

Open Committee of the Whole Meeting

Report to the Board

June 10, 2025

In Attendance at Meeting:

Committee Members:

Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson
Cristi May Sacht, Board Meeting Chair
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee
Shannon Aldinger, Trustee
Susan Leslie, Trustee
Janice Caton, Trustee

Staff:

Carrie McVeigh, Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Josh Porter, Director of Information Technology
Craig Sorochoan, Manager of Communications

Regrets: Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent of Schools
Sarah Jane Howe, Board Vice Chair

Recording Secretary: Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

Partner Groups in Attendance:

Comox District Teachers Association (CDTA)
District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)
Comox Valley Principal/Vice-Principal (CVPVP)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

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.

The Board Meeting Chair welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. The Committee of the Whole met in circle format for the first time, reinforcing that students are at the center of all decisions, as symbolized by the box placed at the center of the circle. A talking stick was used to facilitate respectful sharing of questions and comments among participants.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Pages 1-2

Motion: (COWO-2025-06-10-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the June 10, 2025, Open Committee of the Whole agenda, as presented.

Aldinger/Leslie

CARRIED

3. EDUCATION

- a. **Celebrating the 2024/2025 School Year – Multi-Media Presentation**
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications

The multi-media presentation captured our students from the first day of school through to graduation ceremonies, highlighting Consent Week, Truth and Reconciliation Week, various track meets, climate summit, music, drama, Careers Week, celebrations and food, Coding Camp/Hackergal, athletics, Skills Canada, exchange program, Spelling Bee, Reading Links Challenge, Canoe Naming Ceremony, and Student Voice in celebration of our students and supportive community.

Trustees expressed interest in receiving regular updates on events taking place across the district.

A. GOVERNANCE

- a. None

B. POLICY

- a. None

C. OPERATIONS

- a. None

D. FINANCE

- a. **Annual Budget – Operating Capital & Special Purpose Funds – Report and Draft Bylaw**
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 3-67

The report provides the final 2025–26 Annual Budget along with capital and special funds, aligning resource allocation with the Board’s strategic priorities and reflecting updated funding and enrollment figures. Operational adjustments, staffing levels, and capital needs were detailed. The presentation outlined updates made since the last revision

Trustees sought clarification on the additional columns included in the capital reserve forecast, noting that allocations were added to honor existing commitments and to proactively set aside funds for anticipated expenses such as CCTV replacement. Concerns were raised regarding the decreasing flexibility in funds available for Board-initiated strategic

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Board of Education

Vision Statement - 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.

priorities. The discussion included how surplus funds could be used to support short-term initiatives and how the Board can still adjust a multi-year financial plan to maintain alignment with evolving priorities.

E. OTHER

- a. Update on Digital Device Policy Implementation – Briefing Note**
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent and
Josh Porter, Director of Information Technology

Pages 68-69

The update on the implementation of personal digital device (PDD) restrictions included feedback from students, administrators, and working groups indicating generally positive outcomes, improved consistency, and highlighted the need for ongoing communication, staff modeling, and digital literacy training.

F. ADJOURNMENT – 9:27 pm

Motion: (COWO-2025-06-10-02)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adjourn the June 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:27 pm.

Waite/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED