

The Highlighter

January 9, 2018

Board of Education

Board Performance Review – The Board of Education is undertaking a Board Performance Review, including the development of their Board Legacy. They will participate in a session facilitated by BCPSEA and with veteran trustee Gordon Comeau in February.

Student Travel – The Board of Education granted final approval to an International Student field trip to Varadero, Cuba during spring break from March 11 – 20, 2018.

Trustee Appointments – Trustee Spilsbury advised that the Trustee Appointments and Liaisons Schedules are finalized. View the schedules at <http://sd79.bc.ca/board-of-education/committees-and-liasons/>

Education

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

Find Your Fit – The Superintendent advised that “Find Your Fit”, a program geared at helping students learn about future careers, will be at Quamichan Campus on January 23rd, in conjunction with the Industry Training Authority. During the day, students will attend this interactive event to view displays and participate in activities. Find Your Fit will be open to the general public from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. For more information on this program, click <https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Your-Fit-Tour.aspx>

Vancouver Island Learning Network – School District 79 is hosting a second Vancouver Island Learning Network session, focusing on coding and the ADST curriculum on January 19th and 20th. These sessions, created and hosted by District Principal of Educational Technology Glen Posey and other district staff, are open to participants across Vancouver Island. Of note, the Ministry of Education is reviewing it as a model for use elsewhere in the Province.

Curriculum Support Day – The District is holding a Curriculum Support Day on Monday, January 15th. Staff will be reviewing competencies and integrating them into work with students through a variety of activities in grade groups and interest groups.

Shelley Moore – On January 18th, School District 79 will host Shelley Moore, a national and international speaker and workshop presenter on inclusion and how we think about it. Shelley will be working with our staff in two sessions at the Duncan Community Lodge.



Education, continued

Youth Work in Trades Grants – In December, \$7,000 was given out to Youth Work in Trades students, including some during an event held at the Cowichan Trades Centre.

Floor Hockey Tournament – Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour – The Rogers Hometown Hockey tour will be in the Cowichan Valley on January 20th – 21st. Five of our schools will be sending students to participate in skating, entertainment and food. Leading up to the event, School District 79, through Joseph Boudreau, Chris Clark and Grant Mellemstrand, held a floor hockey tournament at George Bonner Elementary. Twenty-one teams from 12 elementary schools participated, with the top 2 teams in each of the two age groups making it to the Rogers Hometown Tim Horton's outdoor ball rink on January 20th – a fantastic experience for the kids!

Maple Bay Elementary – Grade 5/6 class used design thinking process to support others in need – Brittany Leonard's Grade 5/7 class at Maple Bay Elementary has raised \$800 to help support a community in need. What is particularly interesting about this is the use of a concept that is gaining momentum here in the school district – design thinking, a way to solve problems. It is a cycle that starts with understanding what a person or people need; clearly stating the challenge; imagining some possible solutions; drawing/writing/creating a model of the solution; testing those solutions and seeing how they work. It is a cycle of Empathy, Definition, Ideation, Prototyping and Testing/Reflection. Students in Ms. Leonard's class used the design thinking process to analyze what needs there are in the world, what different ways there are to support people in need, and they looked into different options to decide on one cause to raise money for. In the end, they decided to support Save the Children. They planned how they would raise money through bookmark sales at the Scholastic Book Fair, and held two bake sales at the school. Thanks to their efforts, they have raised enough money to buy a farm "kit" for a family. This kit includes goats, sheep, chicks, cows, and a camel, as well as mosquito netting to protect against diseases like malaria. This is a great demonstration of students using modern learning techniques while supporting others in need.

Ecole Mt. Prevost – Design Thinking Project – Mrs. Zibin's Grade 7 Makers Club at Ecole Mt. Prevost used the design thinking skills described above to create cat hospitals. The class designed and constructed the shelters, and then donated them to a Cat Shelter. This is an example of real and meaningful work in the community.

Business

Financial Update – The Secretary-Treasurer provided a comprehensive update on the Operating Grant Funding Announcement, Ministry approval of a portion of Classroom Enhancement Funds requested, an Operating Budget overview to date and recommended adjustments to the 2017-2018 Operating Budget. Trustees approved the recommendations, which include the creation of a New Teacher Mentorship position, replacement of our broken bus hoist and construction of a garage pit, an increase of teacher sick leave replacements funds and an increase in the technology funding. He noted that the district's budget position is on target to date and that he will bring an amended annual budget to the February board meeting.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Policy Redevelopment Session	January 14, 8:00 am	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	January 17, 10:00 am	CSS – Quamichan Campus
Board Planning Session	January 18, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Strategic Priorities Presentation	January 22, 6:00 pm	City of Duncan
Advisory Committee Meeting	January 23, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
BCPSEA Annual General Meeting	January 25 – 26	Vancouver, BC
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	January 30, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Closed Board Meeting	February 6, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	February 6, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
VISTA Meeting	March 2 – 3	Victoria, BC

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