

The Highlighter

December 4, 2018

Recognition and Delegations

Cowichan Intercultural Society – Lynn Weaver, Executive Director of the Cowichan Intercultural Society gave a presentation on the Society's work and its partnership with the Cowichan Valley School District. The Society's programs include the Inclusion Project at Quamichan School, Youth Action Day, Compassionate Leaders, Settlement Workers in Schools, and English lessons. The Board extended its thanks to the Society for its valuable work.

Board of Education

BCSTA Trustee Academy Report – The Trustee Academy held November 29 – December 1 was an opportunity for newly-elected Boards across the province to come together for learning experience with presentations and workshops on a variety of topics, including student success, the open sharing of learning, Indigenous understandings and the new funding model.

Education

District Update – Associate Superintendent Sheryl Koers reported on the following items in the District:

Palsson Elementary and Lake Cowichan School - School Representatives Visit to Ditidaht Community School - Del Morgan - Vice-Principal of Lake Cowichan Secondary, Kerra Michell – Cultural Teaching Assistant, and Fiona Somerville – Principal of Palsson Elementary, travelled to the Ditidaht Community School in Nitinat to meet with staff and students and learn about how they are teaching the Ditidaht language to students. The Lake Cowichan Band is connected with the Nuuchahnulth Peoples and more specifically the Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation. They are trying to bring back their language with the Nation at the Lake and it is different than Hul'q'umi'num'. The schools are looking at ways to try and support this.

Chemainus Secondary School – Students Aboard a Research Vessel - Live Different visit -CHSS students aboard the research vessel Raincoast Foundation's Achiever were fortunate to explore the Gulf Islands along with three biologists, learning about navigation, sailing,



mycology, forest and marine biology. Live Different visited CHSS on Nov 23 and worked with all of the student body. Starting with a full school assembly in a rock concert setting, the Team spread positive messages around kindness, tolerance and inclusivity. The rest of the day the highly interactive team worked with the grade 8 and 9's building community and empathy within the student body. The facilitators were highly engaging and both staff and students left feeling empowered and more connected.

Drinkwater Elementary – Stuff the Truck challenge - Drinkwater Elementary has challenged all schools in the Cowichan Valley School District to participate in 89.7 JuiceFM's Stuff the truck event November/December. Their school's "Food Bank Team" made up of grade 5/6/7 students aim to collect 1000 items.

Quamichan School – Festival of Trees - For the past few years, Quamichan has participated in the Festival of Trees in Victoria. Ms. Berry, Margo Blumel and Hailey Cerrer decorated a tree at the Bay Centre, in Victoria. The theme of our Quamichan tree this year is "Hope - Kids Helping Kids." Students decorated little boxes for the tree, and plan to put a candy inside each box and deliver them to children at the hospital, when they take the tree down. The school's goal is to raise \$1000 for BC Children's Hospital.

Ecole Cobble Hill Elementary– Everyone Deserves A Smile (EDAS) - Ecole Cobble Hill has again undertaken a campaign in support of the Everyone Deserves A Smile (EDAS) Kindness Care Package Project. This year students and staff are asking for the community's help in creating 380 kindness packages for the community's homeless through the donation of new gloves, toques, scarves and warm socks. The program builds empathy amongst students and helps them understand that there are simple but powerful ways to help individuals in our own community that are less fortunate.

Secretary-Treasurer

2018-2019 Amended Annual Operating Budget Update – Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist presented an update on the 2018-19 Operating Budget.

Business

Winter Vacation Board Office Hours – The Board was advised that the School Board Office and Transportation Department will be closed to the public from December 24, 2018, to January 4, 2019, inclusive. The Operations Department and Central Receiving will be closed from December 24, 2018, to January 1, 2019, inclusive.

Cowichan Secondary School Project Definition Report - The Report has been approved by the Board and is being forwarded to the Ministry of Education for their review. The Board thanked District staff for their contributions, particularly Lonnie Schermerhorn, Capital Coordinator, for spearheading the project.



Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
Board Planning Session	December 11, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
DSAC Meeting	December 12, 10:00 am	Inspire Room (Annex)
Advisory Committee Meeting	December 18, 4:30 pm	Inspire Room (Annex)
Closed Board Meeting	January 8, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)
Open Board Meeting	January 8, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room (Boardroom)

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