

The Highlighter

April 4, 2017

Recognition and Delegations

Tom Clark – Trustee Spilsbury spoke on the passing of Transportation Supervisor Tom Clark, a long-time and much loved school district employee.

Rotary Starfish Program – Corrine Thompson and Mike Hansen gave a presentation on the Rotary Starfish Pack Program, which is beginning at Khowhemun Elementary this month. Starfish is a program initiated by Rotary Clubs in the Cowichan Valley to provide food to children and their families in need over the weekends. The project is designed to supplement existing in-school food programs by providing food to children during a time when the school is not directly involved (the weekend). This project will begin by supporting 31 Khowhemun students, from 13 families, with much needed food. Rotary's goal is to expand the program to other schools as they recognize that there are many more hungry and vulnerable kids within our local schools. The Starfish Program is a wonderful way to help children and their families to eat better and feel more connected with their school and community.

Board

2017-2018 Annual Budget Survey and Public Consultation – Trustees are seeking input from the general public on their priorities for the 2017-2018 Annual Budget. A survey is available for completion until April 9th - <http://sd79.bc.ca/public-consultation-on-the-2017-2018-budget/> As well, a Public Consultation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the School Board Office Annex.

Rental Rate Review – The Board of Education passed a motion to round up the current rental rates to the nearest dollar. The Rental Rate Review was discussed at the March 28th Board Education and Business Committee meeting, and it revealed that our rental rates are similar to other Island districts that responded to our survey, in that they are on a cost recovery basis.

National Day of Mourning – The Board acknowledged the National Day of Mourning on April 28, 2017. The intent of the National Day of Mourning is to honour all workers who are killed and injured on the job.



Education

Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program Grant – The Superintendent announced that our district has received a Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program (YTCEP) Grant in the amount of \$205,998 over three years. The purpose of the grant is to refresh and renew shop equipment. This program is unique in the province in that its purpose is to encourage students to try the trades. The grant can also provide funds to create maker carts and tinker carts in elementary schools, allowing all students to have a hands-on experience.

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

Khowhemun Elementary – Khowhemun Innovative Design (KID) Centre - With the new transformed curriculum, teachers at Khowhemun Elementary are looking at new ways to develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and problem solving skills amongst their students. Teachers have been working on new design-learning pedagogic approaches that support all students. Through design-learning principles students question, plan, access information, communicate/share and self-reflect. As part of this plan Khowhemun's old computer lab is being transformed into a space where students can demonstrate their knowledge and skills. They are calling this space the KID Centre. The students and staff at Khowhemun are very excited that the KID Centre is near completion. This space will augment the work already done in classrooms by providing a space with unique learning opportunities. The KID Centre features a green screen for video creation, group-work stations and a lego wall. Khowhemun Elementary would like to thank the School District for making this dream become a reality for Khowhemun students.

District French Immersion Carnaval - The French Immersion Carnaval was held at the BC Forest Discovery Centre on March 8-9. The event brings together the students, parents and teachers from all three of our district French Immersion Schools. On the day of the event teachers, parents and secondary student volunteers all help to make the activities really fun and engaging. Every child had an opportunity to have a taste of maple taffy on snow, dance to traditional and modern French Canadian music played by teacher Eric Desaulniers, ride the train, do Carnaval-themed arts and craft activities, participate in a French escape room activity and do some team-building activities led by Grade 12 French immersion students.

Try A Trade Program - Each year, the Cowichan Secondary School Applied Skills Department provides an exploratory, "Try a Trade" program to all grade 7 students in the School District. The program allows all grade 7 students the opportunity to work in a 21st Century constructionist fashion to discover various building trades. Students are bused to Cowichan Secondary and will experience the following: Work Safe Practices, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Drywall and Painting.



Education, continued

Dual Credit & Trades Programs - This year we have 382 students engaged in Dual Credit and Trades programs compared to 360 last year. The Trades/Careers list includes: Admin Assistant, Animal Care Aid, Auto Service Tech, Carpentry, Electrician, Hairdressing, Health Care Assistant, Heavy Duty Mechanic, Heavy Mechanical Trade (machine operator), Residential Building Maintenance, Joinery, Plumbing and Piping Foundations, Professional Cook, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic, Introduction to Trades, Welder Level C Foundations, Welder Level C and Fitter, Welder Level B. Plus a number of one off careers associated more with Academics: Nursing, Teaching, RCMP, Criminology, etc.

