



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

October 2025

WATCH
OCTOBER 28
BOARD MEETING

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.

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools held its regular Public Board Meeting for October on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Chairperson's Update

Board Chair Michelle Waite opened the meeting by expressing condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Annie Joseph (Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw) a valued member of community and of the Ni'noxola, Elders in Residence team, whose teachings and kindness have left a lasting impact. Chair Waite also reflected on trustees' ongoing learning and engagement across the district and community, including the Board Learning Session at Kumugwe Big House, participation in the CVRD Elected Officials Forum, and work underway through the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association.



Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow highlighted several recent initiatives demonstrating student leadership and connection to community, including "Voices of Truth" a G.P Vanier gathering led by student Kensie – focusing on reflection and reconciliation. Dr. Morrow also highlighted the recent "Women Explore the Trades" event at Glacier View Secondary, where students explored hands-on learning opportunities in skilled trades and mentorship from industry professionals. He also shared news that all School Growth Plans are now available to view online here:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/school-growth-plans/>

Decisions and information for consideration

- 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar Amendment – The Board approved moving forward with the process to amend the 2025-26 district calendar by designating May 15, 2026 as a non-instructional Day of Indigenous-Focused Learning, in accordance with provincial changes to the School Act Calendar Regulation. Feedback can be submitted online here: www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/introducing-a-new-non-instructional-day-focused-on-indigenous-learning/
- The Board committee and school liaison assignments will generally carry on into the 2026/27 school year due to the duration of elected terms and timing of the October 26 elections.



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Board Meeting Highlights Continues - Reports and Updates

- Gender Based Violence Committee Chair Shannon Aldinger shared that the committee has met twice since the start of the school year and is preparing a comprehensive report to be shared at a future board meeting.
- District Principal Lisa Pedersen-Skene presented highlights from this year's Early Learning and Child Care Report. Shortened kindergarten transition schedules have received positive feedback from families, and the Primary Learning Community at Airport Elementary continues to thrive through its play-based, community-connected approach to learning.
- Food Services Coordinator Thea Cockerton shared a detailed overview of the district's ongoing efforts to expand universal lunch programs and promote sustainable, nutritious, and culturally relevant school food initiatives. The district is exceeding provincial targets for the percentage of students at school benefiting from this program in a stigma free way.
- Safe and Active Schools (SAS) Program – Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations, provided an update on community engagement activities including the recent open house and upcoming community walkabouts at the three schools the SAS program is focusing on this year (Valley View, Ecole Puntledge and Courtenay elementary schools).
- Major Capital Projects – Work at Aspen Park Elementary remains on track for completion in late winter 2026, while the G.P. Vanier Child Care Centre is scheduled for late spring 2026. The Cumberland Community School addition continues with site preparation and foundation work.
- Trustees received the Quarter 1 Financial Report from Assistant Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Nelson, confirming alignment with the 2025-26 budget and stable financial footing for this school year.



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)





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COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

October 2025

Women Explore the Trades event inspires students to discover skilled career pathways

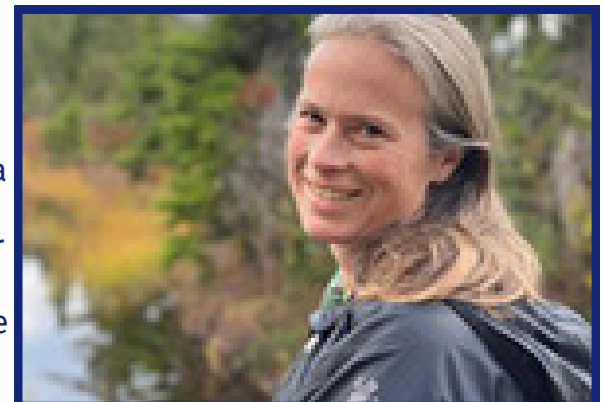
Glacier View Secondary hosted the inspiring Women Explore the Trades event, giving students an opportunity to explore a variety of skilled trades through a day of hands-on learning and mentorship. Open to female identifying students in Grades 9–12, the event invited participants to explore diverse career pathways and develop new skills in automotive, carpentry, baking, heavy-duty mechanics, forestry, plumbing, metalwork, electrical trades and firefighting.



Throughout the day, students connected directly with women working in these fields and with representatives from North Island College (NIC), SkilledTradesBC, and local industry partners. Students also met a recent Youth Train in Trades graduate who demonstrated her skills by creating jewellery from wire, a creative example of the artistry and precision involved in the trades. The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of partners and sponsors including Construction Foundation BC, Home Depot, Sinnott Electric, Erica's Sweets and Things, Western Forest Products, North Island College, Oyster River Fire Hall, and Mount Washington. Hosted by Comox Valley Schools in partnership with SkilledTradesBC Youth, Women Explore the Trades reflects the district's commitment to empowering all learners to explore diverse pathways to success, fostering confidence, curiosity and connection through hands-on learning.

National honour for Queneesh Educator

Congratulations to Queneesh Elementary teacher Christine Van Holderbeke, recipient of a 2025 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. She is one of just 70 educators recognized across Canada this year. Christine transforms her classroom into a celebration of difference, teaching through empathy and adaptability, so every child can find their own path to success. For more than 30 years, the Prime Minister's Awards have honoured educators who inspire curiosity, creativity and compassion. Please join us in congratulating Christine on this outstanding national recognition.



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COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

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Place-based learning: Miracle Beach students explore salmon, stewardship and community

Two Grade 5/6 classes from Miracle Beach Elementary Mr. Nelson's and Mr. Biegler's class spent an immersive day exploring the importance of salmon to Indigenous peoples and the wider community. The day began at the ancient fish traps in Comox Harbour, where students learned how traditional structures supported community harvesting and how everyone played a role. Lynn Swift, Jesse Everson and Shannon Campbell shared teachings on stewardship and sustainable practices. Students then walked along the Puntledge River to the hatchery, where they learned about salmon conservation and enhancement. Thank you to our presenters for guiding a powerful day of place-based learning.

Walks for Wenjack brings learning and reflection to life

Students and staff at Cumberland Community School gathered this week for their annual Walk for Wenjack a meaningful journey of reflection and learning along the historic Cumberland Colliery Railway trail. The former railway site provided a powerful setting for students to move through the landscape together, learning and reflecting on Canada's history and the importance of reconciliation. The walk honours the story of Chanie Wenjack, an Anishinaabe boy whose attempt to return home from residential school in 1966 symbolizes the experiences of thousands of Indigenous children and families. In the weeks leading up to the event, teachers guided students through lessons using The Secret Path, building understanding through classroom discussions and art. The walk served as a culmination of that learning an opportunity to connect classroom reflections to a shared, community-based experience. Many other schools also held Walk for Wenjack events and lessons in October, and we thank our educators for creating these engaging lessons for our students.

District Events Calendar

November 11 Remembrance Day

November 17-19 Band and Choir Festival

November 18 Public Engagement Session

November 25 Regular Board Meeting

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



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