



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 27, 2026
7:00 pm

In Attendance:

Trustees:

Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson
Susan Leslie, Trustee (online)
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee
Janice Caton, Trustee
Shannon Aldinger, Trustee
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson (online)

Staff:

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent and Acting Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Josh Porter, Director of IT
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications

Regrets: Cristi May Sacht, Trustee
Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations

Recording Secretary: Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

1. Call to Order

The Board Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

The Board of Education acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation and thanked them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.

3. Agenda Changes/Additions

None

4. Adoption of Agenda

Pages 1-4

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the January 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Caton/Aldinger

CARRIED

5. Board Meeting Minutes

Pages 5-14

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-02)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the December 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Caton/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

6. Record of In-Camera Meetings

Page 15

- December 16, 2025 – Regular In-Camera Meeting
- January 13, 2026 – Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting

7. Presentations / Delegations

A. None

8. Announcements

A. Board Chairperson Report - none

B. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent reported strong early uptake in kindergarten registration and continued interest in the Pathways Learning Community at Airport and the expanded ENTER Program at Aspen Park; invited families to the NIDES FAe/COMPASS open house on January 30; noted the district-hosted Adaptive Schools seminar led by Principal Lucinda Wolters to strengthen collaborative practice; announced the next Robotics71 tournament at Highland Secondary on Saturday, January 31 (public admission free); confirmed preliminary budget engagement will launch earlier this year with surveys next week and a public summary to the Board at the March Public Engagement Session; inviting partners to join the review of administrative procedures; and recognized the Mark Isfeld Senior Girls' Basketball team for winning the 53rd Victoria City Police Tournament.

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.*

C. Trustee Reports - none

9. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Committee of the Whole Board Report

Pages 16-17

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-03)

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receives the Report to the Board dated January 13, 2026, as presented.

McCannel-Keene/Aldinger

CARRIED

Next Open Committee of the Whole Meeting:

TOPIC: Review 2026-27 Operational Budget
DATE: May 12, 2026
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

B. Ad Hoc Policy Committee Board Report

Pages 18-20

Chelsea McCannel-Keene

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-04)

THAT The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receives the Report to the Board dated January 20, 2026, as presented.

McCannel-Keene/Aldinger

CARRIED

Next Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday February 17
TIME: 5:00 pm
LOCATION: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

C. Ad Hoc Gender-Based Violence Committee Board Report

Next Ad Hoc Gender-Based Violence Committee Meeting:

DATE: January 28, 2026
TIME: 8:30 am
LOCATION: 607 Cumberland Road, Courtenay

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10. Decision Items

A. Adopt Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

Pages 21-50

Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Highlights included an increase in operating revenues largely due to increased enrollment; operational expenses increased proportionally to the increase in enrollment; no changes to surplus priorities previously approved; balanced operational budget and maintenance of contingency fund.

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-05)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) give all three readings of the "School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2025-2026", this 27th day of January 2026.

Caton/Aldinger

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-06)

That the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) give first, second and third readings to the 25/26 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total budget of \$174,763,661.

McCannel-Keene/Aldinger

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

11. Information Items

A. Learning Services

i. Receive Safe Schools Report

Pages 51-58

Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent,
Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent, and
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent

Presentation highlighting current priorities, programs, training, and supports in place to promote student safety, wellbeing, and preparedness across the district.

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-07)

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Safe Schools Annual Update for information.

McCannel-Keene/Aldinger

CARRIED

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B. Business Services

- i. **Receive Major Capital Project Status Update**
Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations

Pages 59-62

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-08)

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the 'Major Capital Projects Update – January 2026' briefing note, dated January 27th, 2026, as presented.

Aldinger/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

- ii. **Receive Q2 Financial Update: 2025-26 Annual Budget**
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance

Pages 63-65

Q3 and Q4 reports will include adjustments from the approved amended budget.

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-09)

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Q2 Financial Report dated January 27, 2026, as presented.

Aldinger/Caton

CARRIED

12. Board Business

A. Unfinished Business

- i. **Recommendations of the Gender-Based Violence Committee Report Update**
Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent

Working with partner groups discussing the recommendations and posting a 2-year teacher position to support the work while the Board's Ad Hoc Policy Committee is working on policy.

B. New Business

- i. **Superintendent Performance Appraisal Plan**
Sarah Jane Howe, Board Vice-chairperson

The Board is playing an active role in the annual review and has engaged Suzanne Hoffman in completing the review.

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13. Correspondence

A. Ministry of Education Response to the Gender-Based Violence Committee Report Pages 66

B. Policy Request by CDTA: Establishment of a Sanctuary School Policy Pages 67

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-10)

THAT the Board of Education SD71 (Comox Valley Schools) refer the request for a Sanctuary School Policy to the Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

McCannel-Keene/Aldinger

CARRIED

C. Request for CVS Board inclusion on Motion Pages 68-73
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson

Motion: (RP-2026-01-27-11)

THAT the Board of Education SD71(Comox Valley) thank the Southeast Kootenay Board of Education for their invitation, indicating that due to timelines to offer amendments that we are unable to join as movers of the motion.

Waite/Caton

CARRIED

14. Public Question Period to the Board

Questions were received from the public regarding vape detection and 'complex behaviour' training. Responses were provided.

15. Adjournment at 8:45 pm

Motion:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adjourns this meeting.

Aldinger/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

Board Approved on:
February 24, 2026

Certified Correct:



Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent and Acting Secretary-Treasurer



Sarah Jane Howe
Board Vice-Chairperson

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