



AGENDA
Open Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

4:30 p.m.

**Boardroom - Public Participation will be via Zoom and not at the Board Office:
<https://sd79.zoom.us/j/65341273882>**

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER 'Uy' skweyul, sii'em' nu siiye'yu. 'Uy nu shqwaluwun kwunus 'i lumnalu. We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.	
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	
2.1 Motion to Adopt Agenda <i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the agenda of the March 7, 2023 Open Board Meeting."</i>	
3. MINUTES	
3.1 Minutes of the February 7, 2023 Open Board Meeting <i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the minutes of the February 7, 2023 Open Board Meeting."</i>	4 - 10
3.2 Minutes of the February 21, 2023 Special Open Board Meeting <i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Special Open Board Meeting."</i>	11 - 12
4. RECOGNITION AND DELEGATIONS	
4.1 Recognition: Rotary Readers and Organizer Elly Ruge	
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4.2.1 Cowichan Valley Arts Council - President Janet Magdanz	
4.2.2 Cowichan Valley International Women's Day Festival - Founder Gayle Hurmuses	
5. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETING	
5.1 Report of Closed Meeting	
6. OLD BUSINESS	

6.1	Action List	14
7.	SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	
7.1	Personnel	
7.1.1	Introduction of Associate Secretary-Treasurer Claudia McMahon	
7.1.2	Introduction of Human Resources & Accounting Coordinator Kerrie Bainbridge	
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	<i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the Identity, Belonging and Connection Policy."</i>	
9.	COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS	
9.1	Highlights of the February 9, 2023 DSAC Meeting	39
	<i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the February 9, 2023 DSAC Meeting."</i>	
9.2	Highlights of the February 21, 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting	40 - 42
	<i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the February 21, 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting."</i>	
9.3	Minutes of the February 16, 2023 DPAC Meeting	43 - 47
	<i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Minutes of the February 16, 2023 DPAC Meeting."</i>	
9.4	Highlights of the February 25, 2023 Provincial Council Meeting	48 - 49
	<i>"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the February 25, 2023 Provincial Council Meeting."</i>	
9.5	March 3-4, 2023 VISTA Spring Conference	
10.	UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS	

10.1 Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Policy 7 - Board Operations, which outlines the process for Question Period, has recently been updated and may be viewed at: <https://sd79.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Cowichan-Valley-School-District-Board-Policy-Handbook-5.pdf>.

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.1 Motion to Adjourn

"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79
(COWICHAN VALLEY)**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 4:30 p.m.
Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)**

PRESENT

Trustee Cathy Schmidt, Chair
Trustee Elizabeth Croft
Trustee Randy Doman
Trustee Cindy Lise
Trustee Eduardo Sousa
Trustee Jennifer Strachan
Trustee Joe Thorne
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Mike Russell, Director of Communications
Margaret Olsen, Director of Human Resources
Jeff Rowan, Director of Inclusive Learning
Darlene Reynolds, Director of Inclusive Learning
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

APOLOGIES

Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction
Erin Egeland, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Schmidt called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Motion to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the agenda of the February 7, 2023 Open Board Meeting."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the January 3, 2023 Open Board Meeting

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the minutes of the January 3, 2023 Open Board Meeting."

CARRIED

4. RECOGNITION AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Recognition: Anita Carroll, Variety BC School Grant - Trail Bikes

The Board of Education recognized Anita Carroll, who was involved with the District's successful application for a Variety BC School Grant which matched local fundraising for the purchase of two mobility trail bikes. These mobility bikes will provide students who have mobility, heart or lung health concerns with the opportunity to participate in runs, hikes and field trips with their peers. Anita was provided with a token of thanks for the incredible work she has done and continues to do in support of our students.

4.2 Delegation: Tom Sparrow, Cowichan Secondary School Replacement Chief Project Officer

Trustees were provided with updates on the project:

- Construction on the project is underway, with the 100% design development expected within the next few weeks.
- While a significant amount of equipment will need to be purchased for the new school, some equipment will be moved from the current school.
- Portions of the implementation phase such as site grading, pad footing and stone columns are complete. Steel will be going up shortly.
- Local Indigenous community members and corporations are playing important roles in the building, including the site safety officer, carpenters, foremen, and general labourers. Cowichan Tribes' Khowutzun Development Corporation has been involved with site stripping, stone supply (from Malahat Nation's quarry), and rock mat and geogrid supply.
- When compared to a code compliant design, the school's low carbon design will see a 69% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 32% savings in energy consumption, and an estimated savings in utility costs of \$3,500 annually.
- The above grade structure is scheduled for completion in July 2023, with the roofing completed September 2023, and interior finishes beginning in November 2023. Substantial completion is set for June 2024, with move in scheduled between June and August 2024.

Moved by Trustee Thorne

Seconded by Trustee Lise

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) increases the delegation time limit for Tom Sparrow, Cowichan Secondary School Chief Project Officer, to twenty minutes on February 7, 2023."

CARRIED

5. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETING

Prior to the Open meeting the Board met in Closed session, where they discussed personnel items, bargaining updates, property items and contractor work.

5.1 Report of Closed Meeting

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Action List

A draft anti racism policy has been completed.

7. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

7.1 Personnel

7.1.1 Associate Secretary-Treasurer Update

We have completed interviews and will soon be hiring a replacement for Erin Egeland who is leaving the District to pursue completion of her PhD.

7.1.2 Human Resources and Accounting Coordinator Update

We are pleased to welcome Kerrie Bainbridge, who was previously a member of the District's Accounting Department, to this role.

7.1.3 Principal and Vice-Principal Assignments

Trustees were informed of the following recent changes to assignments:

- Congratulations to Joseph Boudreau on his retirement after 27 years with the District;
- Venessa MacDowell has been appointed Principal at Maple Bay Elementary after filling the role on a temporary basis for the past year and a half;
- Jennie Hittinger, who was a successful applicant for the Principal pool, has been appointed Temporary Principal at Lake Cowichan School;
- Penny Butler, a successful applicant for the Vice-Principal pool, has been appointed Temporary Vice-Principal at Frances Kelsey Secondary School;
- Ann Kissinger is supporting Open Learning and The Grove while continuing her role as Temporary District Principal of Inclusive Learning.

7.2 For Board Information

7.2.1 Kindergarten Registration Update

On January 20 a lottery was held at the School Board Office for kindergarten seats at Mill Bay Nature School and Ecole Cobble Hill (no lottery was needed for Ecole Mount Prevost). There is a wait list of five students for Mill Bay Nature School, and no wait list at Ecole Cobble Hill at this time. Kindergarten registration for the remainder of the District's schools took place from January 23-27.

7.2.2 School Calendar 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 school calendar is the final year of the District's approved three-year calendar. The Ministry of Education and Child Care has indicated that the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2023, will be observed, however it hasn't yet provided details around the observation for this date, which falls on a Saturday.

7.2.3 Superintendent's Update

Acknowledgments/Appreciation: Our school Secretaries are busy people during kindergarten registration, supporting parents, students and staff. The secretaries do an amazing job welcome students and families as the first point of contact in our schools.

Skills and Careers Updates: Skills Canada Regionals for gravity cars and sumo bots were held February 2 at the Vancouver Island Motor Sport Circuit. Over 2000 gravity cars raced during the past few weeks, with the top 150 cars competing at the finals. Elementary students from across the south end of the District will be visiting George Bonner Elementary February 9 - 10 to participate in Find Your Fit, a fun interactive event that helps students discover and explore careers at 16 different stations. Grade 7 Try a

Trade is in full swing at Cowichan Secondary, with students learning how to wire a light fixture, frame a wall, plumb a sink and install flooring as they build a small bathroom.

Catalyst Updates: The Catalyst program provides opportunities for students who want to enhance their learning. The District chess tournament will be held on March 8 at George Bonner, with categories for students from Grade 2 to Grade 12. The Young Authors event will be held in May at a location to be determined. A Youth Mental Health Symposium is being organized for spring 2024, with plans to make this an annual occurrence.

Provincial Assessments: Grade 10 Literacy and Numeracy and Grade 12 Literacy assessments took place in January. Upcoming opportunities to write the assessments are April 24-28 and June 19-23. These provincial assessments are graduation requirements.

BC Student Learning Survey: The survey (formerly the "Satisfaction Survey") is available online from January 3 - April 28 for students/parents in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, and all staff in BC public schools. The evidence collected from the survey informs decisions in the District.

Black History Month: Thank you to staff for recognizing that February is Black History Month and for teaching our students the importance of respect, inclusion and honouring diversity.

Inclusive Education Month: February is National Inclusive Education Month in Canada, a time to promote and increase awareness about inclusive education.

Non-Instructional Day: Friday, February 17 is a non-instructional day for teacher development.

Family Day: Monday, February 20 is a statutory holiday for Family Day.

Pink Shirt Day: Wednesday, February 22 is Pink Shirt/Anti-Bullying Day.

Deeper Learning Dozen: Principals Darcy Hoff, Nicole Boucher, Jennifer Calverley and Director of Inclusive Learning Jeff Rowan represented the District at the school year's second convening of the Deeper Learning Dozen, held in San Diego from January 31 to February 3. The team visited High Tech High, which has a focus on inquiry learning.

Easy Connect: The District is beginning to test and roll out its new automated dispatch system for teachers and CUPE employees. This modern system will improve staff experience in both reporting absences and accepting on-call work and improve the efficiency of the dispatch process.

Master's Research Project: Jody Fairweather, a teacher in the District, has had her Master's Research project "The Happiness Factor" approved. The research looks to identify factors that allow experienced teachers to continue to enjoy their careers well into their later years of teaching in order to pass the wisdom to new teachers to increase teacher retention.

Out-of-Province Field Trip: Students from Chemainus Secondary will be participating in an exchange trip to Saint-Answelme, Quebec City, from March 9-14.

7.3 For Board Action

7.3.1 Student Travel - Request for Final Approval

Moved by Trustee Sousa
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) grants final approval to the following student trip request:

1. *Cowichan Secondary Band Trip to Havana, Cuba from May 15 to 22, 2023."*

CARRIED

8. **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

8.1 For Board Action

8.1.1 2023-2024 Budget Guiding Principles

The 2023-2024 Budget Guiding Principles will be included in the budget survey that goes out starting Friday, February 10, 2023.

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Lise

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the 2023/2024 Budget Guiding Principles."

CARRIED

8.1.2 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget

The Amended Annual Budget reflects the changes since the annual budget was passed last May, including increases to enrolment which resulted in additional staffing, and changes due to inflationary pressures.

Moved by Trustee Sousa
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives first reading to the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget in the amount of \$117,867,574."

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Lise
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives second reading to the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget in the amount of \$117,867,574."

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) consider three readings of the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget in the amount of \$117,867,574 at this meeting."

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Sousa
Seconded by Trustee Lise

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives third and final reading to the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget in the amount of \$117,867,574."

CARRIED

8.1.3 Policy 1 - Foundational Statements

The Board's Policy 1 - Foundational Statements is out of date and does not reflect the Board's strategic priorities and new logo.

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) directs staff to review Policy 1 - Foundational Statements and bring any recommendations for revisions to a future Board Education and Business Committee meeting for review."

CARRIED

9. COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

9.1 Highlights of the January 12, 2023 DSAC Meeting

Moved by Trustee Thorne
Seconded by Trustee Lise

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the January 12, 2023 DSAC meeting."

CARRIED

9.2 Highlights of the January 17, 2023 Advisory Committee Meeting

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the January 17, 2023 Advisory Committee meeting."

CARRIED

9.3 Minutes of the November 22, 2022 BEBC Meeting

Moved by Trustee Sousa
Seconded by Trustee Thorne

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Minutes of the November 22, 2022 BEBC meeting."

CARRIED

9.4 Minutes of the January 19, 2023 DPAC Meeting

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Strachan

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Minutes of the January 19, 2023 DPAC meeting."

CARRIED

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

10.1 Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

The schedule of upcoming meetings and events was reviewed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions arising from the Agenda were responded to.

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.1 Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Lise

Seconded by Trustee Doman

"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

Cathy Schmidt, Chair

Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 79 (COWICHAN VALLEY)**

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

PRESENT

Trustee Cathy Schmidt, Chair
Trustee Elizabeth Croft
Trustee Randy Doman
Trustee Cindy Lise
Trustee Eduardo Sousa
Trustee Jennifer Strachan
Trustee Joe Thorne
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Mike Russell, Director of Communications
Margaret Olsen, Director of Human Resources
Jeff Rowan, Director of Inclusive Learning
Darlene Reynolds, Director of Inclusive Learning
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

APOLOGIES

Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction
Erin Egeland, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. WAIVE 48 HOURS' NOTICE

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) waives 48 hours' notice."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1 Motion to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Lise

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the agenda of the February 21, 2023 Special Open Board Meeting."

CARRIED

4. **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

5. **SECRETARY - TREASURER**

5.1 For Board Action

5.1.1 Policy 7 - Board Operations

Following the February Open Board Meeting it was recommended by the Board Chair that Policy 7 - Board Operations be reviewed to consider changing the way question period is conducted. The draft revised Policy was sent for legal review, and shared with the Advisory Committee for feedback.

Moved by Trustee Sousa
Seconded by Trustee Doman

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) amends Policy 7 - Board Operations as presented."

CARRIED

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

6.1 Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Doman
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

Cathy Schmidt, Chair

Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer



CVAC presentation to the School Board 2023

The Cowichan Valley Arts Council operates two community art galleries and a workshop space for youth and adults featuring about 30 exhibits annually at the Cowichan Community Centre in Duncan. CVAC hosts the largest non-juried art show (held in May) on Vancouver Island. The non-profit group was founded in 1971. CVAC's annual youth art show (March 3 – April 1) is part of a wide range of youth programs including art camps, after-school workshops and mentorship programs.

Our space and programs have grown dramatically in the last couple of years, so we wanted to inform the School Board with a brief Power Point presentation. President Janet Magdanz will make the presentation.

Dear Mr Sandquist,

I'm the founder of the Cowichan Valley International Women's Day Festival. It was my intention to write this morning and request delegation status for the meeting next week of the school board trustees.

I would like to bring a presentation about International Women's Day, its history, and its future.

Thank you.

Gayle Hurmuses

ACTION LIST FOR OPEN MEETINGS

Description	Assigned To	Action	Disposition / Completion
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February 7, 2023			
Policy 1 – Foundational Statements	Robyn Gray/ Jason Sandquist	Review Policy 1 – Foundational Statements and bring any recommendations for revisions to a future Board Education and Business Committee meeting for review.	In progress

COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022-23 Graduation and District Year-End Events

Graduation/Award Ceremonies

Lake Cowichan School:

- District Scholarship Judging – during May (dates to be determined)
- Grad Walk-up/Graduation Ceremony - June 24 (12:30 p.m.) in school gym - doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Chemainus Secondary:

- District Scholarship Judging - during May (dates to be determined)
- Walk-up/Graduation Ceremony, Scholarship/Bursaries - June 23rd (7:00 p.m.) in school gym

Cowichan Secondary:

- District Scholarship Judging - during May (dates to be determined)
- Scholarship and Bursary Presentations - June 6 (6:00 p.m.)
- Walk-up/Graduation Ceremony - June 29 (6:00 p.m.)

Frances Kelsey Secondary:

- District Scholarship Judging - during May (dates to be determined)
- Awards Ceremony - June 7 (10:00 a.m.)
- Scholarship and Bursary Evening - June 7 (7:00 p.m.)
- Graduation Ceremony - June 23 (6:30 p.m.) in school gym

Open Learning:

- District Scholarship Judging - during May (dates to be determined)
- Open Learning Grad Walk-up - June 22 (3:00 p.m. for Satellite Sites 5:30 p.m. for CVOLC grads) in school gym

Indigenous Education:

- Indigenous Grad Ceremony - June 8 (4:00 - 8:00 p.m.) at Tl'upalus (Cowichan Bay, Canoe Shed and Beach)

International Program

- International Program Year-End Celebration - June 1 (during the day) at Camp Pringle

School District Retirement Event

- School District Retirement Reception - June 12 at 5:00 p.m. at Arbutus Ridge (by invitation)

To: All Trustees
From: Jeff Rowan, Kim Darbyshire
Date: February 13, 2023
Re: District Scholarship Presentations

You are invited to be a guest judge at our Secondary Schools' District Scholarship presentations.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with District Scholarships, more information is available at: <http://sd79.bc.ca/students/scholarships/districtauthority-scholarship/>.

Each school is allocated a percentage of the district's allotted scholarships, each worth \$1,250. This year we have been assigned 78.

Trustees are invited to join school staff as judges. Students are judged on their achievement in an area of non-academic study, commitment to the non-academic area, general proficiency in other subject areas, involvement in community/extra-curricular and citizenship, and their overall ability to prepare and perform a presentation.

The judging process this year may again differ between schools as this allows schools to use a process that works for their specific students. To allow for some schools to spread their scholarship presentations out over multiple days, we are giving them the month of May as the window for presentations. Similar to last year, trustees will be the only invited guest judges.

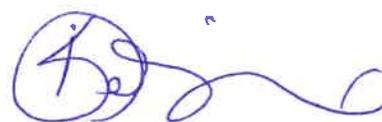
Please let Sharlaina Gale know by March 31st (by email: educatsec@sd79.bc.ca, phone: 250-748-0321 ext. 247, or in person at the School Board Office) if you are interested in participating in judging this year and which secondary schools you are most interested in participating with. There is lots of flexibility in the capacity in which you can participate: judging all presentations in a school, doing a walk through to view the presentations, or zooming in for a virtual walk through. Schools will reach out to you directly to discuss dates and in the capacity you would like to participate.

If you have any questions, Sharlaina, Kim or Jeff will be happy to answer them for you.

Huy tseep q'u,



Jeff Rowan
Director of Inclusive Learning



Kim Darbyshire
District Vice Principal of Inclusive Learning

School Calendar 2023 - 24

JULY						
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30	31					

AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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31						

APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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30						

	School Opening	Sept. 5
	Statutory Holiday / Vacation	
	Day for Truth & Reconciliation	Oct. 2
	Thanksgiving	Oct. 9
	Remembrance Day	Nov. 13
	Winter Vacation	Dec. 25 – Jan. 5
	Schools reopen	Jan. 8
	Family Day	Feb. 19
	Spring Vacation	Mar. 11 - 22
	Good Friday	Mar. 29
	Easter Monday	Apr. 1
	Victoria Day	May 20
	School Closure	
	Professional Development Days	
	Last day of school	June 27
	Administrative Day	June 28
	Days in session	187
	Days of instruction	180
	Pro-D days	6
	Administrative days	1
	Instructional Hours	
	Elementary: 884	
	Secondary: 974	



YEAR-END PROJECTION AS AT JANUARY 31, 2023

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
	AMENDED	YEAR	PROJECTED	(A - C)	NOTES
	BUDGET	TO DATE	REV AND EXP	SURPLUS	
REVENUE:					
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	- 86,843,170	- 38,184,923	- 86,843,170	-	(6)
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM	- 2,000,000	- 1,941,440	- 1,941,440	- 58,560	
LOCAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT	- 6,691,959	- 1,338,392	- 6,691,959	-	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	- 80,000	- 56,727	- 56,727	- 23,273	
TRANSPORTATION	- 55,000	- 53,222	- 53,222	- 1,778	
RENTALS	- 150,000	- 97,392	- 135,978	- 14,022	
INTEREST	- 550,000	- 390,485	- 550,000	-	
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS	- 2,830,970	- 2,830,970	- 2,830,970	-	
TOTAL REVENUE	- 99,201,099	- 44,893,551	- 99,103,466	- 97,633	
EXPENDITURES:					
SALARIES					
PRINCIPAL / VICE-PRINCIPAL SALARIES	6,486,042	3,739,930	6,506,673	- 20,631	(2)
TEACHER SALARIES	39,409,902	19,665,509	39,395,880	14,022	(2)
EDUCATION ASSISTANT SALARIES	8,175,328	3,926,955	8,093,579	81,749	(2)
CLERICAL / NHS SALARIES	4,130,882	2,111,409	3,943,353	187,529	(2)
USW SALARIES	5,588,079	2,889,347	5,627,336	- 39,257	(2)
EXCLUDED SALARIES	2,378,849	1,273,951	2,293,999	84,850	(2)
CASUAL REPLACEMENT (ILLNESS / VACATION)	4,732,908	2,354,563	4,761,838	- 28,930	(4)
INSERVICE / EXTRA CURRICULAR / DEP'T HEAD	945,262	240,365	945,262	-	(3)
TOTAL SALARIES	71,847,252	36,202,029	71,567,920	279,332	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
STATUTORY BENEFITS	6,298,596	2,836,442	6,468,927	- 170,331	
PENSION BENEFITS	7,386,941	3,615,032	6,899,397	487,544	
HEALTH BENEFITS	2,872,710	1,475,811	2,940,851	- 68,141	
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	16,558,247	7,927,285	16,309,175	249,072	
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES					
SERVICES	3,850,452	1,863,189	3,850,452	-	(3)
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	276,525	133,445	276,525	-	(3)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAVEL	686,315	305,993	686,315	-	(3)
RENTALS AND LEASES	67,100	33,682	67,100	-	(3)
DUES AND FEES	123,910	112,630	123,910	-	(3)
INSURANCE	250,134	229,799	250,134	-	(3)
SUPPLIES	3,785,718	1,777,552	3,785,718	-	(3)
UTILITIES	1,610,580	776,336	1,596,869	13,711	(5)
TOTAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	10,650,734	5,232,626	10,637,023	13,711	
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	144,866	126,626	144,866	-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	99,201,099	49,488,566	98,658,983	542,116	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	- 4,595,015	444,483	444,483	(1)

NOTES:

- 1 This projection was prepared using information available on February 20, 2023. It is updated on a monthly basis or as new information is received. As we progress towards the June 30, 2023 year-end the reliability of the projection improves. Certain assumptions are made regarding the account balances.
- 2 Employee salaries and benefits are projected by adding the expected monthly expenditures to the year-to-date balance and adjusting for known differences.
- 3 Supplies and inservice budget allocations are assumed to be fully expended at year-end. The projection is adjusted for known differences.
- 4 Casual replacement balances are calculated using a method of extrapolation. The current account balance is divided by the prior year balance at the same date. This ratio is then multiplied against the prior year-end balance. This methods assumes that trends to date will continue.
- 5 Utilities and diesel fuel use the same method of extrapolation as the casual replacements.
- 6 Final funding figures will be known once the February and May enrolment counts are incorporated into the Operating Grant.

	2022/23 Interim Base	Estimated Enrolment					
		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26	
		District	Ministry*	District	Ministry*	District	Ministry*
July Enrolment Count							
Summer Learning: Grades 1-7 Headcount Enrolment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Learning: Grades 8-9 Course Enrolment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Learning: Grades 10-12 Course Enrolment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 8 & 9 Cross-Enrolment Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September Enrolment Count - School-Age Basic Allocation							
K-12 Standard (Regular) Schools FTE (School-Age)	7,968.2531	8,045.2030	8,033.2470	8,081.8250	7,992.3937	7,964.6270	7,906.9731
Continuing Education FTE (School-Age)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Alternate Schools FTE (School-Age)	322.0000	322.0000	322.0000	322.0000	322.0000	322.0000	322.0000
Distributed Learning FTE (School-Age)	144.0000	144.0000	144.0000	144.0000	144.0000	144.0000	144.0000
Total Estimated School-Age Enrolment	8,434.2531	8,511.2030	8,499.2470	8,547.8250	8,458.3937	8,430.6270	8,372.9731
Change from Previous Year		76.9499	64.9939	36.6220	-40.8533	-117.1980	-85.4206
September Enrolment Count - Unique Student Needs							
Level 1 Special Needs FTE	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Level 2 Special Needs FTE	502	461	549	461	600	461	656
Level 3 Special Needs FTE	123	117	131	117	139	117	148
English Language Learning FTE	388	308	389	328	390	348	391
Indigenous Education FTE	1,736	1,752	1,783	1,759	1,831	1,735	1,881
Adult Education FTE (Non-Graduates only)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
February Enrolment Count - Continuing Education, Distributed Learning, Special Needs Growth and Newcomer Refugees							
Continuing Education FTE - School-Age	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000
Continuing Education FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Distributed Learning FTE K-Grade 9 (School-Age)	5.0000	3.0000	5.0000	3.0000	5.0000	3.0000	5.0000
Distributed Learning FTE Grades 10-12 (School-Age)	20.0000	9.0000	20.0000	9.0000	20.0000	9.0000	20.0000
Distributed Learning FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Level 1 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Level 2 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Level 3 Special Needs FTE Growth (All Schools)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcomer Refugees FTE (Standard & Alternate only)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
ELL FTE (applies to Newcomer Refugees only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May Enrolment Count - Continuing Education and Distributed Learning							
Continuing Education FTE - School-Age	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000
Continuing Education FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Distributed Learning FTE K-Grade 9 (School-Age)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Distributed Learning FTE Grades 10-12 (School-Age)	15.0000	8.0000	15.0000	8.0000	15.0000	8.0000	15.0000
Distributed Learning FTE - Non-Graduate Adults	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000



2023/2024 Annual Budget Preview

February 23, 2023

Introduction

The Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) (The Board) is accountable to the community for the publicly-provided funds that support the School District. One of the Board's responsibilities is the adoption of the District's budget. The budget must conform to legislative requirements set out in the *School Act* and is the financial plan that supports the District's Strategic Plan.

The Board is currently planning for the next school year, which includes:

- Setting priorities for the delivery of student learning;
- Projecting student enrolment;
- Projecting the costs of providing the existing services into the next year (salaries, benefits, utilities, inflation, etc.);
- Determining what costs will change (number of students, contract changes, program changes, one-time items);
- Projecting revenues (rental fees, interest revenue, International Student fees, the Ministry grant, etc.);
- Identifying strategies and options to address the net budget position (projected revenues less projected expenditures);
- Reviewing the budget against the Board's Strategic Plan;
- Finalizing decisions.

Boards of Education operate on a fiscal year of July 1st to June 30th. Pursuant to section 156 of the *School Act*, Boards of Education are required to prepare and submit to the Minister financial reports, in the form, with the information, and at a time required by the Minister.

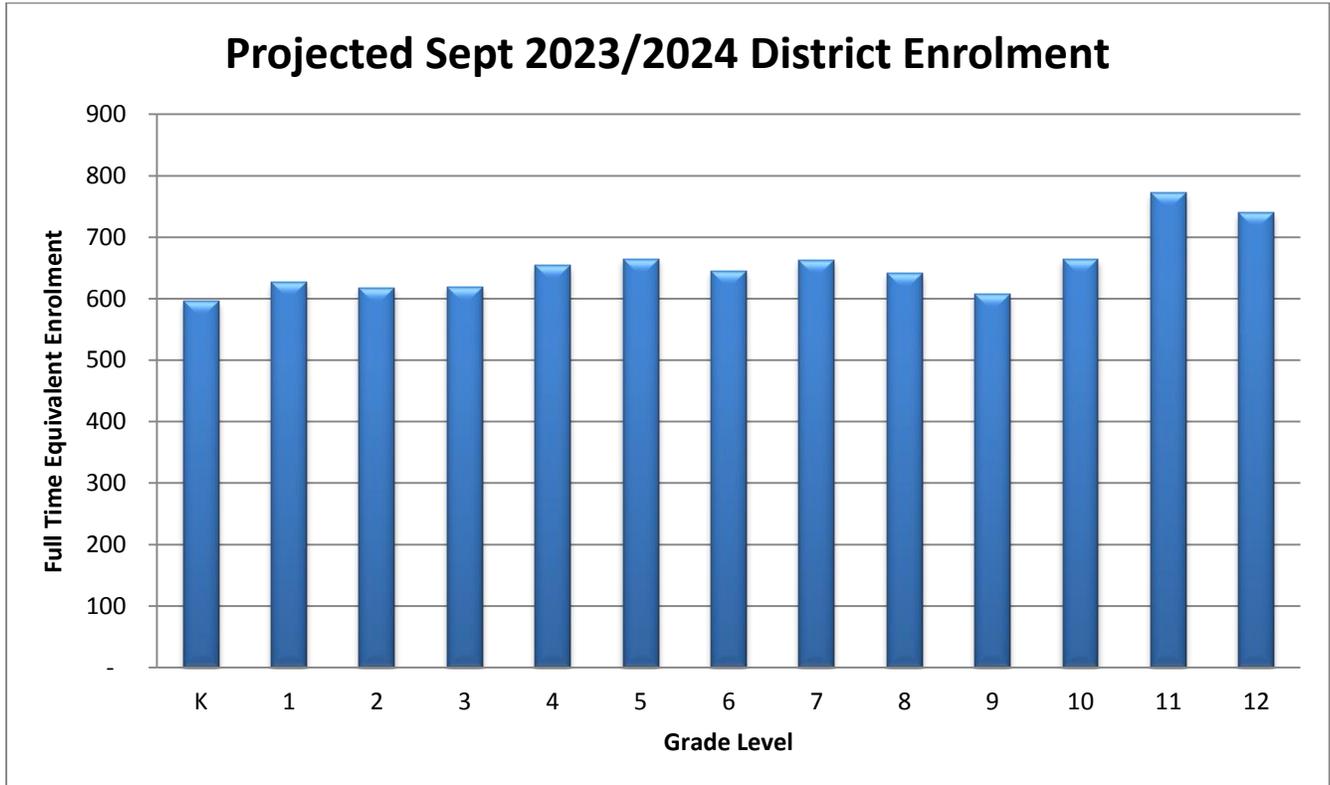
Pursuant to section 111 of the *School Act*, the Board must prepare an annual budget in the form and containing content specified by the Minister, and estimated expenditures must not exceed estimated revenues.

For 2023/2024, Boards must prepare an annual budget and have it adopted by bylaw on or before June 30, 2023 as per section 113 of the *School Act* and submit it to the Ministry by this date.

Student Enrolment

Student enrolment is the primary factor determining the number of employees, the number of classrooms and schools that are required, and how much funding the District receives from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

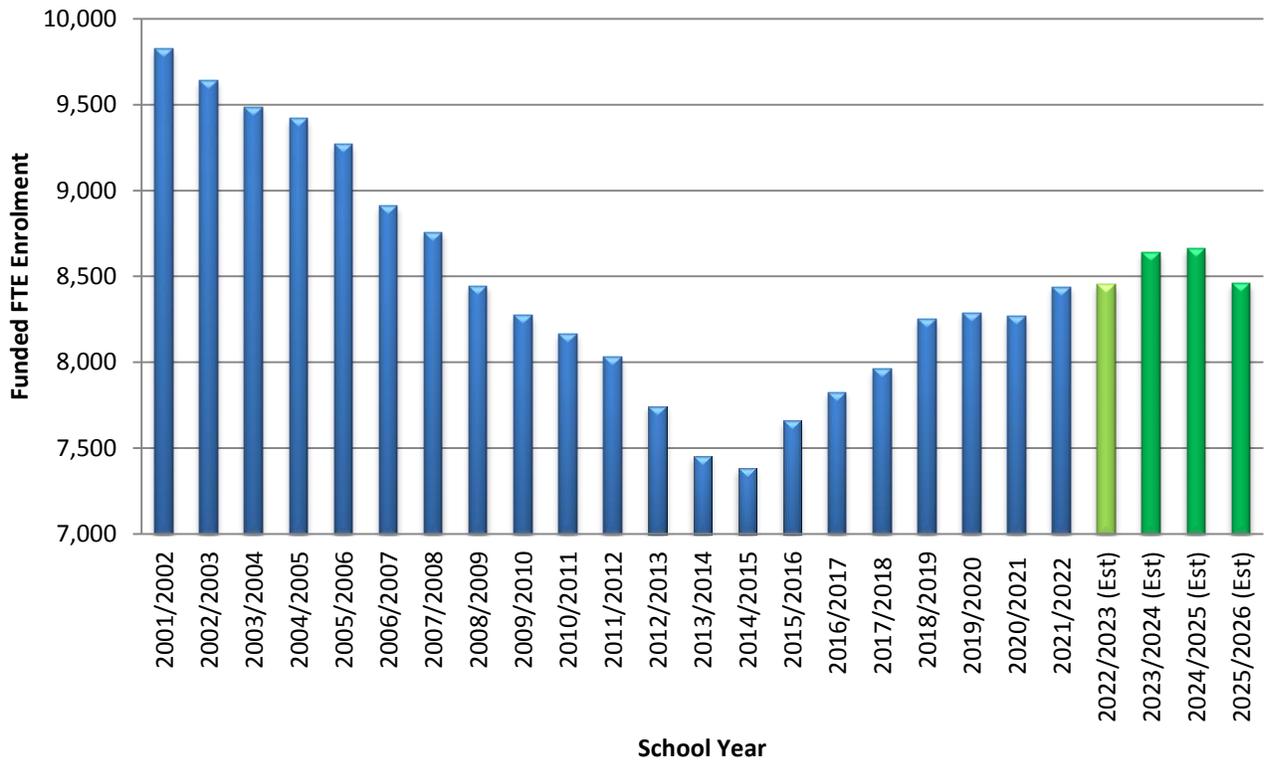
The chart below shows our estimated enrolment by grade for the 2023/2024 school year.



It is estimated that for 2023/2024 there will be a net increase of 55 FTE students. The projection includes amended K-9 Distributed Learning counts in February and May due to the School District not being selected to offer Distributed Learning programs to the rest of the Province. Enrolment projections are not an exact science. We utilize knowledge of birth rates, Baragar demographic projections, past retention rates, historical FTE for grades 10-12 and other local factors. The District will have a second chance to submit an updated enrolment estimate before the end of the school year and will continue to monitor the enrolment projections during the budget process.

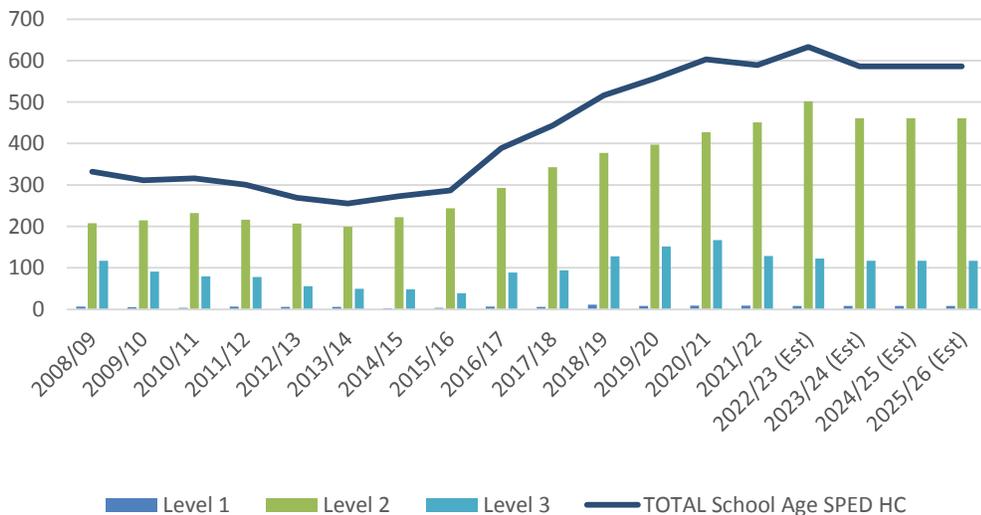
Enrolment is expected to increase again in 2024/2025 by 39 FTE and then begin a pattern of stabilization. Local birth rates peaked in 2017 and have been declining since. The 2020 birth rate was the lowest it has been since 2007 and remained lower than typical in 2021. These lower Kindergarten intakes will be offset by in-migration growth anticipated at 2 to 3 percent per year.

Funded School-Age FTE Enrolment by Year



The restoration of class size and composition language with the Memorandum of Agreement between BC Teachers, the Province of BC and the BC Public Sector Employer’s Association means that the number of designated students has an impact on the number of students in each classroom. The number of designated students is projected to decline in 2023/2024 and then to stabilize over the next two years.

Unique Student Needs



The criteria for English Language Learners (ELL) have been reviewed and District identification practices revised. The result is a projected decline from 388 FTE to 308 FTE which will have a significant impact on ELL funding.

Expenditures

The District will be projecting the costs of providing existing services into the next year (salaries, benefits, utilities, etc.). Even though we are early in the budget development process, we are already aware of several cost pressures that will impact the school District in the 2023/2024 school year.

Funded

The support staff collective agreements were renegotiated as at July 1, 2022. The agreements provide annual wage increases in 2023/2024 of between 5.5% and 6.75% dependent on the prior year's inflation. Funding for the 2023/24 wage increases is expected to be included in the per pupil amount of the funding framework and announced as part of the March 15th funding tables.

The teachers' collective agreement was also renegotiated as at July 1, 2022 and includes an equivalent annual wage increase in 2023/2024 of between 5.5% and 6.75%. For teachers that have achieved the top experience step, an additional .3% will be added.

Costs associated with the wage increases for support staff and teachers will be funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Funding is provided based on an estimate of the incremental costs provincially and does not always adequately fund these increases locally.

Principals, Vice-Principals and other employees not covered by a collective agreement may also be entitled to compensation increases in the 2023/2024 school year. Provincial compensation policy has been to permit these employees with increases up to the amount that the teachers have negotiated. In 2022/2023 for the first time in recent years increases for these employees were funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. It is unknown at this time if funding for 2023/2024 will be received. If not, a significant cost pressure will occur to provide increases in alignment with the Teachers.

Not Funded

The District's average teacher salary costs have typically increased as teachers advance in the number of years of service and the level of education they have obtained. The implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement on Class Size and Composition resulted in many new hires that were not yet at the top experience step of the compensation band.

Post-pandemic absenteeism replacement costs have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. It is anticipated that replacement cost trends will continue at current levels for 2023/2024.

Canada Pension Plan premiums continue to increase. In addition to the January 1, 2023 rate increase from 5.7% to 5.95% of earnings, an additional 4% of additional contributions will be implemented as at January 1, 2024 between the old ceiling and the newly established second

ceiling. At this time the new second ceiling has not yet been announced and will have to be estimated. For the 2023/2024 Budget this new CPP structure should affect the contributions of the highest earners only. In the following Budget year it will impact all employees over \$66,600.

WorkSafe BC rates are based on a formula that considers the prior three years of claims history to calculate demerit costs on top of the base rate premiums. The District has seen progress in the reduction of these rates over the last number of years. For 2024 the 2022 claims experience will be brought into the formula. The claims experience in 2022 exceeded the previous two years by a factor of 3. An increase in WorkSafe BC rates can be anticipated for January 1, 2024.

Capital

While the enrolment projections do not suggest a significant increase in student numbers overall, there are areas of the District where growth is anticipated next September. An additional two portable classrooms have been approved for purchase and installation at Frances Kelsey Secondary to accommodate growth. Each portable costs approximately \$315,000 per unit to procure, deliver and install. The Board will deliberate the source of funding for these two facilities during the Budget process.

The District has also committed to a multi-year upgrade of its financial, procurement, human resources and payroll software. Funding for this upgrade may come from local capital or the operating budget.

Inflation Considerations

Ninety percent of the Board's operating expenditures are related to salaries and benefits and 10% to services and supplies.

For 2022/2023 the Board enjoyed a benefit premium holiday of \$360,000. These savings are not able to be predicted and are dependent on staff using health benefits at a rate below the Board's contributions. This item will be removed from the budget and create a cost pressure.

Early benefit rate estimates for CUPE and the USW indicate increases of 12% and 4.6% respectively. We have not yet received projections for Teachers of the Principals and Vice-Principals but should expect a similar increase.

Fuel rates remain high but appear to have stabilized.

Inflation rates are beginning to slow down but are expected to continue to place pressure on supply and services budgets.

Other Considerations

Early learning and literacy initiatives continue to be significant priorities for the District. Past Budgets have created significant investments in this important initiative and will be carried over to the 2023/2024 Annual Budget.

The Ministry of Education became the Ministry of Education and Child Care on April 1, 2022. Provincial child care policy is currently under development. School Districts are encouraged to continue to expand their offerings of out-of-school care and child care programs.

In past years, the number of trades positions in the operating budget were decreased as positions were transferred to capital work, resulting in deferred maintenance in schools. As the blend of maintenance and capital work is dynamic, ideally a number of positions would begin to transition back to the operating budget from capital work.

School supply allocations are currently calculated based on the number of FTE enrolled in each school plus a base rate. Elementary schools are all funded based on the same distribution model, but all have different demographic bases resulting in differing instruction supply costs. Attention may be required to address these inequities.

Reconciliation with local First Nations communities remains an important priority of the Board.

Savings

The 2022/2023 Operating Budget contained \$132K for election costs that will not be required for another four years.

Revenues

Approximately 98% of the District's revenue comes from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and direct billing to the Local Education Agreement partners. The Ministry of Education and Child Care determines the total amount of funding provided to Districts. Funding for the implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada ruling is recorded separately in a special purpose fund.

The Ministry will be announcing preliminary operating grants on or before March 15, 2023 for the 2023/2024 school year.

The provincial funding to Districts is distributed through a funding allocation system that contains several formulae. Approximately 90% of the grant is directly related to student FTE enrolment. For many years the grant formula has accounted for wage increases but not inflation related to other areas of the District's operations. It is hoped that the funding rates will begin to address inflationary pressures.

Ongoing Grants

In August of 2016 the Ministry of Education provided districts with student transportation funding to remove bus fees for in-catchment ridership. School District No. 79's share of the funding amounted to \$283,524. The Minister of Education and Child Care has committed that this funding will be ongoing.

The District also receives \$363,682 for pay equity. This fixed amount was introduced in 2001 and reflects the costs at that time to introduce a wage parity program in the District.

International Student Program

International student enrolment has recovered well. The program is limited by the number of homestay families available to host students. It is expected that capacity will be met in 2023/2024.

Investment Revenue

For every .25% increase in the Bank of Canada benchmark rate the School District generates approximately \$50K in additional interest revenues. Some small benchmark adjustments are projected for the 2023/2024 school year.

Unknown Grants

In 2022/2023 the Province provided Districts with funding to distribute to families that may be struggling with inflationary pressures. The Student and Family Affordability Fund provided \$880,984 to the School District which has been used for gift cards and school meal programs. It is unknown if there will be another allocation of funds in 2023/2024. If there is not, the Board may wish to consider if local funding will be needed to continue to provide these supports.

Surplus

The 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget was balanced using \$2,016,343 of prior year unrestricted operating surplus when it was adopted on February 7, 2023. At that time, the Board still had \$4,068,607 of unrestricted operating surplus from 2021/2022. Early projections are predicting an additional surplus accumulation in 2022/2023 of \$444,483.

To Date

On February 7, 2023 the Board of Education adopted the 2023/2024 Budget Guiding Principles.

On February 10, 2023, the District released a budget survey to collect feedback.

The month of February included a series of liaison meetings with partner groups.

The Advisory Committee was consulted on February 21, 2023 regarding budget assumptions.

A public meeting was held on February 21, 2023 to collect feedback.

Next Steps

The Board will host an Indigenous Education Council budget luncheon on March 8, 2023 to receive feedback on budget priorities and the appropriate use of surplus.

Over the next month the District will finalize expenditure estimates. The revenue announcement is expected on or before March 15, 2023, at which time, the District's revenue position will be announced.

The Board Education and Business Committee will meet on March 28, 2023 to review the funding announcement and first budget position.

The Board is required to approve an annual budget on or before June 30, 2023 for the 2023/2024 school year. The Board plans to consider the budget bylaw on May 2, 2023.

Conclusions

Enrolment is expected to increase by net 55 FTE. This small increase in enrolment will require corresponding staffing and supply expenditure additions.

The Board will prepare a budget including the impacts of the Memorandum of Agreement on Class Size and Composition. For 2022/2023 approximately 80 FTE teachers and 6 FTE education assistants were added to meet the requirements.

The District is beginning the 2023/2024 budget process in sound financial position, having adopted an Accumulated Annual Surplus Policy that ensures that a contingency be retained that approximates 1% to 3% of the operating budget. It is anticipated that the Board will have surplus available to apply towards balancing the 2023/2024 Budget.

For additional information on the 2023/2024 Budget, please refer to the District's website www.sd79.bc.ca



COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023/24

BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS





OVERVIEW

The Board of Education for the Cowichan Valley School District hosts robust consultations for the creation of their annual budget. As part of these consultations, the Board annually asks for public feedback through a budget survey. This survey is done in conjunction with the Board's public budget meeting, Partner liaison meetings, and staff presentations.

This year, the Board's Annual Budget Survey took place from February 10th to February 26th, 2023 and elicited 114 responses from the public.

Participation in the Board's survey has stayed steady over the last number of years, with survey responses for the last three years being:

2020/21: 108

2021/22: 136

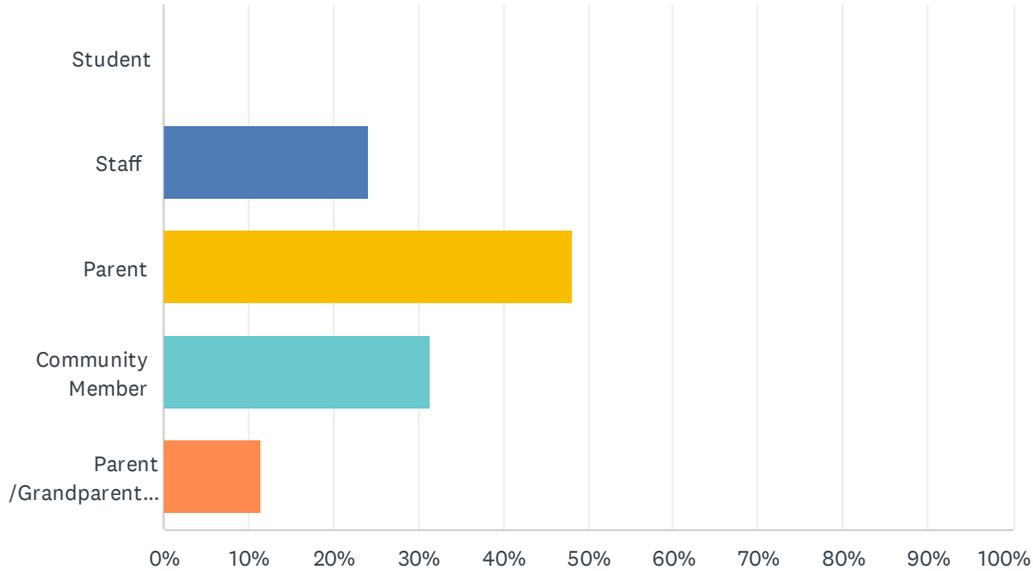
2022/23: 125

2023/24: 114

This report summarizes the results of this year's survey, which will help inform the Board on their budget decisions.

Q1 What best describes your connection to the school district? (You can check more than one box if it's applicable)

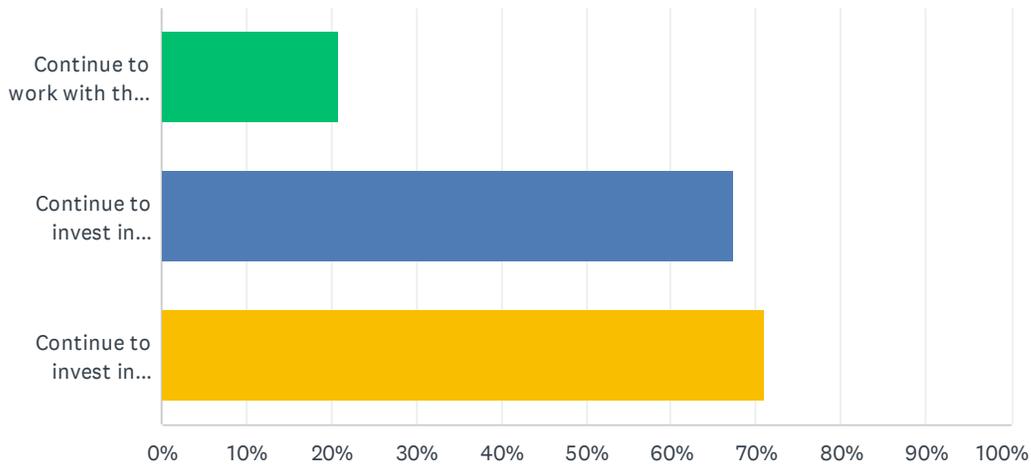
Answered: 112 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Student	0.00%	0
Staff	24.11%	27
Parent	48.21%	54
Community Member	31.25%	35
Parent /Grandparent/Other Family Member/Guardian	11.61%	13
Total Respondents: 112		

Q2 Please take a moment to choose one to two objectives you believe we should focus on this year under the Learning priority. Learning Make sure that every learner can be actively involved in decisions around their own learning (Learning Priority from Strategic plan: Ensuring Voice and Choice for Every Learner) ‘Beyond Education’ our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 calls for us to create opportunities for learners to be creative, to think about others, and to be able to adapt to new ideas and ways of doing things. (From Strategic Plan: Develop competent, agile learners who are creative, critical and social thinkers that have the capacity to be global citizens)

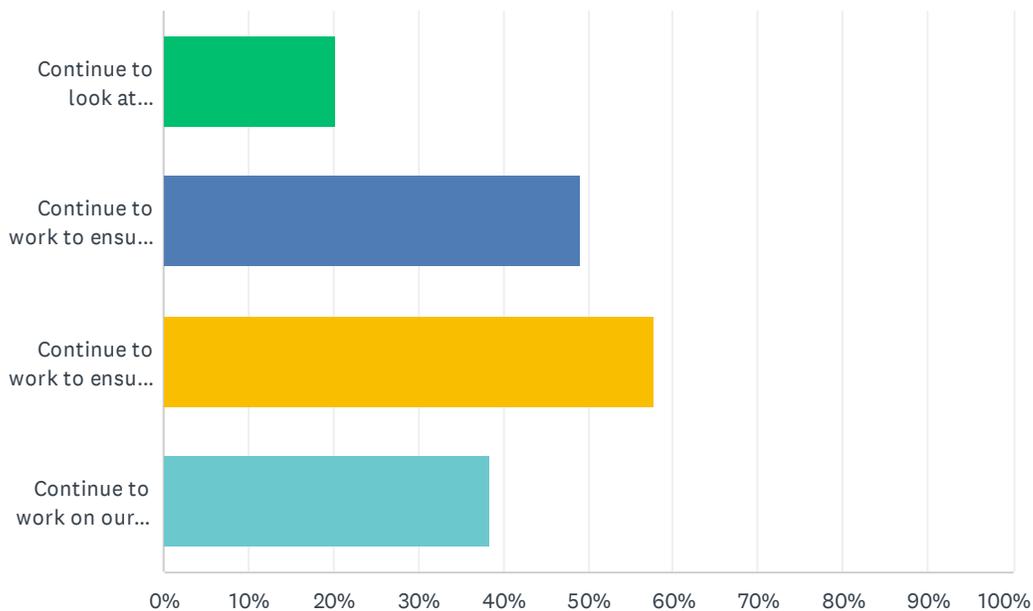
Answered: 110 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Continue to work with the community to create and provide more opportunities for young families. (From Strategic Plan: Enhance early learning opportunities and partnerships)	20.91% 23
Continue to invest in supports to improve reading and math skills. (From Strategic Plan: Focus on foundational learning in literacy and numeracy)	67.27% 74
Continue to invest in supports for programs like our Trades, Applied Design Skills and Technology that are all based in real-world experiences. (From Strategic Plan: Focus on applied learning and authentic real-world learning experiences)	70.91% 78
Total Respondents: 110	

Q3 Please take a moment to choose one to two objectives you believe we should focus on this year under the Indigenous Ways of Knowing priority. Indigenous Ways of Knowing Nuts'a' maat shqwaluwun kw tst yaayus - (Working together with One heart, One mind, One thought)'Beyond Education' our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 calls for us to ensure that each learner has a sense of self and a connection to their family, community, and nature. (From Strategic Plan: Connectedness and relationships to oneself, family, community and our natural world)Embrace Indigenous perspectives and knowledge as part of our history and recognize Indigenous content is integral to our learning journey

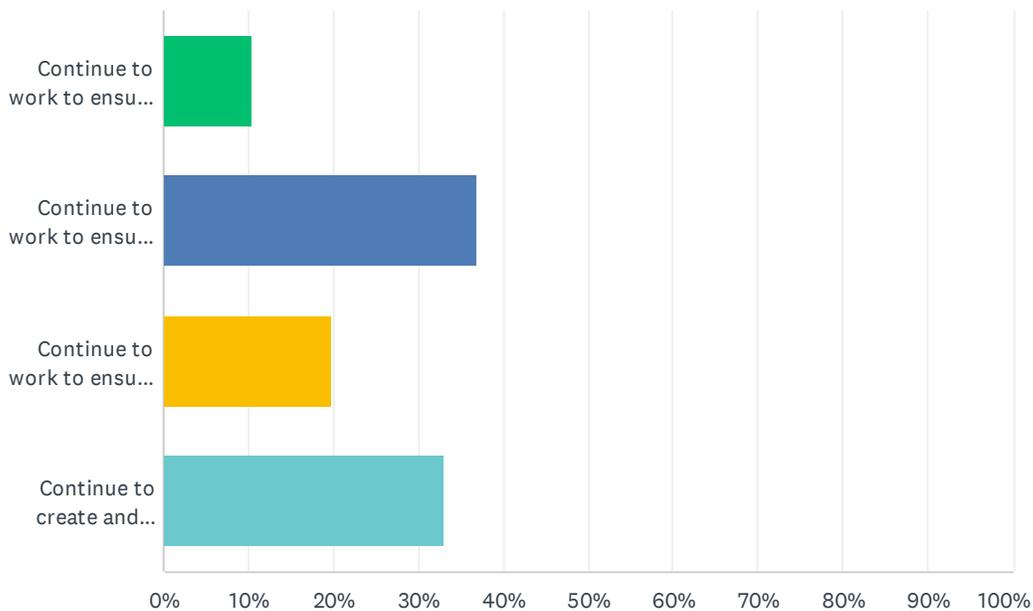
Answered: 104 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Continue to look at ourselves and our organization to ensure we are acknowledging the past and are creating learning spaces where all feel welcome. (From Strategic Plan: Critically examine our own biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to facilitate truth and reconciliation)	20.19% 21
Continue to work to ensure that learning opportunities and graduation rates of Indigenous learners mirror those of non-Indigenous learners. (From Strategic Plan: Address the inequities of outcomes for our Indigenous learners)	49.04% 51
Continue to work to ensure that every learner feels safe at school and can learn in a way that is true to their own history and culture. (From Strategic Plan: Create safe, flexible and culturally-responsive learning environments)	57.69% 60
Continue to work on our relationship to the local natural world through teachings based in local knowledge, language, and culture. (From Strategic Plan: Deepen our understanding of environmental stewardship, place-based historical knowledge, language, and culture)	38.46% 40
Total Respondents: 104	

Q4 Please take a moment to choose one to two objectives you believe we should focus on this year under the Culture of Care priority. Culture of Care Recognizing the importance of relationships ‘Beyond Education’ our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 calls for us to ensure that we create communities in our schools that model healthy relationships, are safe, and can overcome difficulties while supporting learners in being who they want to be. (From Strategic Plan: Foster healthy, safe, and resilient communities that build on the unique identities of our learners allowing them to thrive)

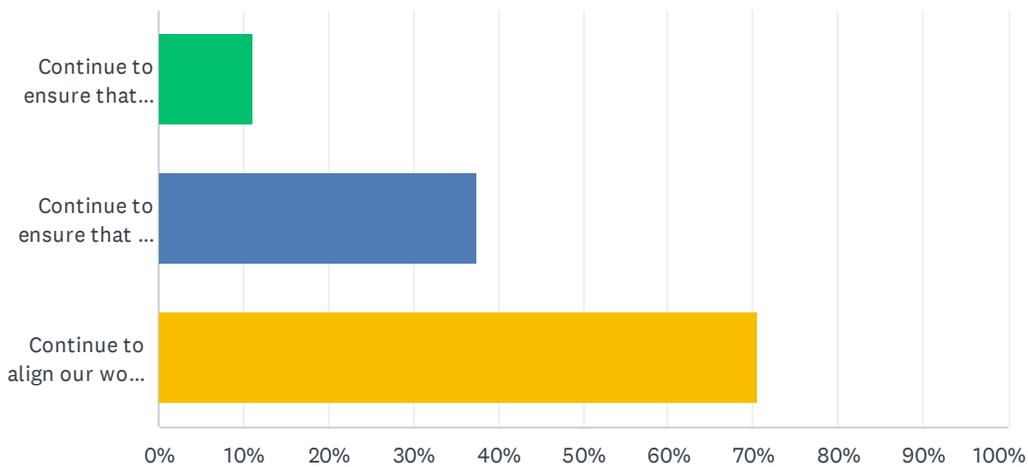
Answered: 106 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Continue to work to ensure that every learner has trusted adults who knows them well and that they talk to or visit with regularly. (From Strategic Plan: Acquire a deep understanding of our learners by developing healthy relationships)	10.38%	11
Continue to work to ensure school communities are supportive of staff and student and have their well-being at the centre. (From Strategic Plan: Create healthy work and school environments that promote wellness)	36.79%	39
Continue to work to ensure programs and community partnerships that enhance mental health are supported. (From Strategic Plan: Enhance mental health opportunities and partnerships that support well-being)	19.81%	21
Continue to create and promote safe and inclusive learning environments for our diverse community	33.02%	35
TOTAL		106

Q5 Please take a moment to choose one to two objectives you believe we should focus on this year under the Future-Focused System priority. Future-Focused System Working Together as a whole system ‘Beyond Education’ our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 calls for us to ensure that we help learners by creating places that encourage innovation and learners that can adapt to change. (From Strategic Plan: Create nimble and dynamic environments that embrace change and foster innovation to enhance student learning)

Answered: 109 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Continue to ensure that each school and work area is focused on the goals of the Strategic Plan. (From Strategic Plan: Ensure all operational plans and procedures are cohesive and aligned with the strategic direction of the district)	11.01% 12
Continue to ensure that we research our decisions, focus on our learners, and are make decisions appropriate for our local communities and the natural world. (From Strategic Plan: All decisions are evidence based, child focused, and culturally and environmentally responsive)	37.61% 41
Continue to align our work and our learning behind our most important goal; supporting our learners. (From Strategic Plan: Continue to enhance the capacity of the system where all members of our organization are committed to our primary purpose of supporting our learners)	70.64% 77
Total Respondents: 109	

POLICY 25 - IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND CONNECTION POLICY

Preamble

The Identity, Belonging, and Connection Policy was co-developed by a working group that was the result of the Board's Ad-Hoc Anti-Racism Committee. Members of this working group consisted of Indigenous Leadership students, union leadership, the District Sul'hween (Elder), District Indigenous Education Staff, and a local community member who is also a Journalist. The working group contained members who self-identified as Indigenous, and People of Colour, and those that did not. The working group was co-facilitated by the District Superintendent and Director of Communications.

Why 'Identity, Belonging and Connection'?

As the group worked through the policy development, they felt that defining the policy as the 'anti-racism policy' would not be truly reflective of the work undertaken to get to this final document nor the sole intention of the policy. The naming was a crucial step in aligning the policy to the foundational beliefs under the First People's Principles of Learning. These principles guided the foundation of the Strategic Plan and guided the work in the naming of this policy. They show that learning starts with 'Me' (individual), then the larger 'We' (family / friends), and finally 'Community.' When the working group considered these terms in relation to this policy, they aligned the terms 'Identity' with 'Me' and examined the intentionality of how this policy will create environments where individuals can form identity and be in a place where that identity can be nurtured. The working group then aligned 'Belonging' with 'We.' After the intentional creation of spaces where belonging is fostered, this policy ensures the creation of belonging for staff/students/families where they can be connected to something larger than themselves. Finally, aligning 'Connection' with 'Community' ensures that the Board and District continue to create opportunities for impact 'Beyond Education' in the community.

Policy Introduction

The Board of Education for the Cowichan Valley School District (Board) will actively work to ensure that schools are safe, welcoming, and caring places. To ensure this, the Board is committed to creating and supporting a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students, staff, families, and guests, especially those currently and historically marginalized, feel safe, included, welcomed, accepted, and experience a sense of belonging. Forming that sense of belonging leads to academic success for students and an equitable work environment for staff. This policy is being enacted specifically to eliminate barriers, and create pathways, to student, staff, and family access to opportunity, outcomes, and experience, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, language, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, religion, (dis)ability, physical attributes, and/or socioeconomic status. Racism, discrimination, and marginalization of any people or groups of people, whether intentional or unintentional, have no place in schools, school-supported activities, the district, or the community. Such actions damage those

individuals, groups, and the whole community at which they are directed. Ending discriminatory policy, practice, and actions ensures the full potential of societies members.

Statement of support

All people deserve equal access to opportunity mindful of, and attentive to, the colour of their skin, their gender, their sexual orientation, the language they speak and their background. This right is fundamental to the K-12 education system and is extended to everyone without exception. The Board also recognizes the truth; that persons, and groups of people, have been historically marginalized in society due to inequities associated with aspects of their identities and their contexts, including, but not limited to, race, colour, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, (dis)ability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression). The Board is committed to addressing these inequities, and historical wrongs, ensuring each student and staff member has equitable access to opportunities in schools and workplaces that enable them to thrive and to build a safe and inclusive society.

The Board is proud of the cultural diversity of the communities it serves. To properly reconcile and right historical wrongs, the Board acknowledges the historic and contemporary truth of the lands of the Hul'q'umi'num' speaking peoples, specifically the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, & Lyackson peoples, and the lands of the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Nuu-Chah-Nulth peoples that the district occupies and serves, and the unique truths and histories of the Métis and Inuit peoples who also live on these lands.

The Board's Goals

The goal of the Board of Education for the Cowichan Valley School District is to provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse educational opportunities free of racism, marginalization, and discrimination for all students and staff. To achieve educational equity, employment equity, and inclusive education, the district welcomes culturally diverse students and staff, and recognizes the need for students to have relevant connections among themselves and their learning.

To truly realize this goal, it is imperative that the Board, and district staff, be fully conversant in the historical injustices and inequalities in local, provincial, and national contexts, that have shaped society to recognize and eliminate the institutional barriers, including racism and biases, that contribute to unequal educational outcomes within schools. Equity and inclusive education work to understand, identify, address, and dismantle the prejudices, biases, barriers, and disparities that limit a student's chance to graduate from high school prepared for whatever their future may hold.

Definitions

Equity:

Ensuring equitable outcomes often requires different treatment and resources for historically marginalized people, or groups, to achieve a level playing field among all individuals and communities.

Adapted from: <https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/resources/definitions>)

Equality:

Equality means individuals, or groups of people, are given the same resources and opportunities, regardless of their circumstances. Equality can increase inequities in communities. Not every group needs the same resources or opportunities allocated to them to thrive.

(Source: <https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/equity-vs-equality/>)

Racism:

A historically rooted system of power hierarchies based on race – infused in institutions, policies, and culture – that is designed to benefit the dominant culture and harm those who are intentionally and purposefully marginalized by these policies or acts. Racism is not limited to individual acts of prejudice, either deliberate or accidental. Rather, the most damaging racism is built into systems and institutions that shape our lives. Individual acts of racism can be openly displayed in ‘jokes’, slurs or hate speech or can be hidden in unconscious biases and/or displayed as micro-aggressions. Racism is deeply rooted in attitudes, values, and stereotypical beliefs aimed at asserting that one group, as defined by the colour of their skin or their perceived common ancestry, is inherently superior to others.

Adapted from: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/racial-justice-education-key-terms-and>)

<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/racial-discrimination-race-and-racism-fact-sheet>

and

<https://bchumanrights.ca/glossary/racism/>

Discrimination:

Treatment of an individual or group based on their actual or perceived membership in a social category, usually used to describe unjust or prejudicial treatment on the grounds of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, ability, socioeconomic class, immigration status, national origin, or religion.

Adapted from: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/racial-justice-education-key-terms-and>)

Marginalization:

In reference to groups of people, marginalization is when there are purposeful and intentional actions aimed at holding groups and communities back. Marginalized groups experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political, and economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions.

Adapted from: <https://nccdh.ca/glossary/entry/marginalized-populations>

Inclusion:

Being included within a group or structure. More than simply diversity and quantitative representation, inclusion involves authentic and empowered participation, with a true sense of belonging and full access to opportunities.

(Source: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/racial-justice-education-key-terms-and>

Diversity:

There are many kinds of diversity, based on race, gender, sexual orientation, class, age, country of origin, education, religion, geography, physical, or cognitive abilities. Valuing diversity means recognizing and honoring differences between people, acknowledging that these differences are a valued asset, and striving for diverse representation as a critical step towards equity.

Adapted from: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/racial-justice-education-key-terms-and>

Reconciliation

“Reconciliation” is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in this country. For that to happen, there must be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour. There must be a commitment to partner with Indigenous peoples on this journey and direct efforts to inspire meaningful action.

Adapted from: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/trc/IR4-9-6-2015-eng.pdf) – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Canada’s Residential Schools: Reconciliation, The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Vol 6, page 3

HIGHLIGHTS

from the Minutes of the

February 9th, 2023

District Student Advisory Committee
(DSAC) Meeting



DSAC met in person at Cowichan Secondary. Trustee Doman was in attendance. The meeting was opened by the Associate Superintendent and District Elder.

Cowichan Secondary led the group in a 'get to know' activity. Guest speaker Holly Williams from the Cowichan Intercultural Society spoke about the upcoming Youth Action Day event. The event will take place from 1-5pm on Friday, March 3rd at the Cowichan Community Centre. It will cover a wide range of topics such as reconciliation and the environment, and feature several fun events for youth to attend including live music, pizza and the art exhibit at CVAC.

Director of Communications Mike Russell spoke about the drafted Identity, Belonging and Connection policy. This policy has been in progress for a while now and the board will begin working on the Administration Procedure for this now.

Cowichan Secondary led the report out from schools. The Associate Superintendent reported that the Equity in Action project is continuing, kindergarten registration has opened for next year, and there is a new system for report cards. Trustee Doman asked students to let the board know of any feedback from the DSAC budget meeting.

The Associate Superintendent and District Elder closed the meeting.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79
(COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 4:30 PM**

Trustee Elizabeth Croft, Chair
Trustees Randy Doman, Cindy Lise, Cathy Schmidt, Eduardo Sousa,
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Margaret Olsen, Associate Superintendent
Mike Russell, Director of Communications
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Jeff Rowan, Director of Inclusive Learning
Darlene Reynolds, Director of Inclusive Learning
Mike Greenslade and Louise Thomson, CVTF
Brent Ranger, Rhonda LaForge CVPVPA
Adam Clutchey, CUPE
Vicki Miller, USW
Carmen Sundstrom, DPAC
Caoimhe-Ann Therrien and Ena Fox-Povey, DSAC
Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

Trustees Jennifer Strachan and Joe Thorne
Erin Egeland, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Croft called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, work, learn and play.

2. **Check-In**

Brent Ranger: French Immersion schools spent a week celebrating Carnival. Ecole Cobble Hill celebrations included an ArtStarts production, themed races in the gym, and Metis dancers. Ecole Mount Prevost held a competitive but respectful floor hockey tournament, served a waffle breakfast courtesy of Nourish Cowichan, and had a visit from the Capitals hockey team. Bench Elementary will be celebrating its 150th birthday on June 15 and is reaching out to former staff and students to share their experiences at the school. Students are studying the history of the region and will share their findings. The school is working on a retro logo which incorporates Coast Salish themes in the design.

Rhonda LaForge: Second semester has begun at secondary schools. Preparations are underway to get leadership students to Youth Action Day. This is Compassionate Week with many activities taking place across the District. Chemainus Secondary's boiler is not working following a power surge so the school will be closed tomorrow. Lots of fun activities going on in the school and good things happening for sure.

Eva Fox-Povey: This is Kindness Week at Quamichan School. Today is Media Awareness Day and Pink Shirt Day is tomorrow.

Caoimhe-Ann: School spirit is high at Quamichan after students participated in a basketball tournament, and two Grade 8 wrestlers won bronze medals at a recent competition.

Vicki Miller: USW members are plugging along and working hard. They are still short bus drivers and looking to hire more.

Louise Thomson: A few years ago Teachers' Associations from Cowichan, Sooke, Saanich and Victoria teamed up to present a Pro-D conference called Tapestry. This conference is now the second largest Pro-D conference in the province, with over 2,000 people participating in the 2023 event.

Adam Clutchey: Planning has started for CUPE's Pro-D Day on May 5. Members are looking forward to spring break. All members received CUPE Local 5101 sweatshirts.

Mike Greenslade: Lake Cowichan teachers are plugging along, counting down to spring break. They are also looking forward to the implementation of the automated dispatch system.

Carmen Sundstrom: DPAC has asked PACs to gather feedback on the District's budget process and bring them to DPAC. They are very happy to have filled the Treasurer position. The next meeting is in April due to spring break, which will mean a quick turnaround for the BCCPAC in early May. They are planning to check in with schools as they are at the halfway point for this year's family affordability fund. There are some upcoming ERASE training sessions (geared towards parents but everyone is welcome) regarding the consent curriculum and what consent means.

Cathy Schmidt: All Board Committees are now up and running. The Board received a progress update on the new high school which is on track to open next year. Trustees have been busy with revisions to Policy 7 – Board Operations, and meeting with partner groups to gather feedback on the 2023-2024 budget.

Jason Sandquist: The amended budget continues to be amended to reflect funding received for recent wage increases. Once amended, it will form the basis for the upcoming year's budget. The building of the 2023-2024 budget will continue until early May.

Robyn Gray: Some members of senior management will be working with the architects of the new Cowichan Secondary Wednesday through Friday this week to finalize the 100% design completion. The annual Student Learning Survey for parents, staff and students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12 is underway. This survey provides evidence on how well we're doing with social/emotional learning and learning overall. Directors Jeff Rowan and Darlene Reynolds are working on the schedule for the April 17 Non-Instructional Day, which will feature professional learning focused on the District's Strategic Plan. February is a time for planning: course selection at secondary schools; staffing; supporting student learning across the school system; and determining any shifts that need to be made to provide the best opportunities for our learners. A leadership event is being planned for DSAC at Capernwray in May for team building and to bring more student leaders and voices on board.

3. **New Business**

3.1 Revisions to Policy 7 – Trustee Cathy Schmidt

The Board received concerns from some of its partner groups regarding the behaviour and comments by members of the public at the February 2023 Board Meeting. As a result, changes to Policy 7 – Board Operations were drafted. Changes include:

- Members of the public who wish to ask a question during question period will be required to complete a form on which they provide their name and address, indicate which Agenda item their question pertains to, and write their question. The Secretary-Treasurer will review the forms to ensure compliance prior to reading the questions.
- Members of the gallery who behave inappropriately will only receive one warning, and will be escorted from the room if their behaviour continues. A person who has been deemed guilty of improper conduct at a meeting will be prevented from asking questions or appearing as a delegation for the balance of the school year.

The changes were reviewed and discussed. Partners thanked the Board for taking their concerns seriously and for drafting the proposed changes so quickly.

3.2 Budget Assumptions – Jason Sandquist

Budget assumptions are considerations that are made when building the draft budget, such as increases to enrolment, wages, and utility rates – any changes that could impact the budget. Partner groups were asked to share any items they felt should be considered. It was suggested that the budget for teacher leave replacements not be decreased as teacher burnout and absences due to illness are expected to remain high.

4. **Old Business**

4.1 Truth and Reconciliation (Standing Item)

Work towards Truth and Reconciliation included:

- efforts to make land acknowledgements more meaningful and specific (less generic);
- holding of an Indigenous themed Remembrance Day event;
- student trips to Penelakut to see the beauty of the Island and walk the trails (which also helped all students to realize the journey that kids from Penelakut take every day to and from school);
- recent bargaining saw language embedded for Indigenous members, and a land acknowledgement added to the agreement's cover page;
- a suggestion that school websites be updated to include information on the history of the site, whose territory the school is on, and whether the Nation is ceded or unceded.

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Minutes February 16, 2023, 7pm via Zoom & in person

6:30pm - Presentation on budget from Jason Sandquist, Secretary Treasurer of sd79 (slides attached) The budget survey is now open until Sunday, February 26th;
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BFRF53?fbclid=IwAR0XTRiQzxdZg0i5tD3ZDc8U63BUj3ICcXRIUvLhaDTJR4cLOpYNVYUICUK>

1. Introductions & Acknowledgement

In Attendance:

DPAC Executive:

Lysanne Hebden
Carmen Sundstrom

DPAC Chair, Chemainus Secondary Chair & DPAC Rep
DPAC Vice Chair, CSS Vice Chair & DPAC Rep

Voting Members:

Chris Hawkins
Samanth Towstego
Vlad Valastiak
Cindy Youden
Lisa Melanson
Shelby Buchan
Lindsay Stewart
Taragene Hardt
Hina Charania

Knowhemun DPAC Rep
Crofton DPAC Rep
OLPAC DPAC Rep
Frances Kelsey DPAC Rep
Discovery DPAC Rep
Quamichan DPAC Rep
Ecole Cobble Hill DPAC Rep
Mt Prevost DPAC Rep
Mill Bay Nature School DPAC Rep

Non-Voting Members:

Robyn Gray
Jason Sandquist

Superintendent
Secretary-Treasurer

2. Adopt Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by FKSS, seconded by Mill Bay

3. Approve Previous Minutes from January 19, 2023

Motion to approve minutes from Jan 19, 2023 by OLPAC, seconded by Knowhemun

4. Reports

4.1 Chair

This past Tuesday DPAC met with the Board, our superintendent, and our secretary-treasurer to have our partner liaison budget meeting where we gave our thoughts and discussed what we see as priorities and should remain a focus.

- Mental health
- Community building to improve our harmony and inclusiveness - trying to create conditions that allow for a strong sense of belonging for all



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Minutes February 16, 2023, 7pm via Zoom & in person

- Continued focus on fundamental learning in literacy & numeracy
- Continued focus to address the inequalities of outcomes for our indigenous learners
- Equity - “ensuring each learner receives what they need to develop to their full potential”. Students, specifically our diverse learners, are needing continued support. Many of our support teachers are stretched across many students or even schools.

Thanks to Jason for the presentation and fresh from our Budget 101 crash course, we know our district is currently sitting at approx 4% surplus. Typically they will hold on to approx 3% for contingencies in coming years. How do we as district parents want to see this surplus used? Bring back the discussion to your PACs and email us with any further thoughts, no later than March 3rd. We will compile the information and send it to the Board.

Reminder: that the BC Student Learning Survey (formerly the “Satisfaction Survey”) is available for parents / students of grades 4, 7, 10, 12 to fill out online until April 28.

<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

4.2 SD Admin - Superintendent Robyn Gray

- Partner meeting last week - focus on where is education going in the future; and what our workforce will look like; addressing racism. Anti-racism teacher guide was introduced
- Sept 30 is now a stat for Truth and Reconciliation day
- Equity scan - feedback around equity within the district was gathered from students, staff, parents. An equity action plan will be developed and is due by the end of June.
- Anti-racism policy is nearly done by the board
- Strategic plan - literacy framework - organizing a dashboard to show how our students are doing, and teachers can make action plans. Numeracy framework is being developed this spring.
- Mental health plans being rolled out
- Student learning survey - district uses the info to help direct them
- K registration is well underway

4.3 Board of Education - Trustee Lise (absent)

4.4 Treasurer

Gaming account: \$2447.16, General account = \$15318.56

4.5 PIE Committee (absent)

Carmen gave a highlight of the last meeting and let us know that PIE Chair Anita is looking for help.

4.6 Indigenous Committee



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

Minutes February 16, 2023, 7pm via Zoom & in person

- Jeff Rowen (Director of Inclusive Learning) & Mary Peters (District Principal of Indigenous Learning) attended the last meeting
- Looking at different grants, specifically from Canada Post (up to \$50,000)
- Will have a booth at the OLPAC spring fair
- Logo is picked and swag is getting created to sell at booth
- New email and website: sd79@idpac.ca / idpac.ca
- Pamphlets made and Jeff is going to distribute to principals / trying to get it out to PACs

5. Old Business

5.1 Vacancy of Treasurer position - will take nominations from the floor

Nomination from Lindsay Stewart to fill the position.

Motion from CSS, seconded by OLPAC:

Motion to have Mary Souter removed from signing authority of the Cowichan Valley District PAC Gaming Account and the Cowichan Valley District PAC General Account.

Motion to have Lindsay Stewart be added as a signing authority to the Cowichan Valley PAC Gaming Account and the Cowichan Valley District PAC General Account.

5.2 Letter re: "A Place to Be" project

A letter was written and sent to the municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan. North Cowichan has sent a confirmation of receiving our email. We will follow up to see if it is recognized as correspondence at their next council meeting. (letter attached)

6. New Business

6.1 Correspondence:

Janet Krenz from Island Health offering parent sessions on "Food & Nutrition" and "Body Image & Media Literacy"

Karen Hardy from VI Gaming Support offering parent sessions on gaming / gambling / tech addiction

Both have reached out via email. DPAC is stretched quite thin right now but if any PACs are interested, we can pass on the information, and we urge you to open it to the district for greater attendance.

6.1 BCCPAC Conference & AGM - May 5-7

Keep the dates in mind, if you are thinking of attending (member schools) - and it would be great if you do! Early bird registration often happens before we have our April meeting and many of us do not have a March meeting. It may need to be on your agenda's radar sooner than later.



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

**Minutes February 16, 2023, 7pm
via Zoom & in person**

6.2 Family Affordability Fund - half year update from schools / district

We are halfway through the year and it would be a good time for schools to review their progress. Any feedback? Keep this as an agenda item at your PAC meeting.

As a district, are we holding back any funds? District does have a portion held back as a contingency (\$33,570). BCCPAC is hoping to do a roundtable info night coming up. Stay tuned!

6.3 erase Parent Training sessions

2 dates are still coming up: Feb 27 & Mar 8 from 6:30-8pm The free presentation is called Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in our Communities. You do need to register. The poster is posted on our Facebook page.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/bulletin/20230210/erase-student-and-parent-sessions.pdf>

Question from Mill Bay Nature School regarding that they would like to see the expansion of recycling programs from the existing basic paper / cardboard. DPAC Vice Chair explained that some classes / schools that do more (up to and including compost) is because of a lead teacher(s) and / or student(s) that takes it on and makes arrangements on their own to have these items taken to the recycling facilities. CVRD does not pick up recycling or compost outside of households.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm from CSS, seconded by FKSS

Next meeting: April 20, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Need to get in touch?

cowichanvalleydpac@gmail.com

February 7, 2023

Mayor and Council
Municipality of North Cowichan
2730 Trans-Canada Highway
Duncan, BC V9L 6A1

Mayor and Council
City of Duncan
200 Craig Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1W3

RE: Proposed Semi-Permanent "A Place to Be" Shelter location

Dear Mayor Staples, Mayor Douglas, and Council Members,

On behalf of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), we would like to express our concern over the prospective site of the "A Place to Be" project. We found out that the choice of location was proposed at the west end of the Cowichan Community Centre's parking lot, adjacent to University Way, which is close to some of our district schools and activities of our students. When DPAC then held its first meeting of 2023 (January 19th), both the Municipal District of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan had postponed their votes and we were informed that they were possibly seeking an alternative location.

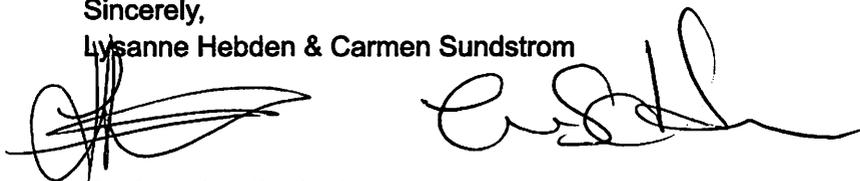
DPAC does feel that there is a need for extra supports for our homeless, but those supports shouldn't come with a negative impact on our students, or our schools. We have already seen firsthand the negative consequences of having support centers so close to our schools. Our Quamichan and Cowichan Secondary students have witnessed drug use, overdoses, and even death in their daily travels to and from school. Additionally, our school district has had to cover the costs of rental fencing, security, supervision, and additional staff to sweep school district properties of drug paraphernalia and other debris. This is money that should be spent on education to benefit students.

In North Cowichan's report (from the January 18th agenda) it is noted that "A Place To Be" will "...positively impact businesses and residents by reducing congregation issues...". This congregation does not need to be moved near any of our schools, nor near after school public centers such as libraries, rec centers, or after school care facilities. At this time, we would like to urge you to consider a location that is a distance away from any of our schools and to conduct consultation with partner groups, including DPAC.

This is not where "A Place to Be" needs to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,

Lysanne Hebden & Carmen Sundstrom

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is more complex and stylized, while the signature on the right is more fluid and cursive. Both signatures appear to be written in a professional or official context.

Chair & Vice Chair of
District Parent Advisory Council

BC School Trustees Association
Provincial Council Highlights
Re: Provincial Council, Feb. 25/23
Shared by Trustee Croft

Interim Elections:

- Tracy Loeffler, who was acting Vice President, was acclaimed as Vice President
- A Trustee from Sooke was acclaimed as a new Director to the BCSTA Board

There will be open elections at the AGM in April for Directors' positions that have reached their 2-year term.

Motions

The Provincial Council voted to include the following motions at the upcoming AGM in April:

- Make the Family Affordability Funding permanent – it was amended to ask that any future Family Affordable Funding allow School Districts to use it for bussing, and all forms of transportation for Districts who don't have bussing (in consideration of families that use transit & cabs). The motion was also amended to allow for some of the funding to pay for administering the fund.
The amended motion passed unanimously.
- The motion to encourage the Ministry to fully fund increases in exempt staff salaries passed unanimously.
- The Draft BCSTA Budget to present at the April AGM: It anticipates a 2.14% increase for inflation – which was questioned by some delegates. The Financial Committee responded that the inflation rate references the 5-year average inflation rate for Vancouver. Passed with 98% of the vote and will be deliberated at the AGM.

Of Note:

1. The Ministry of Education and Child Care stated that it's up to local Districts & private child care providers to collaborate/consider appropriate programming to transition children to Kindergarten.
2. The Ministry of Education & Child Care is increasing the number of Early Childhood Educators by opening new spots in post-secondary education, it is being made available in dual credit programs, there's funding to bursary ECE students & provide professional development. It's still early, but the \$4 per hour supplement for ECE wages appears to be helping retain ECE's. The Ministry plans standardize ECE pay according to the cost of living and other considerations that vary by

community (similar to teachers). So all communities are on equal ground to recruit & retain ECE's.

3. The BCSTA Indigenous Education Committee reported that FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee) noted concerns regarding literacy & numeracy. They are planning in-depth research on the matter. They are also examining attendance with a deep dive into patterns of, and reasons for, absences.
4. BCSTA Internal Legal Counsel position has been eliminated. This was met with murmurous concern by attendees. It's believed it will be more cost efficient to engage external counsel as needed. A portion of the savings will be applied to a new junior communication position to boost BCSTA advocacy.
5. BCSTA is continuing to develop policy regarding Sanctuary Schools.
6. A priority for BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers' Association) is to encourage more diversity & women in senior positions (i.e. Administration, Board Offices)

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COMMITTEE / OTHER MEETINGS

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
All Nations Indigenous Council re Budget	March 8, 11:30 – 1:00	Ramada Inn, Duncan
DSAC Meeting (Trustee Thorne)	March 9, 10:00 a.m.	Frances Kelsey Secondary
Board Planning	March 14, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
District Closure/Spring Break	March 13 - 24	
BEBC Meeting	March 28, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Climate Action Committee	March 31, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Closed/Open Board Meetings	April 4, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Early Learning and Child Care Committee	April 6, 1:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Board Planning	April 11, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Special BEBC Meeting	April 13, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee	April 18, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
Special BEBC Meeting	April 20, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
BEBC Meeting	April 25, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
BCSTA Annual General Meeting	April 27 – 30	Westin Bayshore, Vancouver