

The Highlighter

May 2, 2017

Recognition and Delegations

Nourish Cowichan – Fatima da Silva, Dina Holbrook and Anita Carroll addressed the Board on the creation and purpose of the Nourish Cowichan Society. Fatima and Dina were aware of the child poverty situation in the valley, and in conjunction with Anita Carroll and her student nurse program at Khowhemun Elementary, began a program to provide a nourishing breakfast to students in the school 1 - 2 days a week. Combining community donations and a successful fundraiser, they have increased the meals to 3 – 4 days per week and are looking to expand into other schools as well. For more information on the Nourish Cowichan program, see <https://www.nourishcowichan.ca/>

Dr. Paul Hasselback – Overdose Response Update – Dr. Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer, Central Vancouver Island, gave a presentation on the Opiate crisis and overdose epidemic on Vancouver Island, and the role that schools and families play in preventing drug use. To view Dr. Hasselback's presentation, please click <http://sd79.bc.ca/presentation-by-dr-hasselback-to-the-may-2-2017-open-board-meeting/>

Board

Field Trips to the United States – The Board of Education passed a motion temporarily suspending field trips to the United States until there is more clarity on border crossings. Several school districts across Canada are following this practice.

Education

Water Testing Results – The Superintendent presented the results of water testing for lead content performed on a sample of fixtures in each facility. In total, 91 fixtures were tested, with 27 of those fixtures showing levels of lead above the maximum on the first test. Following the second test, 30 seconds later, 22 of those fixtures were acceptable. He noted that Health Canada recommends that all taps be run for 30 seconds first thing in the morning before drinking water to flush the pipes. The District has implemented protocols to run each fixture for 30 seconds at affected schools. The Superintendent advised that of the remaining five samples, four were acceptable after running the water for 2 – 3 minutes, and those four are all located in adult areas and signs have been posted. The fifth fixture is the sink in the PAC room at Discovery Elementary and it has been disconnected.



Education, continued

As well, two water fountains at Chemainus Elementary have been decommissioned pending further testing. The Superintendent praised the Operations Department for going "above and beyond" in testing all schools, when Ministry guidelines recommended doing 1/3 per year.

The package provided to the Board of Education is available here - <http://sd79.bc.ca/water-testing-results-may-2017-open-board-meeting/>

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

Dual Credit - Currently on display at the School Board Office are posters of our dual credit students in action in their chosen career paths. These students are getting their college/university training paid for by the School District's dual credit careers department. These opportunities and more are available to SD79 students. For more information about FREE university/college tuition please contact one of our career counselors.

Maker Way Training Day - We had a Maker Way training day with Deb Carter and 65 participants: 41 Administrators and Teachers from Cowichan Valley and 14 educators came from our neighbouring districts (Vancouver, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Comox Valley, Saltspring Island, Victoria and Sooke). The goal: To increase Design Thinking and Maker Way awareness in our district. From the day, we have identified a handful of teachers who wish to become part of our district's Maker Way Team to receive further training so as to assist the career department in increasing Maker Way and Design Thinking awareness. Combined with the YTCEP Grant, our team will work with teachers to employ Design Thinking and Maker Way strategies in classrooms throughout the district.

Frances Kelsey Secondary – Streams and Trails Program - The Streams and Trails Program at FKSS has a healthy enrollment of fifty Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. Offered for the first time at Kelsey, this term two course which combines Earth Science 11, Communications 11 and Geography 12 is taught in the classroom two blocks per week and on Polara Hill four blocks each week. After Spring Break, the group moved into applying lessons from the classroom and planning new trail routes on Polara. Proposed trail designs have been submitted to the CVRD and once approved Mr. Hart, Mr. Niessen and Mr. Groicher will begin leading the group in construction.

