

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools held its regular Public Board Meeting for November on Tuesday, November 25, 2025.

Chairperson's Update

The meeting was opened by Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson who highlighted the full agenda ahead and expressed appreciation for the continued commitment of staff, students, trustees, and community partners to supporting a strong public education system during a busy time of year.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow shared several district highlights from November. Across the Comox Valley, students have excelled in athletics, performing arts, applied skills, robotics, and community engagement.

Six volleyball teams have qualified for provincials, with the Highland Senior Girls going unbeaten in playoff volleyball this season and capturing the 2A Island Championship in remarkable fashion. In AAA play, the G.P. Vanier Senior Boys captured their first Island title since 2009. Four other team also qualified for the provincials. Congratulations to everyone involved! More details are below in the news.



Pictured: Highland Secondary 2A Girls Island Champions

The Grad Attire Program completed its first fitting session of the school year with tremendous community support but is in need of more donations, and schools across the district hosted career fairs and hands-on learning opportunities as part of Careers Week. Many thanks to all the local business and organizations who helped make this week possible by sharing their insights and experiences with students.

While this meeting highlighted many uplifting stories and important progress across our district, Dr. Morrow recognized that this time of year can be difficult for many. With shorter days and colder weather, feelings of stress, fatigue, or isolation can grow. We want to remind our community that support is always available.

Staff have access to confidential wellness supports, and students can connect with their school counsellors and support teams at any time. Even during challenging seasons, our district continues to stand together supporting one another, staying connected, and moving forward with care and optimism.



Comox Valley Schools
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BOARD BUSINESS

November 2025

Decisions and information for consideration

Dr. Morrow also introduced the new 2026–2027 Budget Development Timeline & Process, noting that district enrollment projections were exceptionally accurate this year. The timeline was approved by the Board and can be seen here www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/2026-2027-preliminary-budget-process/

Board Meeting Highlights Continues - Reports and Updates

Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

Trustee Cristi May Sacht's report as seen in the Agenda included updates from the November 7 IEC meeting, including program presentations, planning for Indigenous Graduation, and quarterly reporting.

BCSTA Provincial Council

Trustee Chelsea McCannel-Keene provided an update on BCSTA financials, advocacy planning, provincial procedural discussions, and the organization of substantive AGM motions.

Policy Work & Ad Hoc Committees

Trustee McCannel-Keene also reported on the Policy Committee's ongoing work reviewing all Board policies. The committee is working with EngagED Consulting to update structure, identify thematic groupings, and plan the next phase of policy development.

Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Report

Trustee Shannon Aldinger presented the Gender-Based Violence Working Committee's comprehensive report on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The report represents more than a year of consultation with students, staff, community agencies, and subject-matter experts. It outlines recommendations across several categories, including staff training, student education, policy development, and district practices that promote consent culture and safety. The Board voted to receive the report, request the Superintendent to review and respond to its recommendations, and refer the draft policy to the Policy Committee.

Superintendent Morrow thanked the committee, noting this work as an important opportunity for the district to respond to a broader societal issue impacting young people.

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)



COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

November 2025



Students gain valuable insights while performing at Band and Choir Festival

The annual Comox Valley Schools Band and Choir Festival returned from November 17 to 19, bringing together music students from across Vancouver Island for three days of performances and learning.

The festival opened with the choral portion at Courtenay Fellowship Baptist Church before moving to the Sid Williams Theatre for two days of band sessions led by guest clinicians. Students benefited from performing on professional stages, receiving real-time feedback, and strengthening their musical skills.

Families and community members attended throughout the event, creating a supportive and celebratory atmosphere with students often staying to watch their peers perform.

Comox Valley Schools is very grateful for the effort of lead fine arts teacher Jennifer Riley, who puts in a great deal of work organizing this event.

The festival was made possible through the work of district staff, local music teachers, community sponsors and partners. It remains a honoured tradition that gives young musicians opportunities to grow, collaborate, and showcase their talents.