Maker Way Training Day - A Maker Way Training day is scheduled for April 26th at the Open Learning Centre site in the gym with over 60 participants signed up for the day.

Climbing Program - Keani Whitmore, a student in the climbing program, is our first student to complete the Climbing Gym instructors course offered through Thompson Rivers University. She is now a certified level one instructor. Keani is a grade 12 student at Cowichan Secondary and has been climbing with the program since grade 8. She can now work in any climbing gym in Canada.

Queensland Delegation – On April 6, a delegation of 21 principals and vice-principals from Queensland, Australia will be in our district to visit elementary classrooms and meet with senior staff to learn about Transformation and the New Curriculum. Joining them are 2 researchers from Learning First, an Australian organization taking the lead on education research. The researchers have been commissioned by the State of Queensland to investigate the BC education system and prepare a report on transformational change.

Naloxone Training – Training in administering Naloxone for drug overdoses is again being offered by the School District on Monday, April 24th at 3:30 pm at the School Board Office in the Inspire Room. There is room for 24 participants – please contact Tracy Jones at tjones@sd79.bc.ca if you would like to sign up. It was noted that the training is being offered not because of student incidents, but due to the close proximity of some of our schools to areas in the community that have a high drug-user population.

World Bank Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia – Over Spring Break, the Superintendent spoke at a World Bank Conference in Jakarta about the BC education system and joined in conversations as a representative of one of the three top performing educational jurisdictions in the world (BC alongside Singapore and Estonia). He noted that it was a good opportunity to learn about other jurisdiction and to see our district and provincial system as the world sees us.

Bill 28 Update – The Superintendent applauded the collaborative nature of conversations with the CVTF in solving Bill 28 challenges. While a lot of work is taking place right now, come September there will be more teachers in our schools and smaller class sizes, particularly in schools that have more vulnerable students – a positive outcome for everyone!



Business

2017-2018 Funding Announcement – The Secretary-Treasurer provided details on the 2017-2018 Funding Announcement, received on March 15, 2017. The Cowichan Valley School District is estimated to receive \$72,446,927 in funding, an increase of \$1,808,670 over the previous year.

2016-2017 Year-End Financial Projection – The Secretary-Treasurer updated Trustees on the year-end financial projection, which continues to show that the District is on track to show an anticipated surplus. Trustees were pleased that after the hard work done in previous years to balance the budget, we are now ready to move forward into a new era.

2017-2018 Capital Plan Response – The District has received a response to our Capital Plan submission, allowing for heating and ventilation upgrades at Ecole Mt. Prevost Elementary and Khowhemun Elementary, as well as the purchase of 2 small buses. However, due to a report on school roofs recently received, the heating and ventilation upgrades may be switched to roof replacement at some schools.

Student Learning Grant – The Secretary-Treasurer updated Trustees on the Student Learning Grant (previously referred to as the BC Classroom Fund). Notification has been received that the district's portion is \$385,813, to be spent on learning resources, supplies and equipment to ensure that classrooms are well resourced and students are well-supported through the implementation of the new curriculum and other learning innovations across the K-12 public education system. Principals and Vice Principals and DPAC will be asked for input on school needs.

2017-2018 Annual Facilities Grant – The Capital Coordinator gave the Board highlights of the 2017-2018 Annual Facilities Grant plan. Of note is the new kitchen at Alexander Elementary, completion of new windows and cladding at Alexander and Cowichan Secondary School, playing field restoration at Crofton Elementary, and a major field renovation at Lake Cowichan School. As noted above, roofing will be a focus this year, along with 3 playground installations as well as sink installations in classrooms in the north side of Palsson Elementary. He advised that the AFG budget is approximately \$1.75 million, along with an additional \$515,000 in School Enhancement Funding.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 11, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	April 12, 10:00 am	Frances Kelsey Secondary School
Board Planning Session	April 13, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Advisory Committee Meeting	April 18, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Public Consultation on the 2017-2018 Annual Budget	April 18, 5:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 19, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DPAC Meeting	April 20, 7:00 pm	Library, CSS James Street Campus
BCSTA Annual General Meeting/Provincial Council	April 20 – 23	Vancouver, BC
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 25, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Special Open Board	April 27, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Closed Board Meeting	May 2, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	May 2, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

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