



Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS

September 2026

**WATCH
SEPTEMBER 22
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 Sept. 22 public board meeting was the final regular meeting of the current Board of Education's term. Trustees approved an Indigenous Policy Framework, reviewed student learning results and made decisions on facilities, capital planning and financial reports.

In her final report of the term, Chairperson Michelle Waite reflected on the accomplishments of the 2022-2026 Board term, highlighting progress in strategic planning, equity and inclusion, student engagement, and advocacy for public education.

She also recognized significant investments in district facilities and child care, alongside new community partnerships that have expanded opportunities for students and families across the Comox Valley.



Picture: Trustees Gather for Final Meeting of 2022-2026 Term

Indigenous Policy Framework Approved

A significant highlight of the evening was the approval of the district's new Indigenous Policy Framework following a comprehensive presentation by Jesse Everson, Lelaina Jules, and Joe Heslip. The framework was developed through extensive engagement with K'ómoks First Nation, hereditary leaders, Indigenous families, knowledge holders, and the Indigenous Education Council. Trustees heard how the framework will serve as a living document that guides the district's ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and strengthens relationships with Indigenous Rights Holders.

The framework emphasizes relationship-building, reciprocal learning, and embedding Indigenous perspectives into district planning, policies, and operations. The Board unanimously approved the framework.

Truth and Reconciliation Week ties to important Equity Scan work

Both the Board Chairperson and Superintendent highlighted the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, emphasizing that reconciliation extends beyond a single day and remains a central commitment of the district. Superintendent Morrow linked this work to findings from the district's Equity Scan, noting the importance of Indigenous student voice, belonging, culturally responsive practices, and continued partnership with local Indigenous communities.



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Board meeting highlights

Governance policies and committees

Trustees received updates from the Board's standing committees, with Harold Cull providing an overview of committee activities and recommendations brought forward for Board consideration.

On behalf of the Education and Policy Committee, Shannon Aldinger presented recommendations including approval of the district's Indigenous Policy Framework. Sarah Jane Howe reported on the work of the Support Services Committee, including long-range facilities planning, capital priorities, and operational matters. The Board approved several recommendations arising from both committees.

Providing an update from the Audit Committee, Chelsea McCannel-Keen highlighted the district's 2025-26 audited financial statements and the committee's review of the annual audit. Trustees approved the audited financial statements and heard that KPMG identified no concerns during the audit process. Links to committee reports and supporting materials are available on the Board meeting agenda page.

Enhancing Student Learning Report Approved

The Board approved the district's 2026 Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR), which highlighted both successes and ongoing challenges in student learning outcomes. Key strengths included improvements in Grade 4 and 7 literacy, strong Grade 10 numeracy achievement, increasing Indigenous graduation rates, and positive student connections with caring adults. Areas for continued focus include literacy and numeracy achievement gaps, student belonging, graduation outcomes, and post-secondary transitions.

Administrative Procedures Review Underway

Trustees received an update on the district-wide review of administrative procedures. The review is being conducted through an Administrative Procedures Working Group that includes partner group representatives.

The work aims to modernize, simplify, and improve accessibility of district administrative procedures while ensuring alignment with legislation, district values, and Board policy.

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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September 2026

Comox Valley Schools honour Truth and Reconciliation Week

Truth and Reconciliation Week
2026

A time for students and staff to recognize and remember the history of residential schools and honour survivors, their families and communities.

***We thank artist Andy Everson for creating and sharing the Every Child Matters logo with SD 71**

Schools across the Comox Valley are marking Truth and Reconciliation Week with learning, reflection and Orange Shirt Day activities ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

This is the district's fifth observance since the Board of Education voted in December 2021 to dedicate the last week of September to Truth and Reconciliation Week each year. It is a time to honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, survivors, and the continuing impacts on families and communities.

Our recent Equity Scan reminds us that Indigenous students continue to face barriers to belonging and representation at school. As staff worked on the scan and the district's Indigenous Policy Framework, local Indigenous people in community, families, Elders and leaders generously shared their knowledge, experiences and stories. We are grateful for the trust and time they gave to these conversations. Their perspectives will continue to guide how we support students, strengthen relationships and make decisions across the district.

We thank K'ómoks First Nation, the Indigenous Education Council, other local Indigenous representatives and the local Métis association for their ongoing guidance. We also thank our Indigenous students, staff, Indigenous support workers and Indigenous Education Department for the knowledge, relationships and care they bring to schools throughout the year.

Truth and reconciliation require us to listen, learn and act beyond a single week. This work continues in our classrooms, relationships and district decisions every day.

COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

September 2026

G.P. Vanier Secondary's new artificial turf field is now open!



Students, sports organizations and community partners gathered Sept. 11 to celebrate the official opening of a new artificial turf field at G.P. Vanier Secondary School. K'ómoks First Nation Elder Donna Mitchell welcomed guests, followed by remarks from school, regional district and local sports representatives.

The new multi-sport field is the second artificial turf field at G.P. Vanier. It gives students and community teams more reliable space to play throughout the year, especially during the wet months when natural grass fields may be unavailable. Students will use the field for physical and health education, practices and competitions. Outside school hours, it will support community sports including baseball, soccer and lacrosse. The Comox Valley Baseball Association was the first community group to use the new field when it opened for bookings earlier that week.

Comox Valley Schools thanks the Comox Valley Regional District, City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland and K'ómoks First Nation for their collaboration. We also thank the sports organizations and everyone who helped plan, design and build this shared space. We look forward to seeing students and community teams make the most of the field in every season.