



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

March 2026

WATCH
MARCH 17
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 March 17, 2026. Trustees received committee reports,

Board Chairperson Update - Michelle Waite

Chairperson Michelle Waite opened the meeting by reflecting on the recent shift to daylight saving time, noting the longer daylight hours ahead. She also recognized the outstanding efforts of students, staff and volunteers involved in the district musical *Beetlejuice Jr.*, highlighting how the production brought together participants from across the district.

Chairperson Waite also highlighted a recent gathering of more than 70 trustees from across Vancouver Island, hosted in Cowichan, which provided an opportunity for shared learning and collaboration. As spring break approaches, Chair Waite acknowledged both the importance of rest for students and families, and the continued work of many staff over the break.



Superintendent's Update - Dr. Jeremy Morrow

Superintendent Jeremy Morrow provided an update on student learning and district activities, highlighting hands-on career education opportunities, student achievements in trades and skills competitions, arts programming, and inclusive and culturally responsive learning experiences taking place across schools.

Winter District Progress Report

The Board received the Winter 2026 District Progress Report, which provides a snapshot of district work from December through February, with the next report scheduled for May. Trustees noted that the report captures a broad range of district initiatives while also identifying ongoing challenges.

Discussion included:

- The role of the Equity Scan in informing future planning and its potential connection to upcoming budget decisions
- Infrastructure needs related to expanding school food programs

The Board voted to receive the report as presented. View the report: [District Winter Progress Report](#)



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Board Meeting Highlights Continues

Committee Reports

Trustees received reports from the BCSTA Provincial Council and the Indigenous Education Council, with updates on provincial advocacy, reconciliation work, and ongoing Indigenous education initiatives across the district.

2026-2026 Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull provided an update on the 2026–27 budget process, noting that recent public engagement sessions marked a positive start to consultations.

Key updates included:

- Confirmation of provincial funding details for the upcoming year
- Slightly higher-than-anticipated revenue projections, with an increase of approximately \$143,000
- Ongoing engagement with partner groups and stakeholders

Trustees discussed the potential impacts of provincial funding changes, including those related to supports for students with autism. The strong level of engagement from staff, partners, and the broader community in this year's budget process was noted and appreciated. The Board voted to receive the budget update as presented.

Board Business

Trustees approved a revised Board committee structure. As part of this update, Trustee Chelsea McCannel-Keene stepped down from the Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

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

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Career Education team providing hands-on learning opportunities for students



Comox Valley Schools' Career Education team continues to create meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for middle years students, helping them explore future pathways through real-world experiences.

Recent "FOCUS days" in automotive and construction, delivered in partnership with North Island College and supported by SkilledTradesBC, gave students the opportunity to learn directly from industry professionals. Students also explored sheet metal work through the Construction Foundation of BC, participated in job shadow experiences with local employers such as Taco Bandido, and engaged in events like Find Your Fit and "Guess My Job."

From hydroponic farming to underwater robotics, these experiences are introducing students to a wide range of career possibilities while building confidence, curiosity, and a stronger sense of what their futures can hold.

Lunch and Learn series with K'ómoks First Nation

The Pathways and Possibilities Lunch and Learn series, delivered in partnership with K'ómoks First Nation, continues to provide meaningful opportunities for Indigenous students to explore future pathways.

The most recent session focused on careers in health care and education, with Indigenous professionals and community members sharing their experiences and insights. These gatherings create space for students to ask questions, build connections, and see themselves reflected in future careers.

This work is an important part of the district's ongoing commitment to strengthening relationships and supporting Indigenous student success.





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Montréal slam poet inspires French immersion students



Students in the French Immersion program recently had a unique opportunity to work with Montréal-based slam poet Élém0, who spent a week engaging students across multiple schools.

Through performances and workshops delivered entirely in French, students explored identity, voice, and creative expression through spoken word. This enriching experience supported both language development and cultural learning.

The district extends its thanks to Canadian Parents for French and ImmersART for helping make this opportunity possible.

Inclusive Play Program launches in Comox

The new Inclusive Education Play Program at the Comox Recreation Centre is already making a positive impact for students across the district. This pilot initiative creates welcoming, supportive spaces for elementary-aged students of all abilities to build confidence and explore movement through adapted activities such as Boccia and floorball.

Thank you to the Inclusive Education team, staff, and families for their leadership and support in bringing this important program to life.

