

# The Highlighter

September 6, 2016

## Recognition

**Denise Augustine – Indspire Award Winner** – District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Denise Augustine, has been awarded this year's Indspire award for Leadership. The criteria is a First Nation, Inuit or Metis person who consistently takes on a leadership role in the educational community that fosters achievement amongst K- 12 students. Indspire is an Indigenous-led registered charity that invests in the education of Indigenous people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families and communities, and Canada. Denise will receive a \$1,000 prize, framed award and an all-expense paid trip to the Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards gala that is held in conjunction with the annual National gathering for Indigenous Education.

## Education

**Introductions** – The Superintendent introduced Julie Parker, Vice-Principal at Frances Kelsey Secondary School and Justin Hawkins, Vice-Principal at Chemainus Secondary School and welcomed them to the District.

## Business & Operations

**Update on Summer Projects** – The Secretary-Treasurer gave an update on projects completed during the summer, including the following:

- Ecole Cobble Hill Elementary – The re-roofing project is nearing completion and finishing work will continue into September. Student and staff safety considerations have been addressed.
- Khowhemun Elementary - Classroom renovations involving new windows and cabinetry along the exterior walls are complete. Exterior cladding will continue into September and is planned for completion at the end of the month.
- Alexander Elementary - New toilets have been installed. The kitchen project is awaiting permits and will commence when they are received.
- Crofton Elementary – The Playing Field Refurbishment is in process, including deep tine aeration, top dressing and over seed. Students will be using a North Cowichan playing field a short walk away for the year.
- Frances Kelsey Secondary School – The LED lighting upgrade at Frances Kelsey will continue through the Fall and Winter months.



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## Business & Operations, continued

### Update on Summer Projects, continued:

- Drinking water at all SD79 sites was tested this summer for lead and test results reported below maximum acceptable concentrations. We will continue to work within Island Health guidelines for ongoing testing.
- Ecole Mt. Prevost Elementary – Work will begin this week and continue throughout the year on a Building Envelope Project. The contract was awarded to Heatherbrae Builders Co. Inc. We will be working closely with school staff to minimize disruption to classes.
- Over the summer, Ministerial approval was received to dispose of the Mill Bay, Yount and Charles Hoey properties.
- A Project Identification Report was developed for Cowichan Secondary School to be submitted with the Capital Plan.

**Duncan Primary Disposal Process** – The Board of Education passed a motion waiving the requirement to consult for a duration of eight months as set out in Policy 2230 – Disposal of Land or Improvements and begin the public consultation on the disposal of Duncan Primary School.

**Policy 2600 – School District Transportation Services** – The Board of Education amended Policy 2600 – School District Transportation Services to remove references to transportation fees and to specify that within walk limits, transportation may be provided for safety reasons which may include busy highway crossings or roads with poor visibility.

**2016-2017 Capital Plan** – The Board of Education approved the 2016-2017 Capital Plan.

**Location of Marijuana-Related Businesses** – The Board of Education expressed concern about the proximity of a storefront marijuana-related business to Cowichan Secondary School. They agreed to send a letter to the Municipality of North Cowichan regarding proximity of marijuana-related businesses to a school.

**Area Issues** – Trustee Spilsbury and the Superintendent informed the Board about a significant increase in injection drug use on and around the School Board Office Property. Over the summer, District staff have been involved in meetings with community agencies looking for solutions. Safety measures have been put into place for students travelling between Cowichan Secondary School and Quamichan Campus and Operations Staff are cleaning up drug paraphernalia in the mornings before staff arrive. Cowichan Secondary School is experiencing a similar issue in the rear courtyard so the area has been fenced.



## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Board Planning Session	September 22, 4:00 pm	Boardroom
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	September 27, 4:00 pm	Boardroom
Special Closed Board Meeting	September 27, 3:30 pm	Boardroom
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	September 27, 4:00 pm	Boardroom
Special Open Board Meeting	September 27, 5:00 pm	Boardroom
VISTA Conference	September 30 – October 1	Sooke, BC
Closed Board Meeting	October 4, 3:30 pm	Boardroom
Open Board Meeting	October 4, 4:30 pm	Boardroom

### Board of Education Trustees

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