



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

February 2026

WATCH
FEBRUARY 24
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 on February 24, 2026. Trustees received committee reports, approved the 2027–2028 international student fee structure, and received updates on inclusive technology and the 2026–2027 budget.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow opened his report by acknowledging the profound impact of the tragic events in Tumbler Ridge and thanked staff for the trauma-informed, compassionate ways they supported students, families, and colleagues during the Provincial Day of Mourning. He reaffirmed the district's commitment to empathy, kindness, safety, and inclusion.



Pic: Karver Everson and his team at Nala'atsi



Pic: Tye 1 Diabetes Climbing Day

Superintendent's District Highlights

Dr. Morrow then shared several district highlights, including:

- A totem pole project at Nala'atsi School, created in collaboration with Dawn to Dawn and the City of Courtenay, offering students meaningful cultural learning rooted in Pentlatch territory.
- A district-wide Inclusive Education event that brought together K–7 students living with Type 1 diabetes for a morning of climbing, connection, and community.
- Strong performances by Comox Valley student-athletes at the BC School Sports Provincial Wrestling Championships, including GP Vanier's first provincial team championship.
- Success at the Island Improv Championships, with junior and senior teams earning top placements and one senior team advancing to nationals for the first time.
- A reminder that the district musical, *Beetlejuice Jr.*, will run March 10–14 at GP Vanier Secondary School.
- Recognition of Pink Shirt Day on February 25, with this year's theme, Sprinkle Kindness, highlighting the importance of everyday acts that strengthen belonging in schools.

Decision items

The Board approved the proposed international student fee structure for the 2027–2028 school year. Staff noted that a modest decrease in international student enrollment is projected next year due to space constraints at secondary schools, rather than federal policy changes.



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Board Meeting Highlights Continues

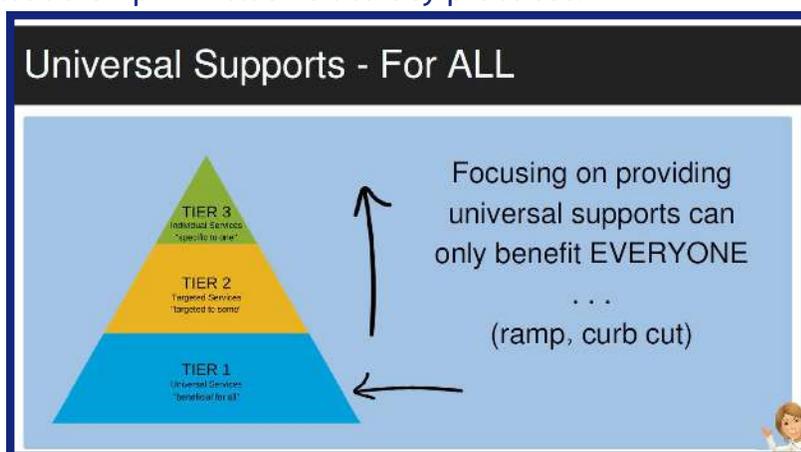
Committee Reports

Trustees received reports from the Open Committee of the Whole, the Ad Hoc Policy Committee, and the Ad Hoc Gender-Based Violence Committee. The Policy Committee shared an update on work underway to prioritize policy revisions, particularly as the district approaches an election year, and invited trustees to bring forward additional policy priorities.

Trustees also formally received a revised Gender-Based Violence Committee report, which includes additional recommendations and resources to support prevention, education, and collaboration with community partners.

Information Items and Presentation

Trustees received a presentation from Learning Services on inclusive technology initiatives that are expanding access for learners across the district, highlighting universal design, assistive tools, and Comox Valley Schools' leadership in inclusive literacy practices.



Pic: There are three tiers for universal supports that can benefit everyone

Additional information items included updates on district video surveillance, safe and active schools initiatives with the City of Courtenay, and a 2026–2027 budget update.

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)



Humanities Week at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary shines light on careers pathways for students



Mark R. Isfeld Secondary celebrated Humanities Week with a series of engaging activities designed to highlight the wide range of educational and career pathways connected to the humanities. Throughout the week, students are heard from a diverse lineup of guest speakers — both in person and virtually — who are shared real-world perspectives on global issues, public service, culture, and social change. Presentations included international speakers discussing current events in the West Bank, advocates supporting female academics from Afghanistan, and community leaders speaking about their career journeys.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from Jon Ambler, a retired Canadian Armed Forces Colonel, former commander of 19 Wing Comox, and former City of Courtenay councillor, who spoke about leadership, service, and civic engagement. Additional activities throughout the week include a humanities careers exploration session featuring local professionals, a performance poetry event, and a junior Model United Nations simulation. Thank you to the Isfeld humanities staff and all involved for the creativity, planning, and care that have gone into organizing such an inspiring week for students.

District 71 Robotics teams host successful tournament

District 71 Robotics teams (7842) proudly hosted their own robotics tournament earlier this month at Highland Secondary School. Thanks to a tremendous volunteer effort from students, parents, and staff, the event welcomed 43 teams and nearly 175 participants from across the region. A big congratulations to Team 7842 – Fractal, who earned both the Innovate Award and a Tournament Finalist Award. Well done as well to all eight teams that advanced to the playoff rounds. Hosting an event of this size is no small feat, and it reflects the dedication, teamwork, and leadership of everyone involved. The District 71 Robotics community continues to set a high standard for student-led learning and collaboration. The teams will be back in action with the Island Championships at Brentwood College School. We wish all participants the very best of luck!

