

# The Highlighter

December 5, 2017

## Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board of Education held its annual election for the role of Chair and Trustee Candace Spilsbury was reelected. Subsequently, the Board held its annual election for the role of Vice-Chair and Trustee Barb de Groot was reelected. Trustee Spilsbury and Trustee de Groot assumed their official roles.

## Recognition and Delegations

**Janet Ruest – Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching** – Board Chair Spilsbury recognized Janet Ruest, who was awarded the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching at a ceremony at Rideau Hall on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Ruest thanked the Board and district staff for their support. For more information on this accomplishment, a [media release](#) is available.

**Children and Family Council** – Mary Dolan, accompanied by representatives from the Children and Family Council, addressed the Board about their mandate and on their wish to make an official connection to the School District to support the Rights of the Child and its implementation in our community.

## Education

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

**Non-Instructional Day** – The Superintendent reported to the Board on the excellent learning opportunities provided at the November 27<sup>th</sup> Non-Instructional Day. He commended District Staff who provided excellent learning opportunities, in particular Assistant Superintendents Sheryl Koers and Debbie Mah, and Director of Aboriginal Education and Learner Engagement Denise Augustine for their organization of the event.

**Harvard University Visitor** – Amelia Peterson, a Fellow from Harvard, was once again visiting us as part of her initiative looking at 5 different educational jurisdictions across North America in how they are viewing and implementing learning transformation. This time, she focused on secondary education. Her project will culminate in a book describing the learning journeys the 5 districts are undertaking.



## Education, continued

**Learning Forward Conference** – At the expense-paid invitation of Learning Forward, a multi-national learning organization, a district team attended the Learning Forward Conference in Orlando, Florida on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. The team, primarily from Khowhemun Elementary and Cowichan Secondary School, was asked to present on their hands-on approach to student engagement, the land-based program at Cowichan Secondary and Kids Space at Khowhemun Elementary, which lead to increased academic opportunities and experiences for students. Rod Allen and Denise Augustine, who also represented the District, noted that it was rewarding to see Cowichan's work reflected back and for our teachers and staff to see how the rest of the world views us. SD79 has been invited to present again next year in Dallas, Texas.

**Youth Placemaking Project** – On November 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Cowichan Arts Centre, students from the valley presented their final design to a committee comprised of CVRD staff and elected officials with an opportunity for students to receive recognition in a number of ways including awards and/or possible implementation of their design. The Youth Placemaking Project engaged youth from all areas of the region, including students from SD79 schools: Chemainus Secondary, Cowichan Secondary, Lake Cowichan School, Frances Kelsey Secondary, and CVOLC in a "design charrette." Each participating group of students had selected a site to develop a design giving consideration to: youth needs, accessibility, climate change, community safety, social cohesion, transportation, recreation, housing and economy to name a few. Each group of students has been supported by the project organizing team (SPC), teacher(s) from their school, a local artist, and a community planner. Students had approximately 8 weeks to complete their project. It is said that: "Placemaking Projects increases youth retention, attachment and belonging in the community. It gives youth a voice that has the potential to influence the way their community is designed which in turn helps planners make decisions that support youth in their community."

**Compliance Audit** – The Superintendent advised that last week a Compliance Audits took place at CVOLC and Frances Kelsey Secondary Schools. He is happy to report that we passed the audit successfully, after a very thorough review of our records. Congratulations to the Administration and Staff of both schools for their excellent preparation. The Auditors commented that they were also very impressed with the quality of the learning experiences at both schools.

**BC Summer Games Update** – The Summer Games have chosen their theme – "Show your Colours" for the athletes and "Show our Colours" for the community. The BC Games Society has hired an Operations Manager, Lacey Williams, and are now working with volunteers. Keep watch for the bright green games jackets around town!

**BAA Course – Lifeology 11** – The Board of Education approved a new BAA Course, Lifeology 11, which will encourage students to think like an anthropologist, exploring theories and questions around psychology, sociology and how using those skills will make for more effective living in our environment. Lifeology 11 will be offered at Chemainus Secondary School.



## Business

**Winter Vacation Board Hours** – The Board was advised that the School Board Office and Transportation Department will be closed to the public from December 23, 2017 to January 7, 2018 inclusive. The Operations Department and Central Receiving will be closed from December 23, 2017 to January 1, 2018 inclusive.

**2018-2019 Budget Process** – The Secretary-Treasurer requested input from Trustees on the development of the 2018-2019 budget process. Trustees agreed that last years' process was acceptable, but asked that the Budget 101 sessions begin earlier.

## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
DSAC Meeting	December 13, 10:00 am	Inspire Room (Annex)
Board Planning Session	December 14, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Advisory Committee Meeting	December 19, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Board Planning Session	December 20, 4:00 pm	Vancouver, BC
Closed Board Meeting	January 9, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	January 9, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Strategic Priorities Presentation	January 22, 6:00 pm	City of Duncan
VISTA Meeting	March 2 – 3	Victoria, BC

### Board of Education Trustees

[Candace Spilsbury](#), Chair

[Barb de Groot](#), Vice-Chair

[Elizabeth Croft](#)

[Randy Doman](#)

[Rob Hutchins](#)

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