:30 am – 10:30 am

C. BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting – Verbal Report

Trustees shared observations from the BCSTA Annual General Meeting, noting that all motions brought forward by Boards across the province were passed. It was reported that if the Minister of Education granted only one of the budget-related motions, particular attention would be given to a motion from the Surrey School District addressing gaps in the education funding model, which is not keeping up with cost pressures and inflation. Discussion also highlighted that British Columbia continues to rank among the lowest in per-student education funding nationally.

11. Board Correspondence

- A. Honorable Lisa Beare, Ministry of Education and Child Care**
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson

Pages 63-65

The Chairperson shared the district’s formal request to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to collaborate on the development of a provincial K–12 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan. The request highlights the district’s leadership in this area, including the work of the GBV Committee, community consultations, and recent survey findings. The Board emphasized the need for a coordinated provincial framework to support consistent, trauma-informed prevention and response efforts across all districts.

12. Public Question Period to the Board

- In response to a question from DPAC regarding washroom safety and related budget allotment, it was noted that while this is not currently reflected in the budget, future surplus budget recommendations may include support aligned with this high priority.

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13. Meeting Adjourned – 8:39 pm

MOTION: (RP-2025-05-27-08)


THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adjourn this meeting.

Howe/Leslie

CARRIED

Board Approved on:
June 24, 2025

Certified Correct:



Carrie McVeigh
Secretary-Treasurer

Michelle Waite
Board Chairperson

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