

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

The Board of Education held its first regular public meeting of the 2026-27 school year on Aug. 25. Trustees heard a proposal concerning rural education on Hornby Island, approved updated governance policies and committee structures, and received updates on Indigenous education and trustee remuneration. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chairperson Sarah Jane Howe.

Hornby Island rural education presentation

Representatives of the Hornby Island Community School Parent Advisory Council presented on rural education planning and highlighted some of the unique features of the school.

The PAC highlighted the success of the school's previous middle years model, which supported experiential and land-based learning, student belonging and strong community partnerships. With the configuration of classes at the school changing due to enrolment, the group proposed creating a Rural Education Working Group involving district staff, school leadership, families, community partners and NIDES. They suggested the group could also include Denman Island and explore different grade configurations, blended learning, community partnerships and alternative ways of providing specialist services. No decision was requested from the Board. Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Morrow agreed to continue the conversation with the group and work toward an in-person meeting in October.



Pic: Nature is often the classroom for students on Hornby

Superintendent's Update - Dr. Jeremy Morrow

Dr. Morrow thanked Operations, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, NIDES and other employees who worked throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year.

Summer work included school improvements, safety upgrades, fire alarm inspections, technology preparation, staffing and deep cleaning at district sites.

Looking to the year ahead, Dr. Morrow encouraged staff to create opportunities that help every student discover and share what makes them uniquely great.



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BOARD BUSINESS

August 2026

Board meeting highlights

Governance policies and committees

The Board approved updated Role of the Board, Role of the Superintendent and Delegation of Authority policies. Trustees also directed the Education and Policy Committee to review and revise the district's Childcare Policy.

Terms of reference and trustee assignments were approved for the Board's three standing committees:

Trustee Assignments on Standing Board Committees			
Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson			
	Education & Policy	Support Services	Audit
Committee Chair	Shannon Aldinger	Sarah Jane Howe	Chelsea McCannel-Keene
Trustee	Susan Leslie	Cristi May Sacht	Janice Caton
Trustee	Janice Caton	Chelsea McCannel-Keene	Sarah Jane Howe
Staff	Superintendent	Secretary-Treasurer	Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement - Update

The Board received an update on the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement and current work supporting more than 1,800 Indigenous students. Priorities include strengthening Indigenous Support Worker services, expanding land-based and culturally centred learning, supporting the Warriors Society and Kwezens Society, and continuing the Ni'nixsola Elders in Residence and Cultural Presenters programs. Staff also emphasized the four Rs of respect, relevance, representation and reciprocity.

Trustee remuneration

The Board received its annual trustee remuneration update. In accordance with Board policy, remuneration increased by 2.1 per cent based on the B.C. Consumer Price Index. Effective July 1, annual remuneration is \$26,677 for the Board chair, \$24,643 for the vice-chair and \$23,200 for trustees.

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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August 2026

New artificial turf field at GP Vanier should be ready for start of school year



Construction of the new artificial turf field at G.P. Vanier Secondary School is nearing the finish line, but the field is not yet open for use.

The turf contractor has completed installation of the shock pad, artificial turf and infill. However, the site remains an active construction zone while landscaping, fencing, electrical work, washroom construction and final inspections are completed.

The Comox Valley Regional District is targeting an early September opening. Until an official opening date is announced, students, families, sport organizations and other residents are asked to stay outside the fenced construction area and off the new turf.

The multi-sport field was developed through a long-standing partnership between the CVRD and Comox Valley Schools. The school district provided the land for the project, which responds to growing demand for year-round field sport opportunities in the Comox Valley.

Once open, the field will accommodate baseball, soccer, field lacrosse, field hockey, and practice space for rugby and football. Comox Valley Schools will use the field on most weekdays during school hours. Community access will generally be available after 5 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends.

The CVRD and Comox Valley Schools thank nearby neighbours, students, families, sport organizations and facility users for their patience while the final stages of construction are completed. More information about the opening date and public access will be shared soon.

Consent Week shifting to third week of October



Beginning this school year, Comox Valley Schools will recognize Consent Awareness Week during the third week of October. In 2026, the week will take place from October 19 to 23.

Moving Consent Awareness Week from September to October will give schools more time to prepare meaningful, age-appropriate learning opportunities focused on consent, personal boundaries, healthy relationships and respect. Information and resources will continue to be shared beginning in September, with learning and conversations continuing throughout the school year.

The change was among the recommendations in the district's [Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Report](#). The report outlines recommendations to strengthen prevention, education, response and support related to gender-based violence and sexual misconduct across the district.

More information and resources will be shared with schools and families ahead of Consent Awareness Week.



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Comox Valley Schools Staff busy through summer preparing for 2026-2027 school year



While schools may be quieter during the summer, teams across Comox Valley Schools have been busy preparing for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Finance and Payroll team completed year-end financial statements, Ministry reporting requirements and the district's annual financial audit. Staff also prepared start-up information for schools and supported Clerical Training and Mentoring Committee activities.

The Human Resources team has been onboarding employees, finalizing staff assignments and preparing for the Clerical Summer Institute. The team has also been reviewing health and safety supports and testing a new custodial dispatching system scheduled to launch September 8. New Executive Director of Human Resources Sabrina Yeudall has been meeting with staff, learning about district operations and advancing key HR initiatives.

The Information Technology team has been updating devices and software and installing new equipment in classrooms and labs.

Operations staff have completed maintenance, upgrades and deep cleaning throughout the district. Projects include landscaping improvements at Aspen Park Elementary, portable upgrades at G.P. Vanier Secondary, new safety guards in middle and secondary school shops, fire alarm testing, and paving and play court improvements at Brooklyn Elementary.

These projects are only a snapshot of the work completed over the summer. Thank you to our payroll employees, clerical staff, custodians, maintenance crews, technology staff, administrators and everyone working behind the scenes to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming and ready for students and staff.



Comox Valley Schools