



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

April 2026

WATCH
APRIL 28
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 April 28, 2026. Trustees received committee reports,

Board Chairperson Update - Michelle Waite

Chairperson Michelle Waite acknowledged the National Day of Mourning on April 28, honouring workers that have lost their lives to occupational disease or have been killed or injured on the job. Trustees also recognized upcoming Red Dress Day on May 5 and Canadian Mental Health Week, noting the connection between safety, truth and reconciliation, belonging and student well-being.



Superintendent's Update - Dr. Jeremy Morrow

Dr. Jeremy Morrow shared several recent district highlights, including (see news for more on highlights):

- The inaugural Canucks Floorball Play Day involving 10 elementary schools at G.P. Vanier Secondary and Queeneesh Elementary
- A district-wide Hackergal Hackathon focused on innovation, collaboration and coding
- Ongoing community input into the Long-Range Facilities Plan, with more than 500 survey responses received to date
- Student, staff and leadership learning visits to Kumugwe Big House through the Indigenous Education Department
- The District Bee Championships hosted by Brooklyn Elementary with participation from 15 schools
- The Tourism and Hospitality Springboard event, where students explored local career pathways
- Robotics Team 7842 Fractal competing at the World Robotics Championship in St. Louis, finishing 39th in their division and among the top 390 teams worldwide

Policy committee update

Trustees appointed Trustee Shannon Aldinger as chair of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee for the remainder of the 25/26 academic year, or until successor appointments are approved by the Board. The board also approved motions directing the committee to develop a standardized policy template and endorsed a prioritized list of policies for review before June, including:

- Trustee Election Bylaw
- Gender-based Violence and Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Equity and Non-Discrimination Policy
- Sanctuary Schools Policy
- Governance policies: Role of the Board, Role of the Superintendent, and Delegation of Authority



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Board meeting highlights continue

Three-year school calendars approved

The board approved district school calendars for:

- 2026-27
- 2027-28
- 2028-29

The calendars were developed through consultation with staff, unions, parent representatives and community members. Calendars and a new FAQ resource are now available on the district website.

Visit: www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/school-calendars-next-three-years/

Capital bylaw receives approval

Trustees approved the 2026-27 Capital Bylaw, enabling the district to proceed with provincially funded capital projects. Funding approvals include school enhancement work, food infrastructure upgrades and playground improvements.

Board receives update on the Local Education Agreement and the How Are We Doing Report

The board received an update on the Local Education Agreement, highlighting important collaborative work underway between Comox Valley Schools and K'ómoks First Nation to support student success, relationships and shared priorities. Associate Superintendent Heslip was joined by K'ómoks First Nation Education Manager Erin Higgonbottom and District Principal of Indigenous Education ʔakʔapiqa Lelaina Jules for an overview of this important work that's underway.

Associate Superintendent Heslip also provided an overview of the *How Are We Doing Report*, which shares key student outcome data locally and provincially - and helps guide ongoing improvement efforts across the district.

Financial, student learning and facilities updates

Trustees also received:

- Third quarter financial statements
- A major capital projects status update
- A 2026-27 budget update
- The Ministry response to the district's Enhanced Student Learning Report for 2024-25

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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Canucks Floorball Play Day brings schools together for fun and teamwork



Students from across Comox Valley Schools recently came together for an exciting afternoon of sport, teamwork and school spirit at the Canucks Floorball Play Day.

With 10 teams participating, the event was hosted at two locations: G.P. Vanier Secondary School and Queneesh Elementary School. Teams from Aspen Park, Brooklyn, École Robb Road, Queneesh, Miracle Beach, Huband Park, Royston, Cumberland and École Puntledge Park took part in a full afternoon of games and friendly competition.

Students rotated through a schedule of games, filling both gyms with energy, encouragement and excitement. The event highlighted the growing popularity of floorball across the district and the enthusiasm students have for active play.

A special thank you goes to all staff who helped organize the day, as well as Brad Smith, coach of the Comox Valley Glacier Kings, who helped arrange player referees for both locations. Students also enjoyed prizes generously donated by the Vancouver Canucks and Happy's Sports.

The Play Day builds on the momentum of Comox Valley Schools being selected as one of only two districts in British Columbia to pilot the Junior Canucks Floorball Program, helping introduce the fast-paced and inclusive sport to students across the district.

Spelling champions create buzz at District Bee

The District Bee brought together 15 schools at Brooklyn Elementary for a memorable event filled with courage, confidence and community spirit. Students qualified for the event by being top finishers at their local school bees before advancing to the district championship.

Congratulations to all students who participated, with special recognition to Lou Grice of Miracle Beach Elementary for first place, Freya Harrison of Cumberland Community School for second place, and Alyssa Mehaffey of Brooklyn Elementary for third place.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers and organizers who made the event such a success.



Comox Valley Schools deepens learning through visits to Kumugwe Big House



Comox Valley Schools students, staff and district leaders recently took part in meaningful learning experiences at Kumugwe Big House on the K'ómoks First Nation reserve through a collaboration led by the district's Indigenous Education Department.

The sessions created opportunities for participants to learn directly from Indigenous knowledge holders in a culturally significant space rooted in history, governance and community.

On the first day, English First Peoples and BC First Peoples teachers from throughout the district gathered at Kumugwe Big House for a learning session. Senior leaders also joined students and staff from Highland Secondary and G.P. Vanier Secondary. U'magalis Keisha Everson led teachings on both days, sharing perspectives grounded in identity, culture, language and responsibility. Kwakwax̌olas Jessie Everson and Trevor Hardy also shared teachings connected to land, family and intergenerational knowledge.

On the second day, senior leaders joined English First Peoples 11 students and staff from NIDES, Mark R. Isfeld Secondary and Glacier View Secondary for Big House teachings.

During the sessions, participants learned about the deep connections between people, place and culture. Participants also learned about the impacts of colonial policies, including the potlatch ban from 1884 to 1951, and the strength of families and communities who protected cultural practices despite criminalization.

Keisha also shared her regalia as a form of visual storytelling, expressing family identity, history and responsibility.

Participants were invited to serve as witnesses, carrying what they learned back to their families, schools and communities for further reflection.



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Careers on tour in the Comox Valley at Tourism and Hospitality Spingboard event



The career tourism and hospitality springboard event gave students a hands-on look at one of the region's key industries, highlighting career pathways connected to tourism, hospitality, recreation, arts, food services and visitor experiences.

The day began at Crown Isle Resort, where students received a behind-the-scenes tour and learned about careers in guest services, food and beverage operations, event coordination and resort management. Throughout the day, students visited local businesses, attractions and community destinations, taking part in tours, presentations and interactive learning experiences. Stops included:

- Experience Comox Valley
- Mount Washington Alpine Resort
- Sid Williams Theatre
- Courtenay and District Museum
- Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park
- Filberg Summer Kitchen
- Cumberland Lake Park
- Dark Side Chocolates
- Hot Chocolates

Experiences like this help students connect classroom learning to future opportunities while building awareness of industries that help shape the Comox Valley economy and community.

Comox Valley Schools extends sincere thanks to all participating partners and hosts, along with our Careers Department staff, for creating such a valuable day of learning for students.

Take the Long Range Facilities Plan survey



SCAN ME

comoxvalleyschools.ca/lrfp

Long-Range Facilities Plan survey now open

Comox Valley Schools is inviting families, staff and community members to share input as the district updates its Long-Range Facilities Plan. The plan helps guide decisions about school buildings, sites and learning environments over the next 10 years. Community feedback will help shape future priorities and draft recommendations.

Take the survey by May 13 at: comoxvalleyschools.ca/lrfp