Bench Elementary – Multi-Age Activities - Bench Elementary is embarking on alternative ways of learning through Multi-Age Activities with opportunities for project based learning, explore a passion, and simply learning something new. The full school K-7 participated in 17 various activities this year on April 21 & 28. Community members along with staff co-planned and facilitated the various activities, ie: geocaching, philosophy, cooking, wood crafting, rugby, Spanish, bee keeping, watercolour, to name a few. Bench Elementary is hoping to expand the Multi-Age Activity choices and continue them through their calendar year, next year.



Education, continued

Chemainus Secondary – Earth Day, BC Lions visit - On Wednesday, April 19th students at Chemainus Secondary celebrated Earth Day (a few days early) by wearing green and completing a community cleanup – a yearly tradition of social responsibility spearheaded by teacher Nancy Henry.

Three players from the BC Lions visited Chemainus Secondary to speak to the students about positivity, teamwork and personal responsibility. The students enjoyed the visit and the three players stayed and played floor hockey during the school's intramural championship.

Lake Cowichan School – Outdoor Learning Project, LCS Grows!, SD79 Annual Slahal (Bone Game) Tournament - The Outdoor Learning Project (OLP) at Lake Cowichan School has kicked off this month. Students in Mrs. Neuffer, Ms. Evans and Ms. Rogers classes, along with Mr. Steininger, have planned a series of outdoor educational experiences for students to take place from now until June. Students will be participating in six or more field trips learning about our local environment.

Lake Cowichan School is excited to offer select grade 4-7 students a chance to work with their Garden Program with Ms. Hartshorne. Students are busy prepping the garden beds, growing plants from seed, transplanting and caring for a variety of plants on the school grounds. Recently students helped beautify the campus by planting a variety of bedding plants and bulbs in the outdoor spaces. This is a great way for the elementary students to get some “hands on” experience and become more connect to nature, all within the school day.

On April 13th, Lake Cowichan School hosted the annual SD79 Slahal (Bone Game) Tournament. Teams came from Cowichan Secondary (James Street and Quamichan campuses) and Frances Kelsey to take on last year's winning team, Lake Cowichan School. Students had an awesome morning, challenging each other under the guidance of Chip and Jonathan George. All of the LCS elementary students had the opportunity to do some learning around the history of Slahal and got the chance to witness the game in action. Several of the secondary classes also participated or came to watch the game being played. This year, Cowichan Secondary came out as the 1st place champions. At the end of the game, students and staff were invited to share lunch together. The lunch was prepared by Ms. Bothma and Mrs. Steininger's Foods 10-12 class.

Bill 28 Update – The Superintendent updated the Board on the status of Bill 28 preparations for September. The Capital Needs request was submitted to the Ministry of Education last Friday, outlining District space requirements, portable use and classroom reconfiguration costs. He noted that we are fortunate to have enough portables in district, as there are none available to purchase in BC, Alberta or Saskatchewan. The Bill 28 Staffing Needs initial request will be submitted on May 5th for Ministry approval. Candace thanked the CVTF as they have been instrumental in putting the district plan together, along with the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, District Senior Staff and Principals/Vice-Principals. A lot of work has been accomplished in a very short timeframe and there even more to do!



Business

2017-2018 Annual Budget – The Board of Education gave third and final reading to the 2017-2018 Annual Budget, in the amount of \$92,468,095.00. The budget was amended before the final reading to add 0.4 of counselling time by decreasing the Unfunded Employee Future Benefit allocation by \$40,000. The Board then passed a subsequent motion agreeing to add the \$40,000 back into the budget for Reduction of Unfunded Employee Future benefits should the unrestricted surplus in the 2016-2017 Financial Statements exceed \$800,000. Now that the 2017-2018 Annual Budget process is complete, staffing for the upcoming year will begin.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
DSAC Meeting	May 10, 10:00 am	Lake Cowichan School
Advisory Committee Meeting	May 16, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
DPAC Meeting	May 18, 7:00 pm	Library, CSS James Street Campus
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	May 23, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
BCPSEA Regional Meeting	May 30, 12:00 pm	Victoria, BC
Closed Board Meeting	June 6, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	June 6, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

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