

The Highlighter

June 6, 2023

Board Recognition:

Skills Canada Provincial Competitors: Ryan Gough and Craig Lauridsen from the Career Education Department were thanked for all their efforts to support our students.

The following students were in attendance and were recognized for their achievements:

- Cynthia Barry, a Cowichan Secondary/VIU dual credit student, received the silver medal in the Culinary Arts competition;
- Tayden Ross, a Cowichan Secondary/VIU dual credit student, earned the silver medal in the Carpentry competition;
- Christopher Merry was part of the four-member team (along with Tyler Bosence, Ethan Barnett and Kyle Faubert) from Frances Kelsey Secondary School who achieved a fourth-place finish in the Robotics competition;
- Teammates Will Baker and Rhiannon Wynne from Frances Kelsey Secondary School received the silver medal in the Gear Bots Coding Challenge;
- Logan Robillard from Frances Kelsey Secondary, along with teammate Ryder Henning, competed in the Gear Bots Coding Challenge, finishing just out of the medals.

The Board also recognizes and congratulates the following students who also competed in the Provincial Competition:

- Haruki Ikemura from Cowichan Secondary who received the bronze medal for Cabinet Making;
- Levi Gary, a Cowichan Secondary/VIU dual credit student, earned the Refrigeration Air Conditioning Mechanic bronze medal;
- Jack Campbell and teammate Luke Doran, and London Gress and teammate Kyle Nisbet, all from Frances Kelsey Secondary, competed in the Gear Bots Coding Challenge, finishing just out of the medals;
- Taya Clarke, a Cowichan Secondary/VIU dual credit student placed fourth in the Hairstylist competition.

Congratulations to all our student competitors!

Education

Principal and Vice-Principal Updates: The following Principal/Vice-Principal assignments will be effective August 31, 2023:

- Jennie Hittinger, Principal, Lake Cowichan School;
- Penny Butler, Temporary Vice-Principal, Cowichan Secondary School;
- Lindy Thompson, Temporary Vice-Principal, Chemainus Secondary;
- TBA, Principal, Mill Bay Nature School (an internal/external posting will close June 15).

Advertising for positions in the Principal/Vice-Principal pools will go out in the near future.



COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

Long Service Recognition: Long-service pins will be presented by Principals/Managers during the month of June. Pins for administrators will be presented at the July Principal/Vice-Principal meeting.

District Retirement Dinner: The District Retirement Dinner will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 12 at Arbutus Ridge Golf Course.

School Calendar 2023/2024: The calendar for 2023/2024 has been finalized and is available on the District's website at <https://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2021/04/school-calendar-2023-24.pdf/>. The calendar includes early dismissal dates as well as the following non-instructional professional development dates: October 20, 2023, February 16, 2024, and May 3, 2024.

District Scholarship Update: Judging of the District Scholarship presentations is now complete and names of winners are being submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. There will be 78 scholarships valued at \$1,250 awarded across the District, for total of \$97,500. The number of awards at each school is as follows:

- Chemainus Secondary - 5;
- Cowichan Secondary - 34
- Frances Kelsey Secondary - 24;
- Lake Cowichan School - 5;
- CVOLC - 10.

Annual Review of Quamichan School: On February 2, 2021, in response to concerns regarding student safety due to ongoing issues in the York Road corridor, the Board passed a motion determining that Quamichan School would remain an open campus subject to a list of six conditions, including an annual review of the status of the school. In the years since the motion was made, substantial community connections have been formed, and changes to processes have been made. Challenges that arise are being addressed through our partnerships and through Quamichan School. The Board rescinded the original 2021 motion and passed a motion recommending the continuation of an annual update each June.

2023/2024 International Travel: The Board granted approval in Principle to two Cowichan Secondary international learning opportunities:

- Grade 11 French Immersion Student Exchange with Académie de Lyon; and
- Student travel to explore the language, history, arts and culture in Spain and France during spring break 2024.

Strategic Plan Regeneration: A plan to develop the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was discussed. A motion to approve the amended plan was passed by the Board.

Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses: The Board approved the submission of the following Cowichan Secondary Courses for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to qualify for credit towards the Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement: BAA Indigenous Culture Through Visual Arts 10, BAA Indigenous Technology 11, and BAA Indigenous Technology 12.

Superintendent's Update:

Acknowledgments/Appreciation:

- Congratulations to Louise Thomson for being re-elected as President of the CVTU, Erin Harvie for being newly elected as President of the LCTA, and Erica Roberts for being re-elected Vice-President of the CVTU.

