

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools held its second regular Public Board Meeting of the 2025–2026 school year on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

WATCH
SEPTEMBER 23
BOARD MEETING

Annual Board Election Results

Each year, the Board of Education holds its annual elections, selecting a Chair, Vice-Chair, and representatives to provincial bodies. These roles guide governance and represent Comox Valley Schools at the provincial level.

Here are the results from last Comox Valley Schools Board Elections:

- Board Chairperson: Michelle Waite — Area B (Lazo North)
- Board Vice-Chairperson: Sarah Jane Howe — Village of Cumberland
- BCSTA Provincial Council Representative: Chelsea McCannel-Keene — Area A (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)

Alternate: Sarah Jane Howe — Village of Cumberland

- BCPSEA Trustee Representative: Janice Caton — City of Courtenay

Alternate: Michelle Waite — Area B (Lazo North)

Congratulations to our trustees in their new and continuing roles, and thank you for your service to students, staff, families, and our community.

Chairperson's Update

Board Chair Michelle Waite thanked Kwa'kwaxolas, Jessie Everson, for opening the meeting in a good way and noted the positive energy his words brought to the room. She acknowledged that this was elections night and offered her report verbally. She invited everyone to raise their hands high for Truth and Reconciliation Week leading into the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and asked those able to stand for a moment of reflection to honour the children who never returned home, survivors, and their families and communities. She also highlighted Consent Week, framing consent as respect and equality, and reflected that while progress has been made there is still much work to do. She thanked DPAC for submitting the Board's resolution to BCSTA on a K–12 action plan to address misogyny and sexism and noted the resolution was carried at the recent BCCPAC General Meeting. She closed by emphasizing that truth and reconciliation, consent, and related priorities are part of the Board's "balanced urgency," to be advanced alongside core competencies through the lens of the Strategic Plan.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow reported a strong start to the year, with enrolment tracking close to projections and modest growth over last year. Enrolment remains on track; hiring continues. Focus areas include filling remaining Education Assistant vacancies, recruiting custodians, two school psychologists, and three Indigenous Support Workers. A full employee total will be presented next month. He thanked staff and the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Committee for their Consent Week work and he also shared that emergency "sea can" comfort-food supplies have been replenished and organized for quick access at schools throughout the district.

Decisions and information for consideration

- Audit (2024–25): KPMG presented the year-end results; the Board received the audit report and approved the 2024–25 Audited Financial Statements and accompanying discussion and analysis.
- Enhancing Student Learning – Interim Progress: The Board received the Ministry-mandated interim progress report for 2024–25.
- City of Courtenay Statutory Right-of-Way (Lake Trail area): The Board considered and adopted a right-of-way supporting active transportation adjacent to district property.
- 2026/27 Minor Capital Plan Submission: The Board reviewed recommended projects (SEP, CNCP, PEP, FIP) and approved submission to the Ministry's capital process.



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

September 2025

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

Learn More: www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/our-strategic-plan/



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COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

September 2025

Truth and Reconciliation Week September 23-30

For the last week of September, Comox Valley Schools honoured Truth and Reconciliation Week with learning and reflection across classrooms and schoolyards. Guided by our Strategic Plan and our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and to Decolonizing and Indigenizing teaching and learning, schools have centred student voice, place based learning, and meaningful actions that build understanding and community.



Across the district, students and staff learned through story, song, art, and conversation, with schools tailoring activities to their communities. École Puntledge Park examined the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action while younger learners made orange shirt keychains; Courtenay Elementary used a map and stickers to visualize the 150,000 children who attended residential schools; and Arden, Brooklyn, and Denman Island centered reflection through read alouds, talking circles, and identity-affirming art. École Robb Road created a Spirit Walk of orange hearts and actions; Huband prepared ribbons and buttons so all could participate; and Hornby Island, Nala'atsi, Aspen, Valley View, and Royston held story walks, assemblies, and land based learning that encouraged personal commitments to reconciliation. NIDES FAE connected nature learning to everyday acts of care, inviting students to wear orange, share messages, and tie ribbons into a fabric heart. These are only a few examples of the thoughtful work happening across Comox Valley Schools. You can read more in our full update on the district website: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/comox-valley-schools-mark-truth-and-reconciliation-week-with-learning-reflection-and-action/>

Isfeld teacher recognized for Holocaust education work

We are proud to congratulate Chantel Parsons of Mark R. Isfeld Secondary on receiving the 2025 Kron Sigal Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education from the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Ms. Parsons' teaching centres on the Holocaust and fosters critical thinking and a deeper understanding of historical responsibility, including confronting denial and distortion. Thank you, Ms. Parsons, for your impact on students and our community.



September 2025

COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

September 2025



Schools begin year with emphasis on consent education

Comox Valley Schools marked Consent Awareness Week with school-based learning, student leadership, and community connection focused on respect, boundaries, and healthy relationships. Classrooms, teams, and clubs took time to talk about what consent looks like in everyday situations, how to ask and listen, and how to support a friend who needs help.

Throughout the week, schools hosted age-appropriate activities such as classroom dialogues, advisory lessons, and homeroom reflections. Many highlighted digital citizenship and safe online behaviour, while others connected consent to teamwork in athletics, performing arts, and extracurricular programs. Staff reinforced clear, caring language for check-ins and modelled how to honour someone's "yes" or "no." The week supported our Strategic Plan commitment to safe, inclusive learning environments and aligns with the ongoing work of the District Gender-Based Violence Committee. Schools also shared resources for students and families who may need support.



Emergency comfort supplies get refreshed

This month, every school received a delivery of emergency comfort food supplies for their on-site sea can. Shipments included granola bars, fruit cups, and bottled water. School teams have:

- Inspected all items and recorded expiry dates,
- Stored supplies properly off the floor and organized for quick access, and
- Logged inventory so we can keep it current.

These supplies are automatically replenished before they expire and where appropriate, rotated items may be used to support existing breakfast and snack programs. Thank you to our school teams for helping to keep our emergency sea cans safe, organized, and ready.

District Events Calendar

October 2 Custodian and Facilities
Staff Appreciation Day

October 5 World Teacher Day

October 13 Thanksgiving (Schools
Closed)

October 24 Professional Day

October 28 Regular Board Meeting

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



September 2025