



**Open Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Report to the Board**  
**May 12, 2026**

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**In Attendance:**

**Committee Members:**

Janice Caton, Trustee Meeting Chair  
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson  
Sarah Jane Howe, Board Vice Chair  
Cristi May Sacht, Board Meeting Chair  
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee  
Shannon Aldinger, Trustee

**Staff:**

Dr. Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent of Schools  
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

**Regrets:** Susan Leslie, Trustee

**Recording Secretary:** Candace Jesson, Manager Administrative Services & Projects

**Rightsholders & Partner Groups in Attendance:**

Indigenous Education Council (IEC)  
District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC)  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 439)  
Comox District Teachers Association (CDTA)  
Comox Valley Principals and Vice-Principals Association (CVPVPA)

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**A. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education acknowledged that we are 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.

The Board Meeting Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Pages 1-2

**Motion: (COWO-2026-05-12-01)**

*THAT* the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the May 12, 2026, Open Committee of the Whole agenda, as presented.

May Sacht/Waite

**CARRIED**

**C. EDUCATION**

1. None

## D. GOVERNANCE

### 1. Board Committee

Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 3-5

An overview of the proposed Board Committee structure that would have rightsholders and partners participating in discussions was provided. Work of the Board in committee and sent to the Board. Committee partners and trustees asked questions and provided clarification. Recommendation to add a KFN representative in addition to IEC at the table. Concern about partner rep consistency with mid-year elections and not having an ST in on policy work; speaking for IEC (collect, take back, digest, decision, report back – not a process that aligns). Staff will be present to support the work of the board as needed. Recommendations included a rep, plus one for committee partners.

## E. POLICY

1. None

## F. OPERATIONS

1. None

## G. FINANCE

### 1. 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw Presentation

Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

Pages 6-11

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the budget process (inclusive of consultation results), budget formula, narrative, proposed options, recommendation, and multi-year estimates. Questions were asked and answered.

## H. OTHER

1. None

## 2. ADJOURNMENT – 8:45 pm

### **Motion: (COWO-2026-05-12-02)**

*THAT* the Committee of the Whole adjourn the meeting.

Waite/Howe

**CARRIED**