

## BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools held its first Regular Public Board Meeting of the 2025–2026 school year on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

**WATCH  
AUGUST 26  
BOARD MEETING**

## Pride and Summer Reflections

Board Chairperson Michelle Waite welcomed everyone, noting that while August is not a regular meeting month, important business brought trustees together early. She thanked staff who worked through the summer to prepare schools for September and highlighted the large and joyful Comox Valley Schools contingent at the Comox Valley Pride Parade, a strong reminder of the district's commitment to inclusion and belonging.



## AVI Health & Community Services Presentation

The Board heard from Amy Criss and Robyn Dias of AVI Health and Community Services, who presented on the Crisis Response, Community-Led (CRCL) pilot project. The initiative, developed in partnership with the K'ómoks First Nation, deploys a four-person team to provide in-person, trauma-informed support for individuals 13 and older who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Services include de-escalation, peer support, safety planning, and referrals, with the goal of reducing distress and connecting people with the right resources when they need them most. The pilot project is serving people ages 13 and up with a focus on in-person responses.

## Financial Updates

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Nelson reported the district ended the 2024/25 year with a surplus, including a contingency reserve now at 3%.

A new three-year financial plan required by the Ministry of Education and Childcare forecasts financial stability without being in a structural deficit position in the years ahead.

## Board Work Plan and Meeting Schedule approved

Trustees approved the 2025–26 Board Work Plan and the annual schedule of meetings for the upcoming school year.

## Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow shared that the district is entering the new school year with a renewed focus on the design principles in its Strategic Plan, ensuring every learner receives the support they need. Over the summer, the IT team refreshed laptop carts, upgraded servers, and installed new interactive TVs in classrooms, while Operations completed lighting, boiler, flooring, gym, painting, and sports field upgrades across schools alongside essential annual maintenance. Capital projects are also moving forward quickly, including the new childcare facility at GP Vanier, the expansion at Aspen Park Elementary, and a major seismic replacement and expansion at Cumberland Community School to increase capacity and reduce portables. He also recognized the district's Finance and HR teams for their summer work, and highlighted the successful Clerical Summer Institute, which brought together more than 70 clerical staff for professional learning and connection. With students returning September 3, Dr. Morrow reminded the community to slow down in school zones and give buses the space they need.

## 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)



## Vision

Compassionate, connected and personalized learning for all.

## Purpose Statement

To create safe, equitable learning environments that lift each learner to thrive, grow and to share their unique gifts.

## Truth And Reconciliation Commitment

We are deeply committed to learning, unlearning, and relearning and taking action for lasting Truth and Reconciliation

## Values

**Learning:** Centering learning in all we do.

**Equity:** Leading with diversity as a strength and inclusion as a right.

**Relationships:** Connection, compassion, and respect in all that we do.

**Safety:** Learning communities where all feel safe and belong.

**Integrity:** High ethical standards through transparency, honesty and accountability.

## Learning Goal Statement

Comox Valley Schools is committed to creating inclusive, wholistic, and personalized learning environments in order to enhance each student's development of the core competencies over time.

## Design Principles

Decolonizing and Indigenizing, Inclusion, Personalized Learning, Student Centered Assessment, Social Emotional Learning, Experiential Learning, Flexible Learning Environments, Digitally Enhanced Learning, Land-Based Learning





## Back to school September 3 for Comox Valley Schools

Comox Valley Schools is excited to welcome back students and families on Wednesday, September 3. Please note that September 2 is a Professional Development Day for educators in our schools. It's important to check school websites, watch for emails and if needed contact your child's school to make sure you are aware of the schedule for the first week of school. Many schools are open for fewer hours or a reduced schedule for that first week of classes.



## Clerical Summer Institute Brings Teams Together

Earlier this month, more than 70 clerical staff gathered at the School Board Office for our annual Clerical Summer Institute. The day was filled with learning, laughter, and meaningful connections. The Clerical Advisory Committee deserves special thanks for their behind-the-scenes planning, including a fun bingo game and creative centerpieces that were both adorable and practical. This gathering was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the essential role clerical teams play in keeping our schools running smoothly every day.

## District Events Calendar

**September 3** First Day of School

**September 12-17** Consent Week

**September 25** DPAC Event -  
Understanding IEPs for Parents and  
Caregivers

**September 30** National Truth and  
Reconciliation Day

Submit an event or see the full [District  
Events Calendar](#).

Share news about students, staff,  
volunteers and interesting things  
happening in our schools here.

[District Website](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)

# COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS



Comox Valley Schools  
A Community of Learners

## Back-to-School Road Safety

With the first day of school just around the corner on September 3, we are reminding everyone in the community to take extra care on the roads.

Together with our partners at the City of Courtenay, the RCMP, and ICBC, we are promoting road safety around schools and neighbourhoods. Please remember to slow down in school zones, watch for students walking and biking, and always give school buses the space they need.

By working together, we can help ensure every student arrives at school safely.

Back to school = more kids on the move.  
Please drive with care



## Comox Valley Schools Walks with Pride

Over the weekend, Comox Valley Schools joined our community in celebrating the annual Comox Valley Pride Parade. It was a joyful and colourful celebration of inclusion and belonging, with a large contingent from the district proudly taking part.

As a school district, we remain committed to creating safe and welcoming schools for every student and staff member. While progress has been made, our students continue to remind us that more work is needed to ensure every learner feels a true sense of safety and belonging.

## Summer Work Behind the Scenes

When schools pause for summer, many of our staff continue working hard to prepare for September.

- IT Team refreshed student laptop carts, replaced aging projectors with new interactive TVs, set up technology in new classrooms and staff spaces, and upgraded district data centre servers.
- Operations Team carried out major upgrades across schools, including new lighting, boilers, flooring, gym refinishing, exterior painting, field improvements, and outfitting of new classrooms. Every site also underwent deep cleaning, waxing, and annual safety maintenance.

Thanks to these teams, our schools are safe, clean, and ready for a successful year ahead.

## Big Progress on Capital Projects

Three major capital projects are advancing across the district:

- GP Vanier Childcare Centre – Construction is moving forward quickly on this much-needed new facility.
- Aspen Park Elementary – The expansion project is well underway and scheduled to be complete for the new year.
- Cumberland Community School – Work has begun on a major expansion and seismic replacement that will boost capacity and reduce the need for portables.

These projects reflect both our growing community and our commitment to providing safe, modern learning environments for students.