

The Highlighter

September 5, 2023

Board Recognition:

Jason Sandquist Recognition – 2023 Inductee to North Cowichan/Duncan Sports Wall of Fame: The Board of Education recognized Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist who is one of five inductees to the North Cowichan/Duncan Sports Wall of Fame which annually recognizes greatness in sport. Jason is an accomplished triathlete who has been training for over 30 years and has competed in 22 World Championship events, including this August in Finland where he was the second North American finisher in his age group. Jason is also the 2023 overall Amateur Long Course Triathlon Provincial Champion. Some of his many accomplishments include Top Amateur Competitor at Ironman Canada in 1994, 1996, and 2000, ranking number one in the world for Ironman 70.3 series races in 2013 and 2014, podium finishes at the 2009 and 2014 Ironman 70.3 World Championships, and receiving the Triathlon Canada excellence award for long distance triathlon in 2014. A gala ceremony will be held November 18th, where Jason will receive a special award - a paver with his name on the Walk of Fame located outside the Cowichan Aquatic Centre. The Board congratulated Jason for being selected, for his dedication to being a multi-sport athlete, and for being an inspiration to many in our District and community.

Education

Postings: Donna Whyte has been hired as the new Health & Wellness Manager, replacing Gina Kueber who will be retiring mid-September. Human Resources Manager Vanessa Lysne announced her retirement which will be effective later this fall. Nicole Brown has been hired to replace Vanessa as Human Resources Manager.

2022-2023 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: Peer Review Report: Last spring the District welcomed representatives of the Ministry of Education and Child Care and a number of educational partners who conducted a peer review of the District's 2022-2023 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL). The peer report lists evidence, strength and considerations in three areas: Strategic Engagement, Alignment, and Data and Evidence. The considerations from the report have been incorporated into the 2023-2024 FESL.

2023-2024 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: School Districts across the Province have until September 30 each year to submit their Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The document provides context on the District and our students, data on student development, proficiencies and graduation rates, and outlines the District's commitment and what we are looking to achieve. The document will be available on the District's website once approved by the Board.

International Student Program Update: A small group of students from Japan participated in a summer program learning robotics, painting, forensic science and Canadian culture. They also held an art show to display their creations. Enrolment for the first semester of 2023/24 is 128 FTE, with the expectation that the numbers will rise to 140-145 by the second semester. Student enrolment is down



COWICHAN VALLEY
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slightly from last year due to the global economy and high inflation that many of our markets are facing. Most of the students are from Europe and South America, with a very limited group from China. Profit margins for the program have increased.

Superintendent's Update:

Acknowledgements/Appreciation: The Superintendent personally acknowledged the hard work done over the summer by District staff in Operations, Custodial, Transportation, Purchasing, Human Resources, Accounting, Payroll, and by the Principals and Vice-Principals and clerical staff who worked hard to get schools ready to welcome students back for opening day.

Ouw'utsun Secondary School Update: Construction is coming along nicely, and the beams are up in the multi-purpose room. The build is on target for substantial completion in July 2024. A tour of the school on August 24 included the Board Chair, Director of Communications, and North Cowichan's Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: All schools and worksites will be closed on October 2 to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is hoped that we all take the day to reflect and learn on our continued journey towards reconciliation.

BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO) Leadership Session: The Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer presented "Truth and Reconciliation - Cowichan Valley School District's Journey" at the BCASBO event in August.

Orange Shirt Week: The week of September 25 will be recognized across the District as Orange Shirt Week. Orange Shirt Day on September 30 honours the children who survived the residential school system and remember those who never made it home.

Non-Instructional Day September 25: This is the District's Indigenous-Focused Non-Instructional Day and will feature an Indigenous day of learning. Directors are working with Penelakut Tribe, Cowichan Tribes, Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation, Halalt First Nation and Malahat Nation to arrange for staff to visit their lands in the morning. During the afternoon staff will work together on learning more about the Local Education Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding that the District has with its local Nations. Thank you to Indigenous Education staff for their organization.

Summer Institute: Over 100 staff members attended the learning opportunity at Quamichan on August 30. Staff were able to sign up for sessions on Literacy, Numeracy, and Mental Health Supports. Thank you to the Inclusive Learning Department for organizing this event.

BCSSA Summer Leadership Gathering: "The Stewardship for the Future of All Children" was the theme of this event, which was held in August and attended by members of the senior management team.

Mental Health in Schools Grant: The District will be receiving a \$52,000 grant to support mental health and well-being in our school community. The Board has allocated additional funding to support the mental health of our learners across the District.

Secretary-Treasurer

Summer Maintenance Projects: Operations was very busy during the summer and completed a long list of projects, including:

- deep cleaning all schools and facilities;

- cleaning 637 carpets in schools;
- exterior window washing at all schools;
- refinishing gym floors at Ecole Mount Prevost, Lake Cowichan School, Frances Kelsey Secondary, and Drinkwater Elementary;
- purchase of new equipment to clean wood shops of combustible dust.

Capital projects completed during the summer included roofing, painting, and a boiler replacement.

Policy 8 – Board Committees: A motion to adopt revised Policy 8 (which includes updated Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Advisory Committee) was passed by the Board. The revised policy can be found on the District website at: <https://sd79.bc.ca/board-of-education/policies-and-procedures/board-policies/>.

New Business

Review Spelling of Cowichan Valley School District: The Board will discuss the spelling of “Cowichan” at a future Board Planning Meeting.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Board Planning	Sept. 12, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
Advisory Committee	Sept. 19, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
Audit Committee	Sept. 21, 2:30 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
Special Closed Board	Sept. 21, 3:30 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
Special Open Board	Sept. 21, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room/Zoom
DPAC (Trustee Doman)	Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room/Zoom
Early Learning and Child Care	Sept. 22, 1:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
BEBC	Sept. 26, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room/Zoom
Closed/Open Board	Oct. 3, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
Climate Action Advisory Committee	Oct. 27, 12:00 noon	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room
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 Mtg.	Oct. 13-14	Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo
Advisory Committee	Oct. 17, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
DPAC (Trustee Thorne)	Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room/Zoom
BEBC	Oct. 24, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule’ Eagle Room/Zoom

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