

The Highlighter

April 3, 2018

Recognition and Delegations

Agricultural Program – Matteus Clement gave a presentation on incorporating agriculture and farming into the curriculum by teaching students at a working farm. Trustees thanked him for the presentation and referred him to the Superintendent for more discussion.

Introduction of Principal – The Superintendent introduced Nicole Miller, who has been appointed Principal at Cowichan Secondary School. Ms. Miller comes to the Cowichan Valley from Toronto, where she was a long-time principal in inner-city schools and brings a wealth of skills and knowledge.

Board of Education

Capital Plan/Cowichan Secondary School – The Board of Education was delighted to announce that, as part of the response from the Ministry of Education to the District's Capital Plan submission, Cowichan Secondary School was given the green light to proceed to phase 2 under the Ministry's Seismic Mitigation Program. The next phase will have the district explore three options – Seismic upgrade only, Seismic upgrade and partial replacement or replacement with a new school. Trustees have been long advocating for a new school alongside community partners (Mayors of North Cowichan and City of Duncan, Local provincial and federal MLAs, Cowichan Tribes Chief, VIU) and will continue to pursue the facility. District Staff will begin to develop a Project Definition Report as requested by the Ministry, for submission in the Fall. A full news release is available on the district website.

As well, roofing repair projects were approved for Alex Aitken Elementary, Alexander Elementary, Bench Elementary, Cowichan Secondary, Discovery Elementary, District Resource Centre, Frances Kelsey Secondary and Lake Cowichan School. A new bus was also approved.

No-Idling Signage – The Board passed a motion that, in consideration of air quality and children's health, to have exterior signs installed on Board properties and schools to discourage idling during drop off and play pickup times.

Indemnification Bylaw – As part of the policy review, it was noted that the District didn't have an indemnification bylaw to indemnify a trustee, officer or an employee of the Board against a claim for damages arising out of the performance of his/her duties. The Board gave 3 readings to Bylaw No. 5 – Indemnification and passed it.



Education

District Update – The Superintendent reported on the following items in the District:

Passion Week Pilot Project - The district is launching a pilot program for Grade 11/12 students across the district called "Passion Week". The school district is offering to senior students from all 5 high schools in the Cowichan Valley the opportunity to take part in exciting hands on, experiential programs. Passion Week is an opportunity for students to fully immerse themselves into 5 days of activities, discovery and learning. Students who participate will receive 1 graduation credit upon completion of the course. All teachers in SD79 had the opportunity to provide an application if they were interested in offering a week-long "Passion" course. For funding reasons, these pilot courses must start in April and be 5 consecutive days. Teachers could be creative with respect to what they offered. We were looking at providing opportunities for learners to engage in areas that are both enriching and exciting. The following 6 different, 5 day Passion Week programs are currently being offered to senior students who have birthdays in 1999 and 2000. 2001 birthdays can also participate if they are born between January and June. Enrollment in the programs will be based on student interest. The courses being offered are:

- Yoga: Being Truly Present – *With Leah Gough*
- Introductory Rock Climbing – *With Mark Whitney*
- Outdoor Adventures on Water and Land – *With Corene Gillis*
- Golf: Off Screens and On Greens – *With Jody Jackson (NCCCP Level III Golf Coach)*
- Outdoor Stewardship and Recreation 11 – *With Kelly Dougan and Craig Lauridsen*
- An Exploration of Metis Identity, History and Culture – *With Jeremy Hart and Craig Lauridsen*

Business

BC Summer Games Update - Trustee Spilsbury displayed a letter from the BC Summer Games Society, commending staff members Monroe Grobe, Selena Hayes and Mark Margerison for their enthusiasm and leadership in their volunteer areas.

2018-2019 Funding Update – The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview on the 2018-2019 funding announcement, noting that the overall grant from the Ministry of Education is expected to be \$2.3 million more this year than in 2017-2018. He presented a reconciliation of changes in our budget position outlining cost pressures, in particular the 1.95% payroll tax and expected wage increases. The starting position for the 2018-2019 budget shows a shortfall of just over \$1 million.

2017-2018 Year-End Financial Projection – The Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2017-2018 Year-End Financial Projection as at March 31, 2018, showing an anticipated surplus of over \$1.4 million. He noted that the 2017-2018 surplus is in addition to the \$1.284 surplus from 2016-2017. The Board of Education will begin their budget considerations based on this information.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Strategic Plan Presentation	April 4, 1:30 pm	CVRD
Partner Group Liaison Meetings	April 5, 1:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 10, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	April 11, 10:00 am	Lake Cowichan School
Board Planning Session	April 12, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Advisory Committee Meeting	April 17, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Public Consultation on the 2018-2019 Budget	April 17, 5:30 pm	Inspire Room
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 18, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DPAC Meeting	April 19, 7:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 24, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Special Open Board Meeting	April 25, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
BCSTA Annual General Meeting	April 26 – 28	Vancouver, BC
Closed Board Meeting	May 1, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	May 1, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

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