

# The Highlighter

April 2, 2019

## Recognition and Delegations

**Recognition of Chemainus Secondary Students** – The Board recognized Morgan Bottomley and Hannah Pachet, two Chemainus Secondary students, who were recently in Ottawa with Alistair MacGregor, Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. Both Morgan and Hannah were guests of Mr. MacGregor after they successfully pitched their idea to create a tax credit for organic farmers in a “Create Your Canada” contest sponsored by the MP. This pitch had become a private member’s bill and was tabled in Parliament with both students present to watch the proceedings. The Board recognized Morgan and Hannah for their incredible contribution and drive to develop this bill.

## Board of Education

**Superintendent** – Trustee Spilsbury thanked retiring Superintendent Rod Allen on behalf of the district’s Board of Education, learners, educators and support staff for his devoted years of service, and welcomed incoming Superintendent Robyn Gray.

## Education

**Superintendent Growth Plan** –Superintendent Rod Allen provided a summary of his growth plan, and acknowledged the work done throughout the District during his tenure which included:

- Improving communications with District employees and Trustees
- Continuing to build relationships between the District and outside partners
- Creating the Vancouver Island Learning Network
- Expansion of the Dual Credit program
- Strengthening community partnerships with Cowichan Tribes and the local First Nations
- Keeping the focus on equity
- Becoming a partner District with Harvard University’s Deeper Learning Dozen
- Creating an innovation strategy that was the only Canadian learning initiative supported by Learning Forward
- Strengthening the connections with the Ministry of Education staff



- Increasing the number of opportunities for students interested in skills, trades and apprenticeships
- Opening of the Mill Bay Nature School.

**Superintendent's Update** – Superintendent Allen updated Trustees on the following events:

- Nourish Cowichan recently held their official opening of their spectacular new facility at Ecole Mount Prevost
- Shelley Moore returned for her second presentation of the year
- April 8<sup>th</sup> non-instructional-day will provide an opportunity for all staff and Trustees to participate in a morning session at Somena Longhouse, which has been organized in partnership with Cowichan Tribes and Mary Peter, the District Principal of Aboriginal Education. Afternoon sessions will be held at schools to focus on the next round of school planning
- Harvard's Deeper Learning Dozen will be in the District April 30 – May 2, 2019.

**Immunizations** – The Ministry requested and has been provided with authorization to look at the District's data files regarding immunization history of students. They will communicate directly with families regarding immunization status concerns. The Ministry has advised that a second phase will launch in September with a mandatory register of vaccinations.

**Board Authorized Authority (BAA) Courses** – The Board approved Yoga 10 and Yoga 12 courses for implementation (Yoga 11 was previously approved).

## Business

**2019-2020 Funding Announcement** – The Secretary-Treasurer updated Trustees on the Ministry's changes to the way funding is distributed to school districts. Funding has been redistributed away from the standard per-pupil rate to special needs, English language learners and Aboriginal Education.

**Capital Plan Update** – The District received funding for one new school bus this year, which is down from previous years. There is one bus which will have to be retired as it can no longer be certified, and two other buses that would have been moved to the spare fleet had we received additional buses. This can impact the budget as maintenance costs will be expected to increase on the two buses that were not replaced.



## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Closed Board Meeting	April 2, 3:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	April 2, 4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	April 10, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Lake Cowichan School
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 11, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Advisory Committee Meeting	April 16, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room (Annex)
Public Meeting for Budget Input	April 16, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Inspire Room (Annex)
Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	April 18, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DPAC Meeting	April 18, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
BCSTA AGM – pre-conference	April 25	Richmond
BCSTA AGM	April 26-28	Richmond

