Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners

BOARD BUSINESS
October 2026

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.

NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION SWORN IN

Family, friends, community partners and staff filled the room on Tuesday, Oct. 27, to welcome the new Comox Valley Schools Board of Education at its swearing-in ceremony.

Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull led the ceremony, administering the oath of office and oath of confidentiality to trustees. The occasion recognized the responsibility each trustee has accepted to serve students, families and the broader school community.

Comox Valley Schools thanks all trustees for putting their names forward and taking on this important public service. The new Board will get down to business at its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. Families, staff and community members are encouraged to follow the Board's work and stay connected with decisions affecting our schools.

The seven trustees will serve communities across the Comox Valley and help guide the governance and strategic direction of the school district over the coming term.

The 2026-2030 Board of Education is:

- Chelsea McCannel-Keene – Trustee Electoral Area A
- Michelle Waite – Trustee Electoral Area B
- Nicole Bergot – Trustee Electoral Area C
- Jennifer Fisher – Town of Comox
- Laurel Rankin – Village of Cumberland
- Shannon Aldinger – City of Courtenay
- Kendall Packham – City of Courtenay



Picture: 2026-2030 Board of Education for Comox Valley Schools

COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

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October 2026

Schools hold events, lessons and activities for Consent Awareness Week



Students across Comox Valley Schools explored respect, personal boundaries and healthy relationships during Consent Awareness Week, Oct. 19 to 23. Through age-appropriate lessons, discussions and activities, schools helped students understand how consent applies to everyday interactions, from asking before giving someone a hug to respecting boundaries in friendships and online.

Elementary schools introduced these ideas through stories, library displays, classroom conversations and daily announcements. At Royston Elementary, students practised asking permission before entering another person's personal space. At École Robb Road, classroom lessons focused on boundaries and consent, while Airport Elementary featured library readings and resources to support learning.

Secondary schools offered opportunities to put these concepts into practice. At Mark R. Isfeld Secondary, a consent wheel challenged students to consider different scenarios and decide whether consent had been given. A lunchtime activity connected french fries with FRIES, a reminder that consent must be Freely given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic and Specific.

Highland, G.P. Vanier and Glacier View brought community service providers into schools, connecting students with information and supports. Highland's participating organizations included public health, mental health services, Foundry and the Sexual Abuse Intervention Program. At Lake Trail, lessons explored personal boundaries, communication, online interactions and being an upstander. A relationship wall encouraged students to consider healthy relationships, different boundaries and the distinction between privacy and secrecy.

The week supports the recommendations of the district's Gender-Based Violence Working Committee and its ongoing work to strengthen prevention, education and support. Comox Valley Schools thanks students, educators, counsellors, community partners and families for helping make the week meaningful. Learning about consent continues throughout the year, with everyday opportunities to listen, communicate clearly and respect another person's choices.

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COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS DISTRICT NEWS

October 2026

Schools carry Terry Fox's legacy forward



Students and staff across Comox Valley Schools have been running, cheering and fundraising in honour of Terry Fox, celebrating his determination, compassion and enduring legacy.

Highland Secondary surpassed its fundraising goal, raising $3,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Staff volunteers faced water balloons to help encourage donations. Queneesh Elementary raised $1,700, including $1,100 to support its Elder in Residence, who is undergoing cancer treatment in Victoria. Mark R. Isfeld Secondary students, staff and community members raised an impressive $14,639.70 for the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research. At Aspen Park Elementary, a student courageously shared his own cancer journey during an assembly, offering a meaningful reminder of why this tradition matters. Older students dressed up to cheer on runners. G.P. Vanier Secondary brought school spirit to a four-kilometre run, pep rally, barbecue, bake sale, pie-in-the-face fundraiser and teachers-versus-students dodgeball game.

These are just a few examples of how our schools honoured Terry and supported those affected by cancer. Thank you to the students, staff, families and community members who donated, organized and participated. Your kindness and generosity carry Terry's message of hope forward.