

# The Highlighter

June 5, 2018

## Recognition and Delegations

**Wilma Rowbottom** - Trustee Spilsbury acknowledged the passing of former Lake Cowichan and Cowichan Valley School Board Trustee Wilma Rowbottom, who served as Chair and Vice Chair repeatedly over her 29 years as a School Trustee. Ms. Rowbottom served from 1979 to 2008 and was a graceful and well-respected Trustee, who was very committed to students, the Board of Education and the School District.

**Cowichan Valley Youth Services – Leadership & Resiliency Program** - Michelle Bell, Executive Director of Cowichan Valley Youth Services and staff members Danyel and Sophia provided an overview of the services that they offer in District schools and the community for youth aged 13 - 18. Danyel spoke about the Leadership and Resiliency Program, a school and community based program with three components: In-school weekly resiliency groups; community volunteer experiences; and adventure activities. The Leadership and Resiliency Program focuses on building three main resiliency areas:

- Identifying personal strengths
- Developing healthy peer relationships
- Learning coping strategies

**Brian Stott** – Trustee Spilsbury recognized Brian Stott, who has been a teacher in the District for 44 years and is retiring at the end of June. Mr. Stott noted that he has enjoyed nearly every minute of it and can't think of a better thing to do than teach. Trustees wished Mr. Stott well in his retirement.

## Board of Education

**Board Policy Handbook** – The Board of Education adopted the newly created Board Policy Handbook, effective September 1, 2018. The accompanying Administrative Procedures are expected to be ready mid-August. Both documents will be available on the district website and will supersede the current policies and administrative procedures.

**CVRD Visions 2050** – The Board of Education passed a motion indicating their willingness to participate in Cowichan 2050.

**Academy Fees for 2018-2019** – The Board once again authorized the Hockey Academy at Frances Kelsey Secondary School and approved the related fees.



## Board of Education, continued

**National Indigenous Peoples Day** – The Board of Education passed a motion recognizing National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2018.

**School Names** – Trustees passed a motion officially renaming Quamichan Campus as Quamichan School. The new Mill Bay Nature School will be formally named once the students and community are engaged in the process.

**Trustee Election 2018** – The Board passed the 2018 Election Bylaw and appointed Robert Harper as Chief Election Officer for the 2018 Trustee Election on October 20, 2018. Gina Kueber was appointed as Deputy Chief Election Officer. For community members interested in becoming a School Trustee, an information session is being held on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at the School Board Office. Information is also available on the District website.

## Education

**Staffing Update** – The Superintendent introduced Kim Ondrik, Principal of the Mill Bay Nature School, to Trustees. Kim spoke about her excitement at having the opportunity to create the new program and the welcome she has received from the community. The Superintendent then reported on Vice-Principal movement for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Ashley Bell is moving from Maple Bay Elementary to a new position at Chemainus Elementary
- Camilla Bhandari-Arscott is moving from Drinkwater Elementary to Maple Bay Elementary
- Rhonda Fitzpatrick is moving from Bench Elementary to Drinkwater Elementary
- Vanessa MacDowell is moving from Cowichan Secondary to Bench Elementary
- Vice-Principal vacancy at Cowichan Secondary to be filled.

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

**The Grove – Distributed Learning School** – The Cowichan Valley Distributed Learning School has been re-branded as “The Grove”, a name that better reflects the growth in the DL program and celebrates the places and spaces in which we learn. For more information, please see their website at <http://grovecvdl.sd79.bc.ca/>

**Harvard Visit** – Our Harvard Researchers, Amelia Peterson and Jal Mehta, visited the district in May to continue research on districts engaged in transformation to get deeper learning in classrooms. Having guests see what we are doing through their eyes is fascinating and a great opportunity to summarize our thinking.

**Shelley Moore** – Shelley was back in the District on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, continuing her work with a large number of our teachers on why inclusion is important and how to enact it.



## Education, continued

**Distributed Learning Audit** – Congratulations and thanks to the CVOLC team for an extremely successful audit of the Distributed Learning program. The Auditors were impressed and they are recommending some Cowichan Valley processes be incorporated into other districts. Well done team!

**Clam Gardens** – The Superintendent accompanied a group of students, staff and elders on a visit to the Clam Gardens on Russell Island. He described it as an amazing, transformative day for students and a blending of traditional and modern knowledge – an example of a transformed classroom. Parks Canada staff, alongside Cowichan and Saanich Elders, facilitated the day.

**SD79 Mini-O Elementary Track Meet** - The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SD79 Mini-O Track Meet was held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the Cowichan Sportsplex. Over 100 grades 3 to 7 students participated from 12 schools. At the opening ceremonies athletes and honoured guests followed First Nations drummers into the facility. There were two running races followed by six field events. The gravity car ramp was at the event and was open to athletes to use during the day.

**District Scholarships** - This year 91 students participated in the District Scholarship Presentations held at each of the district secondary schools and CVOLC during the week of May 14-18. Topics of the presentations ranged from physical activity, community service, fine arts, technology & trades, and applied design, science & technology. This year there are 77 awards valued at \$1,250 each for a total of \$96,250. Winners will be announced at their schools' awards presentations.

