

The Highlighter

December 5, 2023

Education

Personnel Updates:

- Associate Superintendent Sheryl Koers has announced her retirement after 36 years with the District. Sheryl's last day of work will be February 2. An event to honour her will be held on January 11.
- Jeff Robinson has been hired as the Director of Operations effective December 11. Jeff brings a wealth of experience in operations, providing direct and operational support to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.
- Darlene Reynolds will assume the role of Assistant Superintendent on January 15. Darlene, who is currently a Director of Inclusive Education, has a depth of experience in early learning through post-secondary settings including roles as classroom teacher, inclusive learning educator, elementary and secondary school administrator and several district-level positions.

Principal/Vice-Principal Updates: The Superintendent announced the following recent changes in assignments:

- Ryan Gough has been appointed District Principal of Careers and Trades effective December 1;
- Brenda Lee has been appointed Temporary Principal at Chemainus Elementary effective November 20;
- Brent Ranger has returned to his Principalship at Tansor Elementary;
- Jennifer Merrett has returned to her Vice-Principal role at Cowichan Secondary;
- Kim Darbyshire has moved back to District Vice-Principal of Inclusive Learning.

The two-year term of the initial Principal and Vice-Principal pools will end next week. Today an expression of interest for the elementary and secondary principal and vice-principal pools went out internally and externally and will close December 22. Interviews will be held after the winter break.

Revised Administrative Procedure: AP 177 – Safe Disclosure of Complaints Related to Staff Including Management, which was brought to the Board at the November 28 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting, has been revised to comply with a requirement that Trustees be removed from being classified as employees. The revised AP is available at: <https://sd79.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/AP-177-Safe-Disclosure-of-Complaints-Related-to-Staff-Including-Management.pdf>.

Student Travel: The Board granted final approval for the Cowichan Secondary School Educational Trip to Spain and France from March 10 to 21, 2024.

Superintendent's Update:

Acknowledgements/Appreciation:

- The Superintendent acknowledged the Non-Instructional Day organizers who put on an excellent learning opportunity for staff. They worked hard to organize a great day, with sessions led by District staff, Principals and Vice-Principals.



COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

- The Superintendent thanked the Principals and Vice-Principals who signed up to mark the Foundation Skills Assessments on November 20. They had a busy afternoon and evening due to the 91% participation rate.

Cowichan Valley Principal/Vice-Principal Association/District Learning Team Leadership Opportunity: In collaboration with the CVPVPA, a group of Principals and Vice-Principals were invited to join a few members of the DLT to attend workshops with the focus "A Time for a Change" in October and November. They are making plans to share what they learned at these events with all Principals and Vice-Principals at an upcoming dinner series of professional learning.

Non-Instructional Day: The focus of our November 24th school-based Non-Instructional Day was Identity, Belonging and Mental Health. The three main topics for the day were Social Emotional Learning, Mental Health Literacy, and Trauma-Informed Practice. This was a great opportunity for schools to spend the morning working on CALM, EASE or Ukeru training, and the afternoon working on their school's mental health plan. The next NID is April 15th and will focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

Deputy Minister Calls: The Deputy Minister held two calls with Superintendents across the Province to deal with the roll out of Bill 40. The call on November 20th was on First Nations school of choice and Local Education Agreements. On the November 28th call they discussed Indigenous Education Councils. More information will be coming on these topics in January and February.

BCSSA Fall Conference: On November 16 and 17 the Superintendent attended the Fall Conference of the BC School Superintendents' Association in Vancouver. The theme of the conference was intersectionality and leading for the future.

BCSTA: The Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer joined Trustees at the BCSTA Trustee Academy in Vancouver on November 23-24. The Superintendent led a fishbowl activity on Indigenous Education.

Learning Alternative Appreciative Review: On November 28 three Principals (from North Vancouver, Sooke and Nanaimo/Ladysmith School Districts), who are all well-versed in alternative education, along with Superintendent Brad Baker from Indigenous Education at the Ministry of Education and Child Care, attended CVOLC, its satellite sites and Cowichan Valley Alternate School and had conversations with a number of students and staff to receive input on their experiences.

Kindergarten Registration: As per Administrative Procedure 301, Kindergarten registration for District programs (French Immersion and Mill Bay Nature School) will take place January 15-19, with registration for catchment schools taking place January 22-26. If needed, a lottery for seats in the District programs will take place on January 19.

School Calendar: We are in the final year of the three-year calendar. More information will be coming out in January as we work through the consultation process for the next three-year calendar.

Master's Research Project: Suvreet Johal, a teacher at Quamichan School, received approval to conduct research entitled "Morphology as a Literacy Intervention for Secondary Students: Case Study Research to Explore Improving Supports on Morphology Instructions to Secondary Education". The primary aim of the research is to investigate the effectiveness of morphology instructions as a literacy intervention for secondary educators.

Secretary-Treasurer

Cowichan Secondary School Closure and Disposal Public Consultation Update: A public consultation meeting was held on November 14 at Cowichan Secondary which was attended by approximately 30 members of the public. The Board received diverse feedback on potential closure, disposal and future use of the school. Feedback can also be provided through an online survey at: <https://sd79.bc.ca/online-feedback-on-the-future-of-cowichan-secondary-school/>. All feedback will be compiled and brought to the Board in January before being posted publicly on our website.

Board Office Winter Break Hours: The main School Board Office and Operations Department will be closed to the public from December 23 - January 7, inclusive. Central Receiving will be closed from December 23 - January 1, inclusive. The Transportation Department will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. from December 27-29, 2023 and January 2-5, 2024.

Year-End Financial Forecast: Revenue is about \$150K above budget, but interest revenue will decrease as the Board makes payments on the build of Quw'utsun Secondary. Salaries are under budget after the first two months but could change as flu season ramps up. The budget for statutory benefits is being impacted by increases in WorkSafe rates (based on our WorkSafe claims for the past three years) and an additional CPP premium for higher-income earners which is matched by the Board. These increases have resulted in an additional \$150-200K in expenditures. There may need to be adjustments to the per-pupil school-based supply allocation as a result of inflation. The Board is currently projected to have a total surplus of \$3.8M at the end of the school year.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Climate Action Advisory Committee	Dec. 8, 12:00-1:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Board Planning	Dec. 12, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC Meeting	Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m.	Chemainus Secondary
Early Learning and Child Care Committee	Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Closed/Open Board Meetings	Jan. 9, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Board Planning	Jan. 16, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee Meeting	Jan. 23, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
BEBC Meeting	Jan. 30, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Closed/Open Board Meetings	Feb. 6, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Partner Liaison Meeting	Feb. 9	Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport
Board Planning	Feb. 13, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee Meeting	Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
Provincial Council (Trustee Croft)	Feb. 24	Virtual
BEBC Meeting	Feb. 27, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room

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