



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

Comox Valley Schools
School District No. 71

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday May 26, 2026
7:00 pm

In Attendance:

Trustees:

Michelle Waite, Board Chairperson
Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson
Susan Leslie, Trustee
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
Dr. Vivian Collyer, Associate Superintendent
Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent
Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Tara Ryan, District Principal Inclusive Education
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance
Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations
Josh Porter, Director of IT
Craig Sorochan, Manager of Communications

Regrets: none

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 1-5

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-01)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No.71 (Comox Valley) adopt the May 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Caton/Howe

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 6-12

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-02)

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

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

6. Record of In-Camera Meetings

Page 13

- April 28, 2026 – Regular In-Camera Meeting
- May 12, 2026 – Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting
- May 19, 2026 – Special In-Camera Meeting

7. Presentations / Delegations

A. None

8. Announcements

A. Board Chairperson Report

Pages 14-15

The Board Chair also acknowledged the District's *Indigenous Brilliance* professional development day, upcoming commencement ceremonies including the first annual District Indigenous Graduation Ceremony, National AccessAbility Week, and Pride Month, recognizing the district's continued commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and student success. Furthermore, the Board Chair highlighted the Board's enhanced 2025/26 budget engagement and planning process, noting increased public participation, expanded consultation opportunities, and earlier financial planning timelines aligned with district strategic priorities.

B. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent highlighted several recent district initiatives, events, and achievements, including Indigenous Brilliance Day of Learning, the third annual Inclusive Sports Festival, recognition of an Airport Elementary StrongStart educator by Métis Nation BC, continued learning visits to the Kumugwe Big House, the Mark R. Isfeld Secondary senior girls soccer team's undefeated season and qualification for provincials, the district-hosted Hackergal Hackathon, and the second annual Enduro Mountain Bike Race in Cumberland. Congratulations were also extended to graduating students across the district as commencement season begins.

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C. Trustee Reports

- i. **Indigenous Education Council (IEC)**
Cristi May Sacht, Trustee Representative

Pages 16-17

Trustee May Sacht highlighted associated events and celebrations in addition to the report provided.

9. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Committee of the Whole Board Report

Pages 18-19

Next Open Committee of the Whole Meeting:

DATE: June 9, 2026
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-03)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Open Committee of the Whole Board Report dated May 12, 2026.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

B. Ad Hoc Policy Committee Board Report

Pages 20-33

Next Ad Hoc Policy Committee Meeting:

DATE: June 16, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
LOCATION: School Board Office: 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay

Highlighted policies proposed for discussion at the June Open Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-04)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Ad Hoc Policy Committee Board Reports dated May 5 and May 19, 2026.

Aldinger/Leslie

CARRIED

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Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-05)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the proposed policy template for Board use, with flexibility for the inclusion of additional elements where appropriate.

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-06)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) provide the draft Gender-based Violence and Sexual Misconduct policy for rightsholders and partner feedback at the June 9, 2026 Open Committee of the Whole meeting.

Howe/Leslie

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-07)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) provide the draft Sanctuary Schools policy for rightsholders and partner feedback at the June 9, 2026 Open Committee of the Whole meeting.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-08)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the revised 'Equity and Non-discrimination' policy, as presented.

Howe/Waite

CARRIED

10. Decision Items

A. 2026-27 School Fees

Pages 34-42

Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-08)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the attached Fee Schedules for the 2026-27 school year.

Howe/Leslie

CARRIED

B. 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw

Pages 43-60

Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the Annual Budget Bylaw and provided an overview of the District's 2025/26 budget development process, including public and

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partner engagement, strategic alignment considerations, and key financial assumptions. Trustee questions were asked and answered.

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-09)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) gives second and third reading to the 26/27 Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$173,446,504 at their meeting May 26, 2026.

Howe/Caton

CARRIED

11. Information Items

A. Learning Services

i. Accessibility Update

Pages 61-63

Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent

Tara Ryan, District Vice Principal of Inclusive Education and Accessibility Committee Chair provided an update including student participation, accessibility audits completed at seven schools, and ongoing efforts to support accessibility and inclusion across the district. The Committee also highlighted collaboration with Operations staff, recognition of National AccessAbility Week, and priorities for continued accessibility planning and awareness in 2026/27.

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-10)

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

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

ii. Gender-based Violence and Sexual Health Update

Pages 64-65

Jeremy Morrow, Superintendent

The Superintendent provided an update on progress related to the Gender-Based Violence Working Committee recommendations, including expanded consent education resources, professional learning, student supports, safer and more inclusive school initiatives, and the appointment of a K-12 Lead Teacher: Sexual Health and Gender-Based Violence Education. Expected upcoming work includes awareness initiatives, engagement planning, and the development of administrative procedures to support implementation of the Board's Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Misconduct policy.

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Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-11)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the Response to Gender-Based Violence Working Committee Report update, as presented.

Howe/Aldinger

CARRIED

B. Business Services

i. 2026 May Enrolment Update

Pages 66-68

Jay Dixon, Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Dixon provided a report comparing projected and actual 2025/26 Online Learning enrolment figures at NIDES, noting that actual enrolment exceeded projections in September, February, and May. The Board also received information regarding the Ministry of Education and Child Care's funding framework for Online Learning enrolment.

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-12)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the 2025-2026 May Online Learning Enrolment Report as presented.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

ii. Carbon Neutral Action Report

Page 69

Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations

Staff informed the Board that the 2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability Report will be submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions by May 30, 2026, in accordance with the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and Carbon Neutral Government Regulation. Highlights included a 2% decline in emissions despite growth in the district. Overall we have had a 33% reduction since the benchmark year of 2010, albeit it is more and more challenging due to an increase in electrical costs due to water shortages.

Motion: (RP-2026-05-26-13)

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) receive the 2025 PSO Climate Change Accountability, as presented.

Howe/May Sacht

CARRIED

12. Board Business

A. Unfinished Business

- i. None

B. New Business

- i. None

13. Correspondence

- A. None

14. Public Question Period to the Board

Questions were asked and answered.

15. Adjournment – 8:45 pm

Motion:

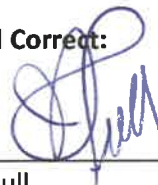
THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) adjourns this meeting.

Howe/McCannel-Keene

CARRIED

Board Approved on:
June 23, 2026

Certified Correct:



Harold Cull
Secretary-Treasurer



Michelle Waite
Board Chairperson

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