

## BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools met on January 27, 2026, with Vice-Chairperson Sarah Jane Howe chairing the meeting. Trustees advanced priorities related to enrolment growth, student safety and budget stewardship.

### Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow shared early indicators of strong interest for the 2026–2027 school year, noting that kindergarten registration is now open and that the district is seeing significant engagement in the Pathways Learning Community at Airport and the expanded ENTER Program at Aspen Park Elementary. Families were also invited to attend an open house for the Fae and Compass programs at NIDES on January 30.



Dr. Morrow highlighted the first session of the Pathways and Possibilities Lunch Series, hosted at the K'ómoks First Nation Community Hall through a collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation, Indigenous Education, and SD71 Career Education. The opening session focused on careers in the trades, with upcoming sessions planned for health and education and entrepreneurship and tourism. Additional highlights included Adaptive Schools professional learning opportunities for educators, ongoing success in the Robotics71 program with a community tournament hosted at Highland Secondary, and recognition of the Mark Isfeld Senior Girls' Basketball team for winning the Victoria City Police Tournament.

### Preliminary budget engagement and partner involvement

The Superintendent advised that preliminary budget engagement is launching early, with surveys opening in early February to gather input from rights-holders, partners, leadership, and the broader community. Feedback will be summarized and shared publicly at the May 10, 2026 Public Engagement Session.

### Amended annual budget approved

The Board gave all three readings and adopted the 2025–2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw, confirming a total budget of \$174,763,661. Increased enrolment and growth in unique learners resulted in more than \$3.7 million in additional operating revenue, including an increase of approximately 274 FTE students.

### Administrative Procedures review underway

Trustees were also informed that partner groups will be invited to participate in a working group to review proposed changes to administrative procedures, with work planned from February 2026 to January 2027.



**Comox Valley Schools**  
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# BOARD BUSINESS

January 2026

## Board Meeting Highlights Continues - Updates

### **Safe schools and student safety priorities**

Associate Superintendents Jay Dixon, Vivian Collyer, and Joe Heslip presented a district-wide school safety update aligned with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's ERASE framework.

Key focus areas included:

- Positive personal and cultural identity and SOGI inclusion, supported by district and school-based leads and ongoing professional learning.
- Introduction of a racial equity support teacher role to strengthen anti-racism and equity work across schools.
- Ongoing Equity Scan and continued collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation, including work related to the Local Education Agreement and cultural humility initiatives.
- Mental health and substance use supports, including partnerships with community agencies and evidence-based programming.
- Expanded naloxone access, with each school receiving both traditional kits and inhaler options, along with training supports.
- Online and cyber safety, including increased use of ERASE reporting tools, collaboration with Safer Schools Together, and new supports related to Snapchat and sextortion concerns.
- Updates to the district's critical incident response and low-arousal training to support safe, trauma-informed school environments.

### **Committee of the Whole and policy work**

The Ad Hoc Gender-Based Violence Committee confirmed its next meeting for January 28. Superintendent Morrow advised that a 1.0 FTE teaching position will support the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Trustees also acknowledged correspondence from the Comox District Teachers' Association requesting the development of a sanctuary school administrative policy, which was referred through the Ad Hoc Policy Committee process.

### **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

January 2026

## Senior girls basketball teams celebrate a season of success across Comox Valley Schools



Comox Valley Schools is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of three senior girls basketball teams who have delivered impressive performances on the court this season, showcasing skill, teamwork, and school pride.

Mark Isfeld Secondary is marking a historic milestone after capturing the 53rd annual Victoria City Police Tournament title, the first time in school history the program has claimed this championship. The team is enjoying an exceptional season, posting a 16–3 record and completing an undefeated run in North Island league play, earning the number one seed heading into the playoffs.

Highland Secondary also had a strong showing at the Harwood Tournament. The team opened with a thrilling comeback against Quw'atsun Secondary, rallying from a 20-point second-half deficit to narrowly fall 63–62 in a hard-fought game. They rebounded with a 77–67 win over Queen Margaret's to advance to the third-place match, where they defeated Kwalikum Secondary 57–48 to secure third place.

The G.P. Vanier Senior Girls Basketball Team represented their school with distinction at the West Shore RCMP Tournament in Victoria on January 30 and 31, emerging as tournament champions with a 61–51 victory over Dover Bay in the finals. The team demonstrated steady growth and determination throughout the competition, earning wins over Royal Bay, Cedar Christian, and Mount Douglas to secure their place in the championship game.

Comox Valley Schools congratulates all three teams, their coaches, and supporters for their dedication and sportsmanship.

### Cross-Boundary Request process open February 1-28

The cross-boundary transfer request process for Comox Valley Schools opens February 1. Students registered in the Comox Valley School District may request a transfer to a school outside their catchment area for the 2026-2027 school year. The request window opens February 1, 2026 until February 28, 2026. All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Cross boundary requests will be accessible online. To learn more or register, complete the fillable form that can be found at: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/cross-boundary-request/>





# COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

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January 2026



## Nearly half of all students can now access universal food offerings at their school

Comox Valley Schools continues to expand access to nutritious, stigma-free school meals, with the Feeding Futures School Food Program now reaching nearly half of all students across the district. Since January 2025, access to universal, low or no-barrier lunch programs has grown from approximately 19 per cent of students to 44 per cent, with access expected to reach 48 per cent as additional programs launch in 2026. This growth places the district among leading school districts in British Columbia for universal school food programming.

Between September and November 2025, more than 67,000 lunches were served through Feeding Futures supported programs. These meals were delivered through universal models designed to reduce stigma, remove financial barriers, and provide consistent access to food. The largest increase came from new pay-what-you-can programs, which allow families to contribute if they are able while ensuring all students can participate.

As of December 2025, universal food access is available at 12 schools, with two more programs planned for early 2026. The district has also introduced reusable dish programs in several schools to reduce waste, reusing more than 15,000 containers over three months. Provincial and federal funding continues to support the expansion of school food services, strengthening equitable access to nutrition and supporting student well-being and learning across Comox Valley Schools.

### District Events Calendar

February 2-20 Budget Survey Open

February 16 Family Day

February 17 Pro-D Day

February 24 Regular Public Board Meeting

February 25 Pink Shirt Day

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