District Events Calendar

November 11 Remembrance Day

November 17-19 Band and Choir Festival

November 18 Public Engagement Session

November 25 Regular Board Meeting

December 16 Regular Public Board Meeting

December 19 Last day of classes before Winter Break

January 5 First Day back from Winter Break

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

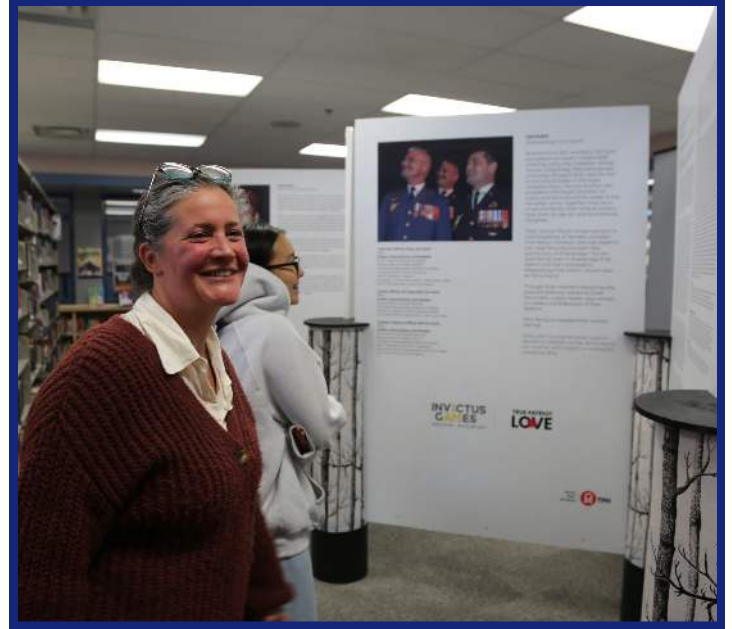


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COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

November 2025

Schools throughout the Comox Valley honour Remembrance Day



In the days leading up to Remembrance Day, schools throughout Comox Valley Schools held ceremonies, assemblies, and learning experiences to honour those who have served, and continue to serve, in the Canadian Armed Forces. Students and staff across the district paused to reflect on the sacrifices made by veterans, active service members, and those who gave their lives in the pursuit of peace.

Schools marked the occasion in ways that were both thoughtful and meaningful. Many students and staff carry personal connections to military service, and the week offered opportunities to acknowledge the dedication and courage of their family members and loved ones. Families and community members joined several schools for their ceremonies, helping to create a strong sense of shared remembrance.

Comox Valley Schools extends its appreciation to all veterans and active service members, as well as to the school staff, students, families, and community partners who helped create spaces for learning, remembrance, and reflection.

Solid start for Robotics71 at their first tournament of school year

The district's Robotics71 teams had an exceptional start to the competitive season at the Vancouver Island Regional Tournament hosted by Shawnigan Lake School. A highlight of the event was Team 7842-Fractal, made up of two Vanier students and one Isfeld student.

The team finished 1st out of 31 teams, earning the Tournament Champion Award. They also received the Judge's Innovation Award for their unique design feature, detailed engineering notebook, and strong performance in technical interviews. Congratulations to all students and coaches for this early-season success.



COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

Comox Valley Schools
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November 2025

Athletics Excellence – Volleyball Success Across the Valley



Our volleyball programs continue to shine at the highest levels in B.C., with six Comox Valley teams qualifying for the Provincial Championships.

Highland Senior Girls – Island Champions

The Highland Senior Girls were unbeaten in playoff volleyball this season and captured the 2A Island Championship in remarkable fashion. Despite illness to two players, the team finished first in their pool with straight-set wins over Chemainus, Shawnigan, and St. Andrews. They swept Ladysmith in the semifinal and advanced to a hard-fought final against Pacific Christian School. After battling back from early deficits in each of the first two sets, they secured 25–21 and 25–18 victories before staging a dramatic comeback in the third set—overturning an 18–12 disadvantage and winning 31–29. The win kept their November streak intact and set them up with a strong provincial seed for provincials.

Vanier Senior Boys – AAA Island Champions

In AAA play, the G.P. Vanier Senior Boys captured their first Island title since 2009. Vanier went undefeated in round-robin play with victories over Mount Doug, Spectrum, and Oak Bay, then defeated perennial contender Claremont in the semifinal. They closed out the tournament by sweeping Dover in straight sets. With standout performances from Grade 12 attackers Aiden Matthews and Aiden George, and emerging Grade 10 setter Oliver Blake, the Towhees headed into provincials as a serious contender.

Additional Provincial Qualifiers

Volleyball in SD 71 is thriving, with four more teams advancing:

- Highland Senior Boys – Reached the Island final and qualified
- Mark Isfeld Senior Boys – Qualified
- Mark Isfeld Junior Boys – Qualified
- Highland Junior Boys – Qualified

Congratulations to all players, coaches, and school communities on an outstanding volleyball season.