

The Highlighter

October 3, 2023

Board Recognition:

Rusty Hashimoto and Jakeb Bell: The Board recognized itinerant custodians Rusty Hashimoto and Jakeb Ball for their good deed providing assistance to a vacationing couple from Austria. During the summer Rusty and Jakeb were stopped at a Subway on their dinner break when they noticed a man and a woman in distress. They asked the couple if they needed help and learned they were visitors from Austria who had locked their keys in their car. Rusty drove the woman, Hidi, to get a second set of keys from their hotel while Jakeb stayed with the man, Carl. During their conversations the couple learned that Rusty and Jakeb were working at Chemainus Secondary School that day. When the couple returned to Austria, they sent pictures of their hometown and of their adventure to Chemainus Secondary with a "thank you" to Rusty and Jakeb for assisting them in their time of need. The Principal shared the photos with the Facilities Manager when she was at Chemainus Secondary and asked if she knew the two school district staff members in the photo, which is how Rusty and Jakeb's good deed was discovered! Carl and Hidi also sent their emails and Rusty and Jakeb have been in touch with them. The Board offered its sincere thanks to Rusty and Jakeb for their good deed, and expressed pride for the work they do for the benefit of the District's students, staff and school communities.

Education

Personnel Updates: Mike Greenslade has been appointed Temporary Vice-Principal at Lake Cowichan School effective September 26th. The posting for the Assistant Transportation Manager closed on September 22, and interviews have been completed. The posting for the Director of Operations closed October 3. Short listing and interviews will take place during the next few weeks.

Enrolment: The September 30 enrolment count determined an increase of 130 full time equivalent (FTE) students over the previous year, which was 54 FTE over the projected 76 students. The District's enrolment now stands at 8,565 FTE.

Every Child Matters and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: The Cowichan Valley respectfully acknowledged Every Child Matters week and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many staff members and Trustees attended the Every Child Matters March in Duncan on October 2 to show their support for our local Indigenous community, and to recognize the survivors of the residential school system and those children who didn't make it home. Schools hosted conversations and events across the District last week, including visits by honoured Indigenous guests, dancers, support from Indigenous Education teachers and support workers, and school-wide activities and assemblies.

World Teachers' Day – October 5: The professionalism of teachers and support staff across the District will be recognized on October 5.

National Principals' Month – October: The District's Principals and Vice-Principals will be acknowledged for their excellent leadership at the October 4 Principal/Vice-Principal meeting.



COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA): The administration of Foundation Skills Assessments will take place from November 2 – 10, 2023. This assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of how well students in Grades 4 and 7 are progressing in the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy.

Student Travel: The Board granted final approval for the Cowichan Secondary Grade 11 French Immersion Student Exchange with Académie de Lyon in Lyon, France from March 9 to April 6, 2024.

Superintendent's Update:

Acknowledgements/Appreciation: The Superintendent acknowledged staff from the Indigenous Education Department who, in collaboration with Cowichan Tribes, took the lead on the Indigenous-focussed non-instructional day September 25th. The theme for the day was "Connecting to Place: Learning and Growing Together." Staff from south and central zones (including the Board Office) were hosted by Cowichan Tribes at the S'amunu Big House in the morning, and attended learning sessions at Quamichan and Cowichan Secondary in the afternoon. Staff from both the west zone schools hosted Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation at Lake Cowichan School. North zone staff spent a full day on Penelakut Island. This was a wonderful learning opportunity for staff, and we thank these Indigenous communities for their hospitality, and for sharing their culture and stories.

Administrative Procedures: The Superintendent shared with the Board the following recent changes:

- **Revised AP 104 – District Code of Conduct:** This AP was updated to include educative, preventative and restorative practices to be considered when addressing conduct concerns.
- **Removed AP 358 – Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression:** This AP was removed as it is captured in AP 104 District Code of Conduct.
- **Revised AP 205 – Sensitive Issues:** This AP was revised to remove he/she pronouns and include gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation as topics that may be perceived as sensitive issues.
- **Revised AP 303 – Fee Paying International Students:** This AP was reviewed and updated to reflect current practice.
- **New AP 306 – Out of Province Student Registration:** This new AP outlines the process for Out of Province students that are not international students, for example Hockey team players that are of school age.
- **Revised AP 315 - Student Illness/Injury/Concussion:** This AP was updated to include procedures to address head injuries.
- **Revised AP 356 – Use of Age Restricted and Psychoactive Substances During School Sponsored Activities:** This AP was revised to reflect changes to the legal status of many drugs, as well as to put in place oversight on age-appropriate harm-reduction education in schools.

Cowichan Valley Principals'/Vice-Principals' Association/District Learning Team Opportunity: After five years focused on the Deeper Learning Principles we are working collaboratively with the CVPVPA in our next professional learning journey. As part of this collaborative endeavor, approximately 13 principals and vice-principals along with members of the District Learning Team will attend two-day workshops with a focus on "A Time for Change."

