

To the members of School District 57,

My name is Josh Kynoch, and I'm the Director of Music and Arts at Alberni District Secondary School. I am also the 1st Vice President of the BC Music Educators Association and the Chair of the Vancouver Island Concert Band and Orchestra Festival.

This year I was lucky enough to be asked to adjudicate Musicfest Fanfare 2025 in your district. This two-day event showcased the great work in the field of Music Education in your district, as well as surrounding schools in nearby districts. This experience was absolutely incredible, and I cannot speak highly enough of what is happening in your district.

From an organizational aspect, the work these educators are putting into organizing this event is fantastic. They are all incredibly efficient and professional, creating an exceptional learning experience for students and families, with the clinic format in public/on stage. Everyone works so well together, and you can see the collaborative skills and leadership of these educators.

Musically the work being done is beyond excellent. Students were highly engaged, professional, kind, and knowledgeable of their craft. This is a great example of what should be happening in music education and what good pedagogy and planning as a music educator looks like.

As a Music Educator I know that having support from the community, as well as administration is incredibly important to be able to maintain and grow these programs. The goal of Music Education is to reach as many students as possible and offer unique opportunities to learn and grow musically, while also growing as a person in general by learning life skills such as collaboration, self-reflection, organization, contributing your voice to a cause greater than one can do alone, and so much more. Music programs can lift school communities and provide safe spaces for many students to find their voice and find themselves in school. I urge you to continue to support these programs you have, encourage them, and work with them to help raise the bar even further. The educators you have in your district have already created such a unique and wonderful experience for students and can represent a shining beacon of Music Education for others.

Thank you, and to the Music Educators of your district, fantastic work.

*Josh Kynoch, Pronouns: he/him, Director of Music and Arts
Chair of the Vancouver Island Concert Band and Orchestra Festival
1st Vice president of the BC Music Educators Association
Alberni District Secondary School | Pacific Rim, School District 70*