**Skills Canada 2018 National Competition** - Two of our students, Taylor Walters and Lawson Wallace, are participating in the Skills Canada National Competition in Edmonton June 4-5<sup>th</sup>. FKSS student Taylor Walters is competing in Public Speaking at the secondary level and VIU/SD79 Dual Credit student Lawson Wallace is competing in refrigeration at the post-secondary level.

**Youth Apprenticeship Scholarships** - The Careers department has secured three \$500 Youth Apprenticeship Scholarships from the Vancouver Island Construction Association for students Keenan Menzel, Morgan Lamont, and Cooper Gee.

**Dual Credit - ARTS 216** - Forty-four students engaged in the course Arts 216 (Art of West Coast First Nations I) with world renowned artist Connie Watts to learn about Art as a career path and to refine their skills as an artist – creating and then telling the story behind the work and then creating a portfolio for applying to post-secondary.



## Education, continued

**Khowhemun Elementary – Outdoor Classroom Day (slide show)** - On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Khowhemun Elementary participated in Outdoor Classroom Day. The purpose of this day was to encourage authentic learning beyond the walls of the classroom and to strengthen learning connections with our community partners. This exciting day saw some powerful impacts: engagement and excitement increased; creativity, problem-solving and teamwork were on full display; and the fun of learning took center stage. A big thank you to all involved and we look forward to expanding the opportunities for our students to learn in meaningful ways.

**Bench Elementary – Robotics** - Bench hosted their first robotics tournament with seven SD79 schools including two secondary schools and one school from Sooke School District. The 100 students worked together to build robots in the morning and then programmed them to run obstacle courses in the afternoon. The robots were programmed to run hands free.

**George Bonner Elementary – Building birdhouses, Shoreline Clean Up** - Students at George Bonner Elementary have been active in their school and in their community. They have designed and built birdhouses through a maker/inquiry process (students developed their own plans to build their houses) and cleaned up more than 260 kg of garbage from the Shawnigan Creek watershed as part of the [shorelinecleanup.ca](https://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/cleanups/4vlxo) movement - <https://www.shorelinecleanup.ca/cleanups/4vlxo>

**Frances Kelsey Secondary – Drama Classes performed for primary kids, Peer Tutoring Class visit to Cairnsmore Lodge** - The FKSS students interacted with the youngest and oldest members of our community. The Drama classes performed the Robert Munsch plays for the young primary kids from Bonner, Bench and Discovery (a series of performances over three days). The Peer Tutoring 12 Class was taken to Cairnsmore Lodge for the third and final time this year. The students visited with the elderly residents, took them for walks and then helped with the musical entertainment.

**Discovery Elementary – Spring Musical** - On May 17<sup>th</sup> Discovery Elementary held the Spring Musical "Dr. Whoot!!!" directed by Arts Education teachers Odette Williams and Christina Taylor. Students from KG-7 performed in this amazing production. Classes performed medleys from well known and loved musicals including: Lion King, Little Mermaid, Moana, Sing, Little Shop of Horrors, Jungle Book and several more. An elaborate set and engaging performance thrilled the audiences of both performances. Most exciting was that SPAC designated students fully participate with their classmates making it a truly inclusive experience.

**Chemainus Elementary – Jump Rope for Heart** - Chemainus Elementary students raised over \$1400 for Jump Rope for Heart on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The students had a great time jumping, hula hooping and skipping.

**Cowichan Secondary School SOGI Students** – SOGI students from CSS are meeting with Municipality of North Cowichan Council to request that 2 crosswalks near the school be "rainbowed". The Superintendent is pleased with the opportunity for the students to learn about civic responsibility and how decisions are made.



## Education, continued

**Cowichan Secondary School Project Definition Report Update** – The Superintendent reported that the Project Definition Report is well in hand now that we have “hit the Ministry's list”. Our consultant is working on responses to a number of questions and scenarios the Ministry has posed as we work towards a new high school. He noted that the partnership with the Ministry of Education has been great and they are working closely with us on this project. Our submission is on target for this Fall.

## Business

**New Playground Equipment Program Submission** – The Secretary-Treasurer announced that the Ministry of Education has awarded \$105,000 for a new universally accessible playground at Mill Bay Nature School.

**2018-2019 Annual Budget** – The Secretary-Treasurer presented “A Guided Tour of the 2018-2019 Annual Budget”. Trustees approved the 2018-2019 Annual Budget in the amount of \$98,932,795 as conversations with the Ministry have left staff confident that our Classroom Enhancement Fund will be approved very shortly. The budget will not be filed with the Ministry until we have received confirmation of the Classroom Enhancement Fund.

## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
DSAC Meeting	June 7, 10:00 am	Frances Kelsey Secondary School
Board Planning Session	June 14, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Advisory Committee Meeting	June 19, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Trustee Candidate Orientation	August 28, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Closed Board Meeting	September 4, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	September 4, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

### Board of Education Trustees

[Candace Spilsbury](#), Chair  
[Barb de Groot](#), Vice-Chair  
[Elizabeth Croft](#)  
[Randy Doman](#)  
[Rob Hutchins](#)  
[Cathy Schmidt](#)  
[Joe Thorne](#)

