

## **Comox Valley Schools begins a public conversation to address space constraints facing the district**

Comox Valley Schools is beginning a conversation with the public to address enrollment pressures that will impact the placement of students in neighbourhood schools by fall 2020.

As a result of increasing student population in the region and the 2017 Supreme Court Ruling that reduced classroom size, some district schools are operating near or above capacity with no additional room or viable options to expand.

The Board of Education has initiated the development of a consultation process for the fall of 2019 on catchment areas. Before we can begin consultation, it is important to first ask the community what more information should be considered that may not have been addressed already. Having an early conversation will help us create an engaging experience for the consultation process.

The Board is addressing the capacity issue now to make decisions early enough to implement for the 2020/21 school year when enrollment will surpass space currently available in a few district schools.

Four meetings are scheduled in May 2019 as follows:

- Lake Trail Middle School - Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Cumberland Community School (multi-purpose room) - Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Miracle Beach School - Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Huband Park Elementary School - Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The agenda for each meeting will include a situation report on the state of enrollment and pressures in the district, enrollment trends and forecasts, a review of the catchment areas and grade configurations in our schools, and the procedures for cross-boundary transfer requests. The meeting will then move into a focus group format in which we ask the community for input and ask questions so that all concerns are shared and discussed. Together, the board, staff and the community can shape the consultation process in a manner that is meaningful to all.

We encourage the public, particularly residents of one of the neighbourhood schools listed above, to attend a meeting and share in the conversation. These early awareness sessions will help build a productive consultation process for the fall of 2019 around catchment areas.