

# The Highlighter

## December 1, 2020

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### Board Chair

**Recognition of Stuart Pagaduan** – Stuart is a Hul’q’umi’num Language and Cultural Advisor with the District, and also an incredible artist whose work adorns halls, buildings and people in the District and throughout the Valley. His approach to artwork in our community made him the perfect choice to provide artwork for the District’s new logo. Stuart credits his Grandparents for instilling in him the value and importance of his ancestral language and culture, and he has dedicated himself to echo the teachings and values of his elders to ensure a hopeful future for the youth of his community. Stuart’s dedication to the logo project yielded amazing artwork that represents our collective journey. The Board presented Stuart with a blanket featuring his beautiful logo in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding work.

**Recognition of Mike Russell** – In the two years since Mike joined the District as Director of Communications he has greatly improved the District’s engagement with the community through its Facebook and Twitter accounts, surveys, press releases, and video stories. His thoughtful and thorough work on the strategic plan was also recognized, along with his work on the District’s new logo and accompanying brand standards. In appreciation of his efforts and to recognize the difference he is making for students, families, staff and the community, Mike was presented with a blanket featuring the District’s new logo.

**Foundation Skills Assessment** – FSA’s are normally written by students in grades 4 and 7 in the fall, but were postponed to January due to the pandemic. The BCTF and local teachers are not in favour of the test and the subsequent ranking done by the Fraser Institute based on the results. The First Nations Steering Committee (FNESC) has informed the Ministry that it is important to receive the assessment results in order to improve student outcomes. In the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, the Ministry of Education expects Districts to understand how well their students are doing related to literacy and numeracy. After discussion of the issue Trustees adopted a motion to write a letter to parents to provide an overview of the assessment and rationale on its importance.

**Quamichan School** – At a meeting with representatives of the District, City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan and RCMP, it was determined that a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit would not be sufficient to provide the information required to make a decision



on closing the Quamichan campus. Instead, it was recommended that the District work on a safety audit that would include the human interactions taking place in the corridor.

**Cowichan Secondary School Replacement Project Community Consultations** – Presentations to the Cowichan Leadership Group, and the Canadian Federation of University Women Cowichan Valley have recently taken place. Presentations are scheduled for Duncan Rotary in December, and the CVRD’s Regional Services Committee in January.

## Education

**Introduction of Cheryl Fotos** – The Superintendent introduced Cheryl Fotos, who will be replacing Gina Kueber as part-time Health & Wellness Coordinator upon Gina’s retirement later this month. Cheryl also works as a Homestay Coordinator for the International Student Program, but due to the pandemic’s effect on international student enrollment, she will split her time between these two roles.

**International Student Program Update** – The District Principal of International Student Programs has done a magnificent job of supporting the transition of ISP students into Canada on a regular basis. Upwards of 40 students will arrive in Canada between January 15-17 and be driven to Cowichan Lake’s Education Centre for a learning opportunity while they quarantine for 14 days. Both the ISP Principal and Vice-Principal will be on site providing support as students transition into our country. There has been interest from Japanese partners which may lead to additional students arriving (and attending a quarantine camp) in April.

**Remote Learning Transition Program Update** – The District has heard from a number of families who would like to continue in a virtual learning platform. At a Zoom meeting with the Superintendent on Friday, parents shared components of the Program that are critical for them, including staying connected to the school community, and continuing in groupings with grade/age level peers. Work is ongoing to redesign the program to make it more long term and sustainable.

### Superintendent’s Update:

Acknowledgements: The Board often recognizes the work of others in the District, and at this time staff would like to recognize Trustees. As the Board moved through the process of co-creating the Strategic Plan, Trustees focussed on student learning and how to enact truth and reconciliation. Their vision is what created our new logo. They have been listening authentically to our community. In recognition of the work they do, each Trustee will receive a Cowichan Valley School District hoodie, featuring the new logo.



## Business

**School Board Office Winter Break Hours** – The School Board Office will close from December 19, 2020 through January 3, 2021; the Transportation Department will close December 24, 2020 through January 3, 2021, and Central Receiving will be closed December 25 and 28, 2020, and January 1, 2021.

**Lake Cowichan Non-Medicinal Cannabis Store Application** – Pursuant to Board Policy, Trustees reviewed an application for a non-medicinal cannabis store application because the proposed location is within 400 metres of Palsson Elementary. As there is a large forested area providing a site barrier between the school and the facility, the Board had no comment on the application.

**Naming of the Dike Trail** – Trustees supported the Municipality of North Cowichan’s request to rename the dike trail (which runs behind the School Board Office, Alexander Elementary and Quamichan School) S’amunu Trail.

## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Board Planning Meeting	December 8, 4:00 p.m.	Via Zoom
DSAC (Trustee Doman)	December 10, 10:00 a.m.	Via Zoom
Early Learning Committee Meeting	December 11, 1:30 p.m.	Via Zoom
Advisory Committee Meeting	December 15, 4:30 p.m.	Via Zoom

### Board of Education Trustees

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