District-Wide Assessments: Teaching staff are busy gathering data through district-wide assessments. District staff are working with school-based teachers on assessments for K-9 through the end of October. Provincial assessments for Grade 10 (literacy and numeracy) and Grade 12 (literacy) students will take place at secondary schools from October 30 through November 3.

Quamichan School's Annual "Tzou Crew Climb": On September 22 the entire Quamichan student body and staff participated in the annual "Tzou Crew Climb". Starting at Kaspas Road, students and staff walked or ran over Mt. Tzouhalem ending at Providence Farm for a school-wide BBQ. The focus of the day was being on and honouring the land that we live and learn on while building school community.

Terry Fox Run: Many District schools held a Terry Fox Run recently and raised money for cancer research. Photos from several events were shared with Trustees. As an example, Lake Cowichan School had a student-led assembly by the Leadership class which included fundraising from previous weeks, student emcees, student-led warm up and stretch, pie tossing fundraiser, and one student wore his grandfather's original Terry Fox shirt from 1980.

Great BC ShakeOut Earthquake Drill: On October 19 at 10:19 a.m. many of our schools and offices will participate in the Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill.

Tour de Rock: On October 3 and 4 the Tour de Rock stopped at some of our schools as they traveled through Chemainus, Lake Cowichan, Duncan, Shawnigan, and Mill Bay.

National Fire Prevention Week: Fire prevention week October 8 - 14 seeks to spread awareness about fire safety. This year's theme is "Cooking Safety Starts With You."

Foster Family Month: October was proclaimed Foster Family Month by the Province in 1990. Foster parents are critically important to the health and safety of our province's most vulnerable children.

Dyslexia Awareness Month: October 2023 is the sixth annual Dyslexia Awareness Month which our schools will recognize in many different ways. This year's theme is "Stronger Together." Wearing red is a way to celebrate the *Mark it "Read"* campaign for awareness or using the resources from Dyslexia Canada to share resources such as dyslexia friendly reading materials and assistive technologies.

2023-24 Health Canada Student Alcohol and Drugs Survey (formerly Canadian Student Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs Survey and Youth Smoking Survey): Alexander Elementary and Cowichan Secondary have been randomly selected for participation in this survey which will be administered on behalf of Health Canada to a sample of students in grades 7 to 12. The survey has been conducted bi-annually for the past two decades.

Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education: The Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Inclusive Learning will be attending the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education on October 26 at Government House in Victoria.

2023 B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy: Teacher Lydia Batke has been selected from our District to participate in the B.C. Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy taking place October 17-21 at the Parliament Buildings in Victoria. The Institute is sponsored by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and is an intensive, four-day professional development opportunity for teachers.

Secretary-Treasurer

Ministry Response to the 2023/2024 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Submission: In July the Board submitted the major capital and school infrastructure program request to Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Board received \$170,000 in capital funding to support implementation of the Feeding Futures Fund through upgrades to kitchen equipment at a number of District schools. The upgrades will be phased in over the next year.

Five-Year Capital Plan School Food Infrastructure Program (FIP): The Board's Minor Capital FIP submission included a request for \$200,000 to support phase 2 of the Feeding Futures Fund to provide kitchen upgrades and infrastructure for food delivery at the District schools (those schools that are not included in the \$170,000 funding for 2023-2024).

2024/2025 Minor Capital Plan Submission: The District's submission included:

- Replacing the nine school buses that have met eligibility requirements for replacement;
- Replacing the boiler at Tansor Elementary;
- Replacing the heat pump at Bench Elementary;
- Replacing the Khowhemun Elementary playground with an inclusive playground;
- Replacing the dust collector system at the woodshops at Quamichan and CVOLC.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Board Planning	Oct. 10, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC (Trustee Schmidt)	Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
VISTA Fall Conference/Business Meeting	Oct. 13-14	Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo
Advisory Committee	Oct. 17, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
All Nations Indigenous Education Council	Oct. 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Ramada Inn
BCSTA Advocacy Day (Trustee Schmidt)	Oct. 19	Fairmont Empress, Victoria
DPAC (Trustee Thorne)	Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room/Zoom
Provincial Council (Trustee Croft)	Oct. 20-21	SFU, Vancouver
BEBC	Oct. 24, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room/Zoom
Climate Action Advisory Committee	Oct. 27, 12:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Closed/Open Board Meetings	Nov. 7, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC (Trustee Lise)	Nov. 9, 10:00 a.m.	TBA
Community Consultation – Cowichan Secondary Closure and Disposal Process	Nov. 14, 6:00 p.m.	Cowichan Secondary School Cafeteria
DPAC (Trustee Sousa)	Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee	Nov. 21, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
BCSTA Trustee Academy	Nov. 23 – 25	Westin Bayshore, Vancouver
BEBC	Nov. 28, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room

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