

# The Highlighter

December 6, 2016

## Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board of Education held its annual election for the role of Chair and Trustee Candace Spilsbury was reelected. Subsequently, the Board held its annual election for the role of Vice-Chair and Trustee Barb de Groot was reelected. Trustee Spilsbury and Trustee de Groot assumed their official roles.

## Recognition

### **Cowichan Secondary and Frances Kelsey Secondary Schools Field Hockey Teams –**

Members of the Cowichan Secondary School and Frances Kelsey Secondary School field hockey teams, along with CSS coach Perri Espeth, were recognized for their accomplishments at the BC Provincials this year. The Cowichan Secondary team placed first provincially for the second consecutive year and the Frances Kelsey team placed sixth, with a small but mighty team. Trustees congratulated the teams on a job well done!

## Board

**Disposal of the Duncan Primary Facility** – Following the November 22<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting on the Disposal of the Duncan Primary Facility, Trustees decided that, given the interest expressed, an additional meeting will be held for members of the public. The date and time of the meeting are to be determined.

**Minister of Education's Visit** – Trustee Spilsbury gave an update on the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education. The Minister travelled to the Cowichan Valley and met with the Board of Education, Mayor Jon Lefebure, Mayor Phil Kent, Chief Chip Seymour, and Ralph Nilsson and Warren Weir of VIU to further discuss the community's vision for a new Cowichan Secondary School to complete Cowichan Place. He praised the community for working closely together and indicated that the district should hear by the Spring whether the school will be seismically upgraded or replaced. The next morning, the Minister visited Maple Bay Elementary with the Board Chair and Superintendent.



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## Board, continued

**PlaceSpeak** – The Board of Education passed a motion requesting staff to investigate the advantages, disadvantages and costs of participating in PlaceSpeak, a forum for members of the public to express their views on local initiatives. Most local governments in the Valley are preparing to use PlaceSpeak to obtain feedback on various issues.

**District Communications** – The Board of Education passed a motion requesting staff to investigate and prepare a report on the qualifications needed, cost and time required of a staff member to manage the District's communications and technology.

**Strategic Priorities Plan Communication** – Now that the Board's Strategic Priorities Plan is completed, they passed a motion directing the communications of the plan as follows:

- That the Advisory Committee receive copies and an overview.
- That liaison Trustees share the brochure with PACs and community organizations.
- That presentations be made to local governments including the CVRD, City of Duncan, Town of Lake Cowichan and the Municipality of North Cowichan.
- That brochures be placed in key locations such as the Cowichan Regional Visitors Centre.

**Foundation Report** – The Board passed a motion requesting staff to investigate the possibility of a foundation or similar format that would allow direct donation to the School District to support extra needs in schools.

## Business & Operations

**Schedule of Winter Events/Activities** – Trustees received an updated copy of the Schedule of Winter Events and activities for the month of December, 2016. To view the schedule, click here <http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2016/12/schedule-of-winter-events.pdf>

**Winter Vacation Board Office Hours** – The School Board Office and Transportation Department will be closed to the public from December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 inclusive.

The Operations Department and Central Receiving will be closed from December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 inclusive.



## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
DSAC Meeting	December 14, 10:00 am	SBO Inspire Room
Closed Board Meeting	January 3, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Open Board Meeting	January 3, 4:30 pm	YHuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC Meeting	January 11, 10:00 am	CSS – Quamichan Campus
Board Planning Session	January 12, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee Meeting	January 17, 4:00 pm	Inspire Room
Board Education & Business Committee Meeting	January 24, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room

### Board of Education Trustees

[Candace Spilsbury](#), Chair  
[Barb de Groot](#), Vice-Chair  
[Elizabeth Croft](#)  
[Randy Doman](#)  
[Rob Hutchins](#)  
[Cathy Schmidt](#)  
[Joe Thorne](#)



Cowichan Valley School District