

The Highlighter

June 6, 2017

Recognition and Delegations

Mini O – International Students Martin and Alex presented a video they created about the District's 'Mini O' event, held on May 19th for grades 3 – 7 special needs students. When asked about International Student participation at this event, they responded that Canadian society gives them a lot and they want to give back.

Janet Ruest – National Geographic Educator/Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence – Trustee Hutchins introduced Janet Ruest, from Chemainus Secondary School, who has been recognized for two different accomplishments. Recently Janet has become a National Geographic Certified Educator. This accomplishment shows a commitment by a teacher to teach their students about the world and how it works, empowering them to succeed and make it a better place. This past month also brought the accolades of a Certificate of Achievement for the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. This was awarded to Janet for being a teacher who fosters the growth of curiosity and thirst for knowledge, encouraging students to evaluate issues by examining the moral and ethical decisions made in the past. Trustee Hutchins expressed congratulations to Janet and thanked her for her contributions to the School District.

Brian Johnston – BC Soccer Youth Coach of the Year – Trustee de Groot introduced Brian Johnston from Frances Kelsey Secondary School, who has been named by BC Soccer as the 2016-17 Youth Coach of the Year in appreciation of his contributions to soccer. Brian received the award for his contributions throughout the past year. This is a province wide award for coaching community and school Soccer. Trustee de Groot congratulated Brian and thanked him for his contributions.

Board

Academy Fees for 2017-2018 – As the Hockey Academy at Frances Kelsey Secondary School meets the Ministry of Education criteria for a Specialty Academy, the Board of Education passed a motion approving the 2017-2018 Activity Fee of \$1,200.00.

National Aboriginal Day – The Board of Education passed a motion recognizing National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2017. Events will be taking place in local schools and throughout the community on that day.



Board, continued

Student Learning Grant – After receiving consultation data from meetings with partner groups, PACs, teaching staff and Principals/Vice-Principals, the Board of Education passed a motion for the grant to be distributed on a per capita basis, with funds spent to align with Ministry of Education specifications. Schools will determine how the funding can best support their students and grant funding is to be used to purchase sustainable and non-consumable items that will benefit the school in times to come.

Policy 3730 – Student Reporting – Communicating Student Progress – The Board of Education adopted new Policy 3730 – Student Reporting – Communicating Student Progress. The policy can be viewed at <https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/564?preview=40159>

Policy 1600 – Contingency Reserve – The Board of Education adopted new Policy 1600 – Contingency Reserve. The policy can be viewed at <https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/562?preview=40160>

Local Government Bylaw Zoning – Trustees continue to be concerned about local governments approving marijuana dispensaries near school properties and passed a motion to write a letter requesting that they develop policies similar to other jurisdictions banning dispensary approval.

Residential Development – Trustees passed a motion to write to Local Governments requesting that developers set aside land for schools in areas where there is an anticipated large population increase in family housing.

Education

District Update – The Superintendent reported on the following items around the district:

District Scholarships - Just under 90 students participated in the District Scholarship Presentations held at each of the district secondary schools and CVOLC during the week of May 29th to June 2nd. Topics of the presentations ranged from physical activity, community service, fine arts, technology and trades, international language, and applied design, science and technology. This year there are 63 awards valued at \$1250 each for a total of \$78,750. Winners will be announced at their schools' awards presentations.

Hector McIntosh Speaking Competition - The finals of the 36th Annual Hector McIntosh Public Speaking Competition were held on May 15th. SD79 schools did great again this year. The results were as follows:

Elementary (Grade 4-6):

1st – Queen of Angels

2nd – Lake Cowichan School



Education, continued

Intermediate (Grade 7 & 8):

- 1st – Home Schooled student
- 2nd – Frances Kelsey Secondary
- 3rd – Maple Bay Elementary

Juniors (Grade 9 & 10):

- 1st – Frances Kelsey Secondary
- 2nd – Frances Kelsey Secondary
- 3rd – Cowichan Secondary

Seniors (Grade 11 & 12):

- 1st – Lake Cowichan School
- 2nd – Duncan Christian School
- 3rd – Frances Kelsey Secondary

Secondary School Apprenticeship Grants - The Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) numbers in the school district have increased from 3 last year to over 40 now and the cheques are starting to come in. Last week \$1000 SSA grants were given out to the following two students:

- Evan Tudor-Jones, a Mechanic at Nikirk Trucking
- Teodor Djordjevic, who apprenticed at Cowichan Valley Meat Market Ltd., and is now working for Thrifty Foods as a Meat Cutter.

Information on the Secondary School Apprenticeship program is available at the following link: <http://www.careersandtransitions.ca/programs/ssa/>

School District Elementary Track Meet - The school district elementary track meet was held at the Cowichan Sportsplex on June 1st and 2nd with approximately 700 students participating. Each day 7 different elementary schools participated with roughly 50 students from each school. These were two great days of sport and sportsmanship. All of the participants gave it their all and the coaches are to be commended on how supportive they were in getting each of their students to their events on time. Thank you to the parent volunteers as well.

Frances Kelsey Secondary – Guitar and Music Class Showcase & Tech Project - On Monday, May 29th, Frances Kelsey Secondary hosted a showcase of Guitar and Music classes. It was a great opportunity for the students to perform in front of their peers as well as a special guest from 91.3 Zone/100.3Q Mr. John Shields, Station Manager. We have had great support from the Q100.3/Zone 91.3 music grants over the years in many of our school district schools and all of the guitars at Frances Kelsey Secondary were purchased over the past two years with this grant money. See a video of the FKSS guitar and music showcase at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/FrancesKelsey1996/videos/1486591991371440/>



Education, continued

In the Frances Kelsey Secondary Tech 10 class students created projects that were of interest to them. Student Evan Kwasny worked with his father who is in hydraulics, to create a kindling splitter. When the teacher, Don Hall, asked why a kindling splitter Evan answered, “because both my father and I hate cutting kindling”.

Shaw Cable Video on Education at School District 79 – The Superintendent previewed a video created by Shaw Cable on how the Land Based Program, along with Community Classrooms and Inquiry projects, embraces the new BC Curriculum foundations in enabling students to learn in a variety of ways. The video is expected to start airing next week.

Celebrating Graduation in the Cowichan Valley – The Superintendent was pleased to share an opinion editorial about graduation in the valley and highlighting our six-year completion rates. He noted that our increases speak to the hard work done by teachers and all staff across the district. Trustee Spilsbury thanked all district staff for their contributions and noted that by working together, we are moving forward. The document is available at <https://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2017/06/opinion-editorial-celebrating-graduation-in-the-cowichan-valley.pdf>

School Fees and Deposits Schedule – The Superintendent presented a schedule of the various school fees that are charged throughout the district. The document is available at <http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2017/06/school-fees-for-2017-18.pdf>

School Calendar 2017-2018 – The Superintendent advised that the 2017-2018 School Calendar is now finalized. View the final version at <http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2017/06/school-calendar-2017-2018.pdf>

Business

2017-2018 Capital Plan Bylaw – The Board of Education gave three readings and passed a motion approving Capital Bylaw No. 17-01 Capital Plan 2017-2018. While in the past separate bylaws have been required for projects, the Ministry of Education has determined that one bylaw encompassing the entire approved plan is required.

2018-2019 Capital Plan – The Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2018-2019 Capital Plan prepared for Trustee review and approval. A replacement Cowichan Secondary School remained the first priority, with other projects including re-roofing, seismic mitigation, heating/boiler replacements, HVAC system upgrades and a school bus replacement. During the Closed Board Meeting prior, the Board of Education authorized a demographic study of the district to identify where future growth in the Cowichan Valley will take place and its subsequent implications for schools.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Human Resources Committee Meeting	June 8, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	June 13, 10:00 am	Inspire Room (Annex)
Advisory Committee Meeting	June 13, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Board Planning Session	June 15, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
District Year-End Barbeque	June 20, 3:30 pm	Alexander Elementary School
District Retirement Event	June 26, 5:00 pm	Cowichan Golf Club
Closed Board Meeting	September 5, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	September 5, 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](#)

