



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 28, 2026
7:00 pm

In Attendance:

Trustees:

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

Staff:

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent of Schools
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Lelaina Jules, District Principal Indigenous Education
Jeanine Lindsay, District Vice-Principal Indigenous Education
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Shaun Jones, Manager of IT
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications

Regrets: Dr. Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

1. Call to Order

The Board Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 6-10

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the April 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

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.*

5. **Board Meeting Minutes**

Pages 6-10

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-02)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the March 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

May Sacht/Aldinger

CARRIED

6. **Record of In-Camera Meetings**

Page 11

- March 17, 2026 – Regular In-Camera Meeting
- April 14, 2026 – Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting

7. **Presentations / Delegations**

A. None

8. **Announcements**

A. Board Chairperson Report

The Board acknowledged this National Day of Mourning and reaffirmed its commitment to safe and respectful workplaces. May 5th a national day of awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people, also known as Red Dress Day, and next week is Mental Health Awareness Week.

B. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent highlighted a positive and active return from spring break, with strong engagement, achievement, and connection across the district.

The Superintendent recognized a number of student and district accomplishments, including: Floorball Day and the Hackergal Hackathon; ongoing Long-Range Facilities Planning engagement; Big House visits supporting Truth and Reconciliation; arts and music collaborations; strong results at Skills Canada Provincials; the Elementary Model UN; the District Spelling Bee; career-connected learning through local industry visits; and the Robotics71 team's participation at the VEX Robotics World Championship. The Superintendent also shared the work now underway in reviewing of all District administrative procedures by the working group encompassing both staff and partners. The Superintendent closed by thanking staff, students, families, and community partners for their continued support.

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C. Trustee Reports

- i. **BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)** Pages 12-13
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee Representative
- ii. **Indigenous Education Council (IEC)** Page 14
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee Representative

Added to the report that IEC has added a NIDES parent representative.

9. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Committee of the Whole Board Report - none

Next Open Committee of the Whole Meeting:

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

B. Ad Hoc Policy Committee Board Report

Pages 15-17

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-03)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) appoint Trustee Shannon Aldinger as the Ad Hoc Policy Committee Chair for the remainder of the 25/26 academic year, or until successor appointments are approved by the Board.

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

Committee Chair Aldinger welcomed Trustee Caton to the committee and gave an overview of meeting discussions.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-04)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) direct the Ad Hoc Policy Committee to develop a standardized policy template for consideration and approval.

Aldinger/Howe

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-05)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the prioritized list of policies to review by the Ad Hoc Policy Committee for the 25/26 school year, as amended to include the Policy on Board Committees, as amended.

Aldinger/May Sacht

CARRIED

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Next Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting:

Date: May 5, 2026
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

Recommended Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-06)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) receive the board committee reports, as presented.

Howe/Aldinger

CARRIED

10. Decision Items

A. Approve 3 Years District Calendars
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent

Pages 18-22

Calendars with revised look were provided. Associate Superintendent Dixon thanked the committee for their work and survey respondents for sharing their feedback.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-07)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029, District School Calendars as presented.

McCannel-Keene/May Sacht

CARRIED

B. Approve Capital Bylaw 2026/27-CPSD71-01
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 23-33

The Secretary-Treasurer shared the Ministry's response to the Capital plans submitted in June and September noting there is an observable decrease in funding on capital.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-08)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) give all three readings of the Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD71-01 in one meeting, this 28th day of April 2026.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-09)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) give first, second, and third readings to the Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD71-01.

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Director of Operations introduced the Annual Facilities Grant.

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11. Information Items

A. Learning Services

i. How Are We Doing Report

Pages 34-58

Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent

The presentation focused on numeracy and literacy gap analysis along with comparisons in Math, Science, and Pre-Calc along with graduation rates.

ii. Receive Local Education Agreement Update

Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent,
Erin Higginbottom Education & Capacity Development Coordinator, and
Lelaina Jules, District Principal Indigenous Education

Associate Superintendent Heslip reviewed district data with the top 3 supports being conversation with student, social-emotional support, and academic support (in-class).

The KFN Education & Capacity Development Coordinator acknowledged that we are uninvited guests serving the K'ómoks First Nation working together to meet the needs of students.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-10)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the 2025 How Are We Doing Report and Local Education Agreement Update as presented.
May Sacht/Aldinger

CARRIED

iii. Enhanced Student Learning Report – Ministry Response

Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent
Shared the summary from the Ministry's response to the ESLR.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-11)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Enhanced Student Learning Report Ministry Response for 2024-2025 as presented.
Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

B. Business Services

i. Receive Q3 Financials

Pages 59-66

Candice Hilton, Director of Finance

The Director of Finance reviewed the Q3 Financials inclusive of forecasted projections. The Q4 update will come in June.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-12)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Q3 Financials as presented.

Howe/Aldinger

CARRIED

ii. Receive Major Capital Projects Status Update

Pages 63-66

Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations

Highlighted that the prefab at Aspen opened at the beginning of the month with the parking lot expansion slated for spring and the new Vanier childcare center has set a move-in date for early May.

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-13)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the 'Major Capital Projects Update – April 2026' briefing note, dated April 28th, 2026, as presented.

May Sacht/MCannel-Keene

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-04-28-14)

Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Howe/McCannel Keene

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. 2026/27 Budget Update

Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on activities completed and underway as part of the budget process, including the rollout of the 2026/27 Budget at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12. Follow-up meetings with partners and rights holders will occur in advance of May 12.

12. Board Business

A. Unfinished Business

i. None

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B. New Business

- i. None

13. Correspondence

- A. None

14. Public Question Period to the Board

Questions were asked and answered.

Questions addressed from previous meetings in more detail:

- Assistive technology support
- Inclusive Education pilot of AI agent concerns around security

15. Adjournment – 9:14 pm

Motion:

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

McCannel-Keene/Howe

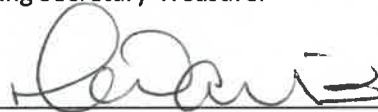
CARRIED

Board Approved on:
May 26, 2026

Certified Correct:



Harold Cull
Acting Secretary-Treasurer



Michelle Waite
Board Chairperson

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