

The Highlighter

November 1, 2016

Delegations

Introduction of Land Based Program – Venessa MacDowell and Craig Lauridsen, along with students Marlin and Braden, gave an overview of the Land Based Program at Cowichan Secondary School. It is a self-paced, flexible class for students in Grades 10 – 12 which exposes them to nature in the community and teaching curriculum through that lens. The class works with many community partners and students have been involved with making a meal for a community group, canning, smoking fish, studying plants and activities at the Gary Oak Reserve, working with Cowichan Land Trust, Nature Trust and Cowichan Estuary.

Board

Appointment of Director of Aboriginal Education and Enhanced Learning – Trustee Spilsbury announced the appointment of Denise Augustine as the District's Director of Aboriginal Education and Enhanced Learning. The full press release is available at <http://sd79.bc.ca/news-release-school-district-appoints-new-director-of-aboriginal-education-and-learner-engagement/>

Trustee Retreat – Trustee Spilsbury reported on the outcome of the Board Self-Evaluation Survey, which was reviewed at the Trustee Retreat. The results showed that the Board is operating at a positive, effective level. Key topics for the future are:

- Completing a plan for strategic direction.
- Building on the Strategic Priorities Plan (SPP) to create and communicate our SPP as a model for community engagement.
- Have further clarity on roles of Trustees, Chair and Superintendent.
- Ensuring Senior Staff performance evaluation.
- Supporting Trustee professional learning.
- Superintendent providing information to the Board.
- Developing a Succession Plan.

Strategic Priorities Plan – Trustee Spilsbury presented the completed Strategic Priorities Plan and advised that discussions will now take place on how to implement their priorities. The plan can be viewed at <http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2016/11/strategic-priorities.pdf>

Community Partners meeting re Youth Homelessness – Trustee Spilsbury reported on a meeting with the Mayors of Duncan and North Cowichan (also CVRD Chair), their Chief Administrative Officers and the Superintendent with a focus on addressing the homeless youth situation in the Cowichan Valley. They will meet again before the group brings back an action plan for the community.

Board, continued

Minister of Education's Visit – The Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education will be visiting our district on Tuesday, November 22nd in the morning. Minister Bernier will meet with the Board of Education and is expected to visit a school.

Education

District Update – The Superintendent reported on the following items:

Education Assistant Shortage – Due to an increase in growth in the district, there is a shortage of EAs for students having needs that require extra support. Human Resources staff is doing an amazing job of finding people who are qualified and willing to work as EAs and anticipating having the vast majority of positions filled in the next few weeks.

Cowichan Secondary School Dual Campus Review – Now that a Project Identification Report for a 1500 student replacement Cowichan Secondary School has been submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration, Trustees rescinded their motion to have a review of the current dual campus structure.

Computer Issues – The Superintendent commended District Principal of Instructional Technology Glen Posey and his staff for all of the work that the tech team is doing. On the weekend, the district was hacked by a group from Indonesia, requiring servers to be rebuilt and reset Sunday morning. Yesterday, a switch blew and shut down email, internet and website access. Today, a DNS Server issue provincially has made email service intermittent.

November 4, 2016 Non-Instructional Day – The November 4th Non-Instructional Day is school based. Schools are participating in a number of ways, including reviewing the new curriculum, looking into reporting at secondary level, core competencies, design thinking and using it to build community within the school, exploring a document from the OACD on innovation and how it reflects on their work in the school, and delving deeper into Shelley Moore's website on inclusive education.

Business & Operations

Ecole Cobble Hill Waste Water Treatment Plant Update – The District has received additional capital funding in the amount of \$220,000 for a Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade at Ecole Cobble Hill Elementary under the 2016/17 School Enhancement Program.

Five-Year Capital Plan – The Secretary-Treasurer informed the Board that he been informed that the Ministry of Education is in receipt of our Five-Year Capital Plan. Though not in the letter, he was advised that our submission will be reviewed by the end of this capital year and the Ministry will let us know whether the Cowichan Secondary School replacement is on the horizon in the next eight years.



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Business & Operations, continued

Policy 2400 – The National Flag – The Board of Education approved amendments to Policy 2400 – The National Flag. View the policy at <https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/563>

Duncan Primary Disposal Public Meeting – The Board of Education has selected November 22, 2016 at 5:00 pm for a public meeting to discuss the Disposal of the Duncan Primary Facility. The meeting will be held at the School Board Office.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
DSAC Meeting	November 9, 10:00 am	CSS, James St. Campus
Board Planning Session	November 10, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee Meeting	November 15, 4:00 pm	Inspire Room
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	November 22, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Public Meeting on the Disposal of the Duncan Primary Facility	November 22, 5:00 pm	Inspire Room
DPAC Meeting	November 24, 7:00 pm	Library, CSS, James St. Campus
Board Planning Session	December 1, 4:00 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Closed Board Meeting	December 6, 3:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Open Board Meeting	December 6, 4:30 pm	Yuxwule' Eagle Room

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