



# BOARD BUSINESS

October 2024

Pet collage at Glacier View brings smiles all around

## BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

### Ramona Johnson begins meeting in a good way

Ramona Johnson, K'omoks First Nation Elder and SD 71 Ni'Noxsola began the October Board meeting by providing a warm reminder about the significance of the Eagle rug that she donated to the board last fall. The rug is there to remind Trustees and other district leaders about the importance of their work for students in our schools. The eagle is a symbol of loyalty, full of lasting love, peace and friendship and these are all important traits to keep in mind when guiding the district.

*The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.*



WATCH  
OCTOBER 22  
BOARD  
MEETING

### IGNITE Conference coming to Comox Valley Schools this fall

Serina Allison, district lead teacher in Environmental Sustainability & Numeracy provided an overview of Ignite - a district youth and climate action summit on November 14 at the Filberg Centre. Over 300 students will convene to connect with one another to share their passion for environmental advocacy and to generate positive discussion and ideas. All activities will be geared toward empowering and fostering collaboration to create positive environmental change and to educate youth around the issues we face here on our island.

### District beginning important work of Equity Scan

Associate Superintendent Joe Heslip is embarking on the critical work of conducting an Equity Scan, a significant step towards promoting inclusivity and addressing barriers within the district. The Equity Scan is a framework initiated by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to examine how diverse student populations, including Indigenous, racialized, and other marginalized groups, experience the school system. Through this process, Comox Valley Schools will engage with students, families, staff, and community partners to identify areas for improvement and develop strategies that ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion across all district schools.



**Comox Valley Schools**



## Highland hosts successful cross country meet for the North Island.

### Board Chairperson Update - Michelle Waite - ččēhaθēč

#### Comox Valley Schools announces election of Board Chair, Vice

We are nearly through our second month of students engaging in learning, exploring, and settling in with their peers. October has been filled with fall colours, cross-country events, and our continued efforts to promote compassionate, connected, and personalized learning for all.

We have launched a public engagement process to consider proposed changes to the catchment boundaries for Brooklyn, Valley View, Aspen Park, and Airport elementary schools for the 2025-26 school year. This initiative aims to address rising student enrolment across the district and ensure that all schools can provide safe, equitable, and accessible learning environments. Importantly, no current students will be required to switch schools due to these changes, which will apply only to future enrolments. Special considerations will be made to support families with siblings and students with inclusivity needs. Comox Valley Schools invites all parents, guardians, and community members to participate in an online Information and Interactive Feedback Portal from October 18 to November 8, 2024. Through the portal, families can view detailed boundary proposals, submit feedback, and ask questions. Feedback gathered from the portal and community events will be summarized and presented at a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 12, 2024. Final recommendations are expected to go to the Board for approval in late November. The portal is found here: [www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/catchment-updates](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/catchment-updates)

At our October 22 Board meeting, we look forward to a presentation on our annual Enhancing Student Learning Report for the Comox Valley School District. As indicated in the report, "Comox Valley Schools is deeply committed to improving outcomes for all students, which is the sole focus of the Strategic Plan. We recognize that there are inequitable learning outcomes in our system that require our attention, support, and commitment to change. We are excited about the direction we are taking as we collaborate with the community to enhance support and improve outcomes for the learners entrusted in our care."

In October, trustees from across the Island participated in learning sessions with our Vancouver Island School Trustee Association (VISTA). Although I had family commitments and was unable to attend, I have received positive feedback on several impactful and useful educational opportunities. Special thanks to Trustee Janice Caton for her work as VISTA President.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to our partner groups – DPAC, CDTA, and CUPE – for organizing an Education Forum on October 2 for the MLA candidates from the two electoral areas that encompass the Comox Valley School District. It was valuable for the candidates to have the opportunity to answer questions focused on public education, and for our community to listen to their responses, helping to better inform the important decisions we make when casting our votes.



#### Board Members

- Michelle Waite, Chairperson (Lazo North)
- Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson (Village of Cumberland)
- Susan L Leslie (Town of Comox)
- Janice Caton (City of Courtenay)
- Shannon Aldinger (City of Courtenay)
- Chelsea McCannel-Keene (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)
- Cristi May Sacht (Puntledge, Black Creek)



## Comox Valley Schools

# DISTRICT NEWS

October 2024



**Comox Valley Schools**  
A Community of Learners



## Grad Attire Program returns for another year

Comox Valley Schools is proud to announce the 2024/2025 season launch of the Grad Class Attire program. Over the past 4 years, this initiative has provided approximately 400 Grade 12 students across the Comox Valley the opportunity to wear a lightly worn gown or suit on graduation day, free of the costs associated with purchasing new attire.

Graduation is a significant milestone, and the Grad Class Attire program is designed to ensure that every student can participate without the added stress of financial constraints. Students can schedule appointments to select and fit their outfits from a curated collection of gently used gowns and suits.

In addition to offering outfits, the Grad Class Attire program is currently seeking donations of men's small suits and gently used formal attire.

To schedule an appointment or for more information on how to donate, please visit the Comox Valley Schools' Grad Attire Program website.

[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/grad-attire-program/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/grad-attire-program/) (Times available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Dates:

- November 2, 2024
- November 23, 2024
- January 18, 2025
- February 8, 2025
- March 8, 2025
- April 12, 2025
- May 10, 2025

## Cross Country Running on the rise in SD 71

The North Island Cross Country Meet at Highland Secondary was a great success. Cross country running is experiencing a 'boom' in Comox Valley Schools with participation at the secondary levels up over 30% from last school year.

Student-athletes from across the North Island showed incredible determination and sportsmanship on the course.

Runners didn't let the rain and wind stop them from coming together for an action packed race through the Northeast Woods in Comox.

The scenic forest trails provided the perfect backdrop for the runners to showcase their endurance and strength. A huge congratulations to all who competed—you truly embodied the spirit of perseverance!

Special shoutout to all the families, friends, and coaches who came out to support the athletes and make this day even more memorable.



**Comox Valley Schools**  
A Community of Learners

# DISTRICT NEWS

October 2024

## Boundary catchment update consultations underway

As the Comox Valley continues to experience rapid population growth, especially in the areas of Comox and East Courtenay, Comox Valley Schools is undertaking a review of catchment boundaries for several elementary schools. This proactive measure aims to balance enrollment across district schools, improve accessibility for students, and ensure that schools have the space and resources needed to support students effectively.

**Schools Affected by the Proposed Adjustments:**  
The catchment boundary changes will impact four schools: Airport Elementary, Aspen Park Elementary, Brooklyn Elementary, and Valley View Elementary. These adjustments will take effect in the 2025-2026 school year and apply only to future enrollments. Importantly, no current students will be required to change schools due to these boundary changes.

With significant new developments in areas like Aspen Road and Idiens Way, some families are currently facing longer bus rides or have requested cross-boundary transfers to attend schools closer to their homes. By adjusting the boundaries, the district aims to create more walkable, accessible school routes for students, reduce transportation needs, and optimize school capacities.

For instance, the large new development off Aspen Road will now fall within the Aspen Park Elementary catchment, allowing students a shorter walk to school. Similarly, future developments on Pritchard Road past Cambridge Road will shift into the Airport Elementary catchment, helping to balance enrollment between Brooklyn and Airport Elementary Schools, both of which are experiencing different pressures on space.

Comox Valley Schools values community input in the decision-making process. Families and community members are encouraged to participate in the public engagement process by visiting the Online Information and Feedback Portal, which will be open from October 18 to November 8, 2024. Through the portal, families can view detailed maps of the proposed boundary adjustments, submit feedback, and ask questions.

For more information on the proposed catchment boundary adjustments and to participate in the feedback process, visit the [Catchment Update Webpage](#).