- Congratulations also to Carmen Sundstrom for being newly elected as Chair of DPAC for the 2023/24 school year, and Lysanne Hebden for being newly elected as Vice-Chair of DPAC.
- Sheryl Koers and Sarah Foster were recognized for their implementation of before and after school care early learning centres.
- Early Learning Coordinator (and Vice-Principal of Discovery Elementary) Brenda Lee, Early Learning and Child Care Manager Sarah Foster, Kindergarten teachers and community agencies were recognized for the success of the recent Ready Set Learn (community-based) and Ready Set Go (school-based) events.

Administrative Procedure 415 - Employee Recognition: This new AP sets out the process in which the District will recognize employees in both formal and informal ways. Included in this AP is the revised process for long-service recognition, the Shsi'em Ts-hay Recognition Program, retirement ceremony, and impromptu recognitions. The AP is closely aligned with the Identity, Belonging, and Connection policy and ensures that any recognition is done in a culturally appropriate manner.

Pride Month: The Pride flag is flying at the School District Office, and many activities are happening at schools to recognize Pride Month. The district is pleased to be able to support the message of diversity and inclusion represented by those activities.

French Teacher Recruitment Funds: The District applied for and has been awarded \$12,500 from Make a Future's French Teacher Recruitment Fund to use for pre-approved initiatives in the categories of "Candidate and New Hires" (\$7,500) and "Outreach" (\$5,000).

District Student Advisory Council (DSAC) Leadership Retreat: Our DSAC students and staff traveled to Capernwray on Thetis Island May 15-16 to participate in a leadership retreat featuring kayaking, boating, swimming, beach volleyball, and activity challenges.

Frances Kelsey Secondary Student Alexa Dow: Alexa is currently the number 1 ranked female runner in Canada for both the 800m and 1500m events in the U18 category, and is just days away from realizing her lifelong dream of being named to the Canadian National Team. Alexa is ranked 3rd on a list of 17 athletes who will be chosen to represent Canada in the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, scheduled to take place in Trinidad and Tobago this August. Alexa currently holds provincial records in the 800m, 1200m, and 1500m events. Her performances at the BC Summer Games last July in Prince George earned her three gold medals, accompanied by new Summer Games records in all her events. Alexa is gearing up for the BC High School Track and Field Provincials taking place June 8-10. With her sights set on repeating her past success, she aims to defend her title by securing gold and setting new high school records in both of her events, just as she did last year.

Secretary-Treasurer

Cowichan Secondary School Closure and Disposal Consultation: The 73-year-old Cowichan Secondary School is being replaced by the new Quw'utsun Secondary School for safety purposes. The Board will need to determine whether to close the school, following the process set out in Board Policy 14 - Consolidation and Closure of Schools, which includes a consultation process. Should the site no longer be required for future use, the Board will be in a position to decide the future of the property. Administrative Procedure 519 - Disposal of Land or Improvements sets out the process to dispose of the property or enter into a long-term lease of the site, which also includes a consultation process. The Board is not required to wait for the new school to be completed and the students relocated before beginning these processes. The Board passed motions to begin both processes and to hold the consultations concurrently.

Policies: Motions adopting revised Policies 1 (Foundational Statements), 7 (Board Operations), and (Board Committees) were passed by the Board. The revised policies can be found on the District website at: <https://sd79.bc.ca/board-of-education/policies-and-procedures/board-policies/>.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

| MEETING | DATE/TIME | LOCATION |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Board Planning | June 13, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Yuxwule' Eagle Room |

GRADUATION AND YEAR-END EVENTS

| EVENT | DATE/TIME | LOCATION |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| School District Retirement Reception | June 12, 4:30 p.m. | Arbutus Ridge |
| Lake Cowichan School Scholarship Night | June 15, 6:00 p.m. | Lake Cowichan School |
| International Program Year-End Celebration | June 16 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Camp Imadene |
| Open Learning Graduation | June 22: 4:00 p.m. for Satellite sites; 6:30 p.m. for CVOLC grads | CVOLC Gym |
| Frances Kelsey Graduation Ceremony | June 23, 6:30 p.m. | FKSS Gym |
| Chemainus Secondary Graduation, Scholarship/Bursaries | June 23, 7:00 p.m. | Chemainus Secondary Gym |
| Lake Cowichan School Graduation | June 24, 12:30 p.m. (doors open 11:30) | Lake Cowichan School Gym |
| Cowichan Secondary Graduation | June 29, 6:00 p.m. | Cowichan Secondary |

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