



**Comox Valley Schools**  
A Community of Learners

# BOARD BUSINESS

December 2025

**WATCH  
DECEMBER 16  
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 December on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

### Chairperson's Update

In the last meeting of 2025, Board Chair Michelle Waite opened by recognizing and thanking the Everybody Deserves a Smile (EDAS) initiative. She acknowledged the EDAS team at École Puntledge Park, as well as the many students, staff and community members across the Comox Valley who contribute to this important work. Chair Waite shared that she was honoured to attend her first EDAS Care Package Assembly Day at École Puntledge Park, helping prepare care packages that were distributed locally and to communities.



Pictured: Courtenay Elementary students helping out at EDAS care package assembly day.

### Superintendent's Update

In his remarks, Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow shared highlights from across the district, including the completion of eight SOGI Masterclass professional learning sessions for educators, recent Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day activities hosted in partnership with the Provincial Outreach Program, and information about registration for the 2026–27 school year, including new and expanded program options at Aspen Park and Airport elementary schools.



He also thanked staff, students, volunteers, and families for their contributions to winter events and school celebrations, acknowledged that this time of year can be challenging for some, and expressed appreciation for the dedication shown across the district throughout the fall.



## Board Meeting Highlights Continues - Updates

A key focus of the meeting was an Equity Scan Update, presented by Associate Superintendent Joe Heslip. Trustees heard about the extensive, community-led engagement underway with Indigenous students, families, staff, rights holders and community partners. The update emphasized the importance of relationship-building and cultural safety, and outlined next steps as the district moves into data analysis and the development of recommendations to guide future action.

Trustee reports included an update from Trustee Cristi May Sacht on the work of the Indigenous Education Council. IEC Chair Keisha Everson also presented the Council's updated Terms of Reference to the Board, highlighting the ongoing collaboration and alignment with district priorities. Trustees also heard that the district is seeking one additional parent representative from the Online Learning community to join the Council.

## Decisions and information for consideration

The Board approved several decision items, including statutory right-of-way bylaws for Cumberland Community School and G.P. Vanier Secondary School to support electrical and telecommunications servicing.

Trustees also approved an amendment to the 2025–26 District Calendar, designating May 15 as a non-instructional day focused on Indigenous learning, while noting the child care challenges families may face on that day.

The Board received several information reports, including the Statement of Financial Information for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the Fall 2025 District Progress Report, which provides a high-level update on work underway across departments. Trustees also received revised administrative procedures, including updates to AP 167 – Unexpected Health Emergencies, which now includes information about naloxone kits, and changes to Early French Immersion registration, which will move to a lottery-based process to support more equitable access.

Finally, the Board approved moving forward with the development of a business case for a district-operated before- and after-school child care pilot, in collaboration with CUPE Local 439.

## Board Members

Michelle Waite, Chairperson (Lazo North)

Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson (Village of Cumberland)

Cristi May Sacht (Puntledge, Black Creek)

Susan L Leslie (Town of Comox)

Janice Caton (City of Courtenay)

Shannon Aldinger (City of Courtenay)

Chelsea McCannel-Keene (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)





## Day of Connection, Confidence, and Community for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Each year, students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the Comox Valley, Campbell River, Parksville, and Gold River come together for a special DHH Day hosted by the Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf and Hard of Hearing (POPDHH).

This annual event gives students the chance to learn and practice American Sign Language (ASL) in a fun and supportive environment while connecting with peers who share similar experiences.

But DHH Day is much more than a learning opportunity. It is a place where students can see Deaf role models, explore their identity, and build confidence. Throughout the day, students form friendships, share laughter, and engage in meaningful conversations that help them feel seen, understood, and empowered.

These connections are so strong that many students look forward to the monthly DHH gatherings held throughout the school year.

Students and teachers from Comox Valley Schools, Campbell River School District, Parksville Qualicum Beach School District, and Gold River School District would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes DHH Days possible.

Thank you to the educators, support staff, and families who help bring students together, and to POPDHH for providing expert instruction, mentorship, and such a welcoming community.

### District Events Calendar

January 5 First Day back from Winter Break

January 8 Dual Credit Academic and Trades info Session

January 13 Kindergarten and other program registration begins

January 13 Committee of the Whole Meeting

January 27 Regular Public Board Meeting

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



# COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

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## Everybody Deserves a Smile Campaign Wraps Up Across Comox Valley Schools



The 2025 Everybody Deserves a Smile (EDAS) campaign has wrapped up for the year, with students across Comox Valley Schools coming together to turn compassion into action.

Students from 22 schools helped prepare and pack more than 1,500 care packages, which were delivered by the EDAS team to individuals and organizations across the Comox Valley, as well as to communities in Victoria and Vancouver. The campaign also included a remarkable contribution from students at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, who baked 8,000 sugar cookies to be included in care packages and shared with community partners.

Throughout the campaign, students engaged in meaningful learning focused on empathy, social responsibility, and community connection, while working collaboratively to support people experiencing homelessness or vulnerability during the winter months.

Comox Valley Schools extends sincere thanks to the students, staff, and families who contributed their time, care, and generosity, as well as to community partners and the EDAS team for their leadership and coordination.

### **Kindergarten and other program registration opening soon**

Comox Valley Schools is preparing to welcome new learners for the 2026–27 school year, with kindergarten registration and several program registration opportunities opening in January 2026. This year includes expanded and growing programs, such as the new Indigenous Kindergarten to Grade 1 Program, the ENTER Program now serving Kindergarten to Grade 7 at Aspen Park Elementary, and the Pathways Learning Community, which will support Kindergarten to Grade 5 learners.

A series of program open houses will also take place in January, offering families opportunities to visit schools, meet staff and learn more about program offerings before registration opens.

Learn more by visiting: [comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration](http://comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration).

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