



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
September 25, 2017 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Trustees Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Chair, Tom Ferris, Vice-Chair, Elaine Leonard, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr, Jordan Watters, and Ann Whiteaker

**Regrets:**

Trustees Rob Paynter and Peg Orcherton

**Administration:**

Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent, Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent, Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Director of Finance, Budgets and Financial Reporting, David Loveridge, Director, Facilities Services, Lisa McPhail, