

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79  
(COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019 AT 4:30 PM IN THE BOARDROOM**

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**PRESENT:** Chair, Candace Spilsbury  
Trustees Barb de Groot, Elizabeth Croft, Randy Doman, Rob  
Hutchins, Johanne Kemmler and Joe Thorne  
Robyn Gray, Superintendent  
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer  
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent  
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent  
Monroe Grobe, Director of Operations  
Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Mike Russell, Communications Manager

Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

**APOLOGIES:** Denise Augustine, Director of Aboriginal Education and Learner  
Engagement

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Spilsbury called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

a. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Added to Agenda:

7.2.4. BAA Courses

9.b. BEBC Early Learning Committee Terms of Reference

11.a. Correspondence: One Cowichan re Climate Emergency

Items 4.a and 4.b will be reversed.

b. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Croft seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the agenda of the June 4, 2019 Open Board Meeting as amended."*

CARRIED

3. **Minutes**

a. **Minutes of the May 7, 2019 Open Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Kemmler seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the minutes of the May 7, 2019 Open Board Meeting."*

CARRIED

#### 4. **Recognition and Delegations**

a. **Ben Miller, Silver Medal Winner (Collision Repair) at Skills Canada 2019 National Competition**

The Board congratulated Cowichan Secondary School student Ben Miller, who recently returned from the Skills Canada National Competition in Halifax, Nova Scotia with a silver medal in Collision Repair. Ben was eligible to participate in the National Competition after his gold medal win in the Provincial Competition. Ben recently completed his youth training welding C ticket and is a youth apprentice at Kroffat Auto for Automotive Service. Of note, Ben has been coached by Isherwood Auto Body two days a week since December to prepare him for the Skills Canada competitions.

b. **Finalists from the Provincial French Public Speaking Competition**

The Board of Education recognized five students who competed in this year's pan-provincial French public speaking competition, Concours d'art oratoire, held on May 4th at SFU in Surrey. Emma Anzart from École Cobble Hill won 2nd place in the Grade 7 French Immersion Category for her speech "L'imagination". Other Provincial finalists from School District 79 are: Koralie Magnan from École Mount Prevost who competed in the Grade 6 Francophone Category; Nirva Megevand from École Cobble Hill who competed in the Grade 7 Francophone Category; Chantelle Westgate from École Quamichan who competed in the Grade 8 Immersion Category; and Maeve Carlin from Cowichan Secondary who competed in the Grade 10 Immersion Category.

c. **Joe Thorne, Elder/Advisor for BCSTA's Indigenous Education Committee**

The Board Chair congratulated Trustee Thorne who was appointed to the British Columbia School Trustees' Association's Indigenous Education Committee for a three-year term as Elder/Knowledge Keeper.

#### 5. **Report of Closed Meeting**

a. **Report of Closed Meeting**

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that in the closed meeting there was a delegation presentation as well as discussions on contract and facility issues. The closed meeting will continue at the conclusion of the open Board of Education meeting.

#### 6. **Old Business**

a. **Action List**

The Pride Flag has been raised on the Board Office's new flag pole, and has generated interest and started conversations. The Board asked staff to look at adding one or more flag poles in order to be able to recognize the local Nations whose children attend District schools.

b. **Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services**

Due to the number of events/activities the Board and staff are currently involved in, the decision was made to decline the invitation to present at committee.

## 7. Superintendent of Schools

### 7.1 For Board Information

#### a. Violence in the Workplace and Mental Health

Associate Superintendent explained the current violent/threat incident process, and recapped the program of staff/professional learning focused on understanding behavior and mental health literacy for all staff.

#### b. Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent shared highlights of the past month, which included:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) BC Education Conference in Vancouver
- Pride Month
- Strategic Planning
- International Student Program's year-end celebration

**Poetry Slam** - the annual District Poetry Slam took place at Chemainus Secondary. Students performed original works for the panel of community judges. Students were snapping, clapping, drumming, and otherwise supporting each other as they came to the stage to be judged. In the end, a tie for third place! As awards were passed around, the group came together to celebrate and recognized the strength of the shared experience, the support of their peers, and their art.

**District Scholarships** - During the week of May 13-17 students participated in the District Scholarship Presentations held at each of the District's secondary schools and CVOLC. Topics of the presentations ranged from physical activity, community service, fine arts, technology & trades, and applied design, science & technology. This year there are 87 awards valued at \$1,250 each for a total of \$108,750. Winners will be announced at the schools' award presentations.

**Hector McIntosh Speaking Competition** – The finals of the 39th Annual Hector McIntosh Public Speaking Competition were held on May 13th. The results of students from SD79 schools were as follows:

Category 2 (Grade 7 & 8): 3rd – Bench Elementary

Category 3 (Grade 9 & 10): 2nd – Frances Kelsey Secondary  
3rd – Frances Kelsey Secondary

**DSAC Students at Rotary Club of Duncan's Spelling Bee for Literacy** – On May 8th four DSAC students joined Superintendent Robyn Gray, Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist, and Trustee Johanne Kemmler at the Duncan Rotary Spelling Bee for Literacy. The students again chose the team name "The Wannabees" and added a student focus to the event.

**SD79 Mini-O Elementary Track Meet** – The 5th Annual SD79 Mini-O Track Meet was held on Friday, May 17th at the Cowichan Sportsplex. Along with sunshine, the day brought smiles, face painting, freezies, and trading cards making this year's events a huge success yet again. After the official opening, including a march-in from the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP, the events began. A big thank you to the students of the International Student Program, and to everyone involved for making the day a success.

**Metis Cultural Week** - Grade 4/5 students from Chemainus Elementary, Crofton Elementary, École Mt. Prevost, Maple Bay Elementary, and George Bonner Elementary were able to experience a little bit of historic Métis life at Métis Cultural Week 2019 at Glenora Trails Head Park. Students were exploring food and language through the making of bannock, transportation with a real Red River Cart and Voyager Canoe, trading and trapping, dancing the jig to fiddle music, leisure activities with games and crafts, and learning about the buffalo hunt with some Pemmican. These experiences build on work done before the week in exploration of Métis life and history. Each year the schools rotate and each school in the district will experience Métis Week over the course of a few years. A special thanks to our local Cowichan Valley Metis Nation for their teachings.

**Cardboard Boat Building** – Students from across our district made a splash with the annual Cardboard Boat Building event which pitted these burgeoning engineers and their cardboard masterpieces against water, time, and the absorbent qualities of cardboard. The boats were constructed in just a few hours earlier in the day, and then launched into the calm waters at the Cowichan Aquatic Centre. After racing their not-so-speedy boats across the 25m pool, the next test of the students' engineering prowess was the timed float and the test of weight carrying capacity. Student after student piled in, sometimes two, often four, and remarkably eight in one boat. Finally, after valiantly serving their purpose, the boats were dredged from the depths and carted outside to dry off.

**Clam Gardens trip** – Last month students participated in the Clam Gardens Science and Culture Camp at Russell Island in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Now in its 6th year, the camp, which was brought together by Parks Canada and School District 79, has seen scores of our students visit and do work on historic clam gardens that were created by Indigenous peoples as a way to better support the resource management of clams and other aquatic food sources in their traditional territories. Students had the opportunity to do this important work, as well as learn about amazing research going on at the gardens and around the parks in Canada. Elders, with stories passed down from generations, gave students the foundation of historic knowledge through an indigenous perspective before modern archeological techniques were shown. On this last trip, stories, crafts, and songs were shared. Beach research and oceanic life identification were popular, as was the underwater unmanned amphibious vehicle (UAV), the remote-controlled video sub. A nature walk, exploring the different plants and their traditional uses was also on offer. Archeologists, both above and below water, came to speak to students about the importance of preserving and understanding these gardens, and students were able to ask divers questions in real time as they explored below. Those that didn't want to get near the water could watch a live video feed from the UAV. An amazing traditional lunch capped off a wonderful day filled with music, song, food, friends, and a wonderful exploration of our region's history. Huy ch q'u to all involved in giving this gift of learning to our students.

**Youth Action Day Leadership Conference** – Youth Action Day 2019 "For Youth, By Youth" was hosted at Quamichan School on May 15th. Through the Compassionate Leaders Project of the Cowichan Intercultural Society, the student planning team worked hard to organize this event for student delegates from secondary schools in the Cowichan Region. There was an emcee, keynote speakers, a musical guest, free lunch, and participating students were able to pick two workshops to attend. Thank you to Cowichan Intercultural Society Compassionate Leaders Project, the student planning team and community partners for providing this opportunity to our Grades 8-12 students again this year.

**Palsson Elementary: Explorative Nature Play** - Palsson Elementary students have been busy building and rebuilding structures with their classes and in multi-age groups at outside

play time with sticks from the friendship forest. The school staff love how creative students are with their building and imaginative game play. They stress the importance of safety and inclusivity in their explorative nature play and we are pleased with how this is going.

**Crofton Elementary: School Play** - Crofton Elementary School performed a rendition of 'Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother'. The one-day play was hosted at the Crofton Community Centre and saw a nearly packed house for the family-friendly event. Students had been working on this play since January and it was great to see the community turn out to support the students once again. Thank you to the teachers, staff, and students for all the extra work they put in to make this a resounding success.

**Bench Elementary: Bee Project** - Bench Elementary students have spent the last months deeply learning about bees and their interconnectedness to our foods, communities, history, and culture. Focusing on deep listening, respecting others' perspectives, and indigenous peoples' perspectives, the students have built new bee hives, managed bees and other insects, and studied and improved landscapes to benefit and protect bees. While a lot of the initial learning, including bee-books, in-class (enclosed) beehives, and construction of the student's bee hives, was done at Bench Elementary, the students were invited out to Mr. Ian Low's farm to tend bees and start hives of their own in their newly-designed and created boxes. This complex hive organism needs tending, and inspecting hives and looking for honey weren't the only things happening for the bees on Mr. Low's farm. The larger ecology project focused on place-based learning and changes in the built environment that would affect bees, their food, and their safety. To this end, gardens of 'bee-friendly' plants were planted. Students took time to dig up roots, rocks, and debris and carefully prepare the beds. The seeds were planted, watered, and nurtured in hopes of providing food and security for the hives.

**Frances Kelsey Secondary: Indigenous Heritage Day & Thunderbird Pavilion** – The school community at Frances Kelsey Secondary School marked Indigenous Heritage Day with a tremendous celebration, and the official opening of the Thunderbird Pavilion and Community Space. The community was treated to a number of activities including a traditional salmon cook by members of the Malahat Nation, displays of carvings, paintings and great discussions with an expert traditional artist, and knowledge of local plants and their uses shared. As well, weaving in both cedar and wool was highlighted. Members of the local Cowichan Valley Metis Nation also shared their history with displays of impressive sewing and bead work inside a tipi. Another hit with the students was the axe-throwing station happening next to the Métis canoe.

The day also marked the official opening of the Thunderbird Pavilion and Community Space. The Thunderbird Pavilion is the cornerstone of this newly-created community space. In the works for over a year, this space boasts a large garden, salmon cook pit, and the new pavilion. This space was envisioned by students, staff, and community as a placemaking initiative and a location where all members of the community could gather and celebrate. This community-based project was created through the hard work of FKSS's grade 8 – 12 shop students and their teacher, the generous donation of beautiful wood by the Malahat Nation, and construction and design expertise by Kinsol Timber Systems Ltd. Although the Thunderbird Pavilion has been in the works for over a year and a half, it was constructed in just one day on Tuesday, April 16. The project saw Kinsol Timbers Systems master builders sharing their expertise and guidance with FKSS students who, together, were able to construct the beautiful structure.

**Alexander Elementary: School Garden** – With assistance from the Cowichan Agricultural Seed Hub (located at the Cowichan Incubator Seed Farm on Beverly Street), students from Alexander Elementary School planted squash, cucumbers and melons. Staff from the

Cowichan Green Community has been working with student to make seedling mix, seeding in trays, seeding a variety of beans and transplanting broccoli and radishes.

**CVOLC: First Peoples Discovery Garden at CVOL and the Grove** -The "First People's Discovery Garden" is starting to come to fruition at Cowichan Valley Open Learning (CVOL) and the Grove. They were fortunate to receive a grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to assist with this endeavor. Both the Grove distributed learning program and the Cowichan Valley Open Learning programs are working together to create this beautiful space and place. With the help of Della Rice, and her cool partner, a student from the home-schooling community, they will be creating a space to not only discover and harvest local indigenous plants and vegetables, but also a space and place that can feed the community for several months each year. They plan to create a garden that is self-sufficient and very productive. In the future they look to continue to create partnerships within the community and to grow and expand this to meet the needs of the Cairnsmore community and school community.

c. School Calendar 2019/2020

One adjustment to the final 2019/2020 School Calendar was made through consultation with the Cowichan District Teachers Association, regarding a professional development day.

7.2 **For Board Action**

a. Student Travel

Moved by Trustee Hutchins seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) grants approval in principle to the following student trip request:  
Frances Kelsey Secondary School trip to London, England during Spring Break 2020."*

CARRIED

b. Field Trips to the United States

Discussion ensued regarding field trips to the United States.

Moved by Trustee Doman seconded by Trustee Hutchins *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) rescinds the temporary suspension of field trips to the United States."*

CARRIED

c. National Indigenous Peoples Day - June 21, 2019

Moved by Trustee Doman seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, 2019."*

CARRIED

d. BAA Courses

Trustee Hutchins exited the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Doman *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) approves the following courses for implementation in September 2019:*

*BAA ELL 1: Developing  
BAA ELL 2: Expanding  
BAA ELL 3: Consolidating"*

CARRIED

8. **Secretary - Treasurer**

8.1 **Personnel**

8.2 **For Board Information**

8.3 **For Board Action**

a. Rezoning Application for Cannabis Retailer: 2763 Beverly Street

Trustees discussed the rezoning application for the property which is located within the sightline and 300 metres of the proposed new Cowichan Secondary School.

Trustee Hutchins returned at 5:42 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Kemmler seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) does not support the cannabis retail rezoning application at 2763 Beverly Street as it is within 300m of the proposed Cowichan Secondary School replacement."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Croft *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) incorporates the recommendations of Dr. Paul Hasselback, former Medical Health Officer for Central Vancouver Island, into policy."*

CARRIED

b. 2019/2020 Annual Budget

The 2019/2020 Annual Budget was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Croft *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives first reading to the 2019-2020 Annual Budget in the amount of \$101,379,377."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives second reading to the 2019-2020 Annual Budget in the amount of \$101,379,377."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Doman seconded by Trustee Kemmler *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) consider three readings of the 2019-2020 Annual Budget at this meeting."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) gives third and final reading to the 2019-2020 Annual Budget in the amount of \$101,379,377."*

CARRIED

9. **Committees and Outside Organizations**

Trustee Kemmler exited the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

a. Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting

Moved by Trustee Hutchins seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."*

CARRIED

b. Summary of the April 16, 2019 Advisory Committee Meeting

Trustee Kemmler returned to the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Summary of the April 16, 2019 Advisory Committee Meeting."*

CARRIED

c. Highlights of the May 8, 2019 DSAC Meeting

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) receives the Highlights of the May 8, 2019 DSAC Meeting."*

CARRIED

d. Board Education and Business Committee: Early Years Committee - Terms of Reference

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury seconded by Trustee Hutchins *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the Terms of Reference for the ad hoc Early Years Committee."*

CARRIED

10. **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

a. Schedule of upcoming meetings and events

The schedule of upcoming meetings and events was reviewed.

b. Year End Functions

Trustees and staffed were reminded to RSVP for upcoming year-end functions.

11. **Correspondence**

a. One Cowichan re Climate Emergency

Trustees discussed the request from One Cowichan to write to local governments regarding climate change.

Moved by Trustee Hutchins seconded by Trustee Croft *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) respectfully declines the opportunity to sign this letter, however it requests the letter be sent to the Board as it has a role to play in climate change as a local government."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Hutchins seconded by Trustee Croft *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) inform One Cowichan that it welcomes the opportunity to work with them on the Climate Change Summit."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Hutchins seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) extends the Open Board Meeting past 6:00 pm."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Thorne seconded by Trustee Kemmler *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) contact BCSTA to request they convey to UBCM that Boards of Education are local government bodies, and Boards of Education should be included in UBCM and Local Government Awareness Week."*

CARRIED

12. **New Business**

Trustee Kemmler exited the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

a. Flag Poles

The Pride Flag has been raised on the Board Office's new flag pole, and has generated interest and started conversations.

Moved by Trustee Croft seconded by Trustee Thorne *"The Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) requests staff look at the possibility of adding one or more*

*flag poles in order to recognize the local Nations whose children attend District schools and report back."*

CARRIED

13. **Question Period**

Chris Rolls from Lake Cowichan's Teachers' Association asked whether the District would like assistance from the two teacher locals which make up the Cowichan Valley Teachers' Federation with its Mental Health Committee, as both unions are willing to participate. She also asked whether the Violence in the Workplace strategy would address violence by parents. Board Chair advised that the strategy is to protect workers from violence from any source.

14. **Adjournment**

a. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Doman *"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."*

CARRIED

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Candace Spilsbury, Chair

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Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer