

The Highlighter

February 6, 2018

Recognition and Delegations

BC Winter Games Athletes – The Board of Education welcomed Brooklyn, Marcus and Zack, three of the five district students who have been selected to represent the Cowichan Valley in the BC Winter Games in Kamloops, BC from February 22 – 25, 2018. The students are:

- Brooklyn Stobbe, Crofton Elementary School – Gymnastics
- Marcus Potts, Frances Kelsey Secondary School – Judo
- Zack Drought, Frances Kelsey Secondary School – Boys Curling
- Tahara Brown, Frances Kelsey Secondary School – Gymnastics
- Marlin Marston, Chemainus Secondary School - Judo

The Board expressed their pride in the students for representing their community at such a high level and wished them the best of luck.

CUPE Local 5101 Education Assistants – CUPE President Tara Brooks, along with Education Assistants Denis Huet, Tricia Carder and Annette Dawes, addressed the Board on the impact of Bill 28 implementation on EAs as well as their concerns about assignment choices. Board members thanked the gathering of EAs for their contributions to childrens education and expressed their deep respect and admiration for the work that they do.

Young Film Makers Presentation – Geoff Johnson, Nick Versteeg, Lisa Read and young film maker Geoff Arrowsmith spoke about the Young Film Makers program in district schools. Geoff Arrowsmith presented a mini-documentary he created of a child's experience with the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association. Trustees were impressed with the program and look forward to attending a presentation of works by the Young Film Makers in the Spring.

Board of Education

Cowichan Secondary School Dual Campus – During the closed portion of the meeting, the Board gave Notice of Motion for the March 6, 2018 Board Meeting that they will make a decision on having Cowichan Secondary School grade 9 students stay at Quamichan Campus rather than travel between the two campuses. The two campuses will then operate independently. Feedback from the school staff and parent groups will be sought before a decision is made in March.



Three Year School Calendar – The Board of Education passed a motion, sending the proposed 2018-2021 school calendar out for consultation with our community. Information on the consultation process is available on the School District Website.

Education

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

TD Grade One Book Giveaway - A class of Grade One students at Tansor Elementary are proudly showing off their brand-new book "Good Morning, Canada" by Andrea Lynn Beck, which they just received as part of the TD Grade One Book Giveaway! Every Grade One student across Canada will be receiving their very own copy of this book this school year, thanks to TD Bank and the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC). This particular book was selected in honour of Canada's 150th birthday. In SD79, many of our schools will be distributing the books to students during the Canadian Children's Book Week in May. If a child is in a Grade One split class (i.e. K/1 or 1/2) every child in the class will receive a book to take home. Since 2000, the CCBC has given every Grade One student a free Canadian children's book. The book is to be taken home by each child to be read with their parents, and is funded entirely by TD Bank Group. The program is intended to encourage literacy and reading for young children.

POPARD Week at Drinkwater Jan 22 – 26 - Kristy Petroni from Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Other Related Disorders visited Drinkwater Elementary recently to discuss ways to support students with challenging behaviour. Kristy shared her expertise with staff at PLC, parents at an evening parent workshop, CUPE during LIF meeting, staff teams in small problem-solving groups, and even students by visiting classrooms and discussing peer awareness around autism. She provided staff with information, tips, resources and suggestions. Kristy emphasized the importance of TEAM in supporting all students, UDL and inclusive education and the reminder to us all to use more visual supports. Her two 'take aways' were:

1. All behaviour is communication
2. Talk 60-70% less to students than what you normally do (use non-verbal and visual cues more)

Thank you to Julie and Courtenay for arranging this.

Career Team Gravity Cars - The Career team has built 700 gravity cars so far in 9 elementary schools. They are building 360 more this week in another 5 elementary schools. A video of the Gravity Car competition at George Bonner Elementary was shown. The finals will be held at the Motorsport Circuit on February 15th.

Chemainus Secondary – Fine Arts Showcase - Chemainus Secondary had a wonderful evening of music and dance on Thursday, January 25th. Their Fine Arts Department had a showcase showing off the works of their dance and band classes from first semester.



Education, continued

Winter Carnavale Field Trip – A group of students from Cowichan Secondary School are attending Winter Carnavale in Quebec City from February 8 – 12, 2018.

George Bonner and Frances Kelsey teamed up to raise money for Nourish Cowichan - George Bonner Elementary teamed with Frances Kelsey Secondary to raise money for Nourish Cowichan. From Louise Thomson, grade 6/7 teacher at George Bonner Elementary, who initiated this endeavour...

All year long, my 6s and 7s have been looking at various social justice issues around the globe. They were shocked when they learned about the high child poverty rate in our own valley and wanted to make a difference. I told them about the work of Nourish Cowichan and, again, they were very impacted to hear how many kids just like them went to school without breakfast every day. We spoke about the responsibility each of us has in a community to help out and the kids immediately began brainstorming ideas for fundraisers. In an effort to work collaboratively with the school most of them would be attending very shortly, we had been working with Caelen Cook and Kayla Brent from Kelsey's Student Parliament and Me to We Club and decided to team up with them to run parallel Milkshake Day fundraisers at the 2 schools. This fundraiser was very popular! At the same time, Caelen, Kelsey's Student Parliament Prime Minister, came up with the idea for a March for Meals. This added greatly to our fundraising total. The final piece of this effort came when my amazing grade 6s and 7s voted to donate the profits of their Junior Achievement businesses to Nourish as well. At the urging of my students we continue to look for ways to support Nourish. I am immensely proud of their passion to help.

Business

2018-2019 Budget Development Schedule – The Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2018-2019 Budget Development Schedule. <https://bcisd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/42974>

2017-2018 Amended Annual Budget – The Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 Amended Annual Budget in the amount of \$97,093,436. Changes to the budget included additional teaching staff and education assistants, a new Vice-Principal at Maple Bay Elementary, staff replacement during this year's peak flu season and a New Teacher Mentorship program, along with a Demographic Analysis and a Policy Review specialist engaged by the Board. Capital additions included the purchase of a new bus hoist.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Strategic Plan Presentation – CVRD Electoral Area Services Committee	February 7, 1:30 pm	CVRD Boardroom
Board Planning Session	February 8, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	February 14, 10:00 am	Chemainus Secondary School
DPAC Meeting	February 15, 7:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
BCSTA Provincial Council	February 16 – 17	Vancouver, BC
Advisory Committee Meeting	February 20, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	February 27, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
VISTA	March 2 – 3	Victoria, BC
Closed Board Meeting	March 6, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	March 6, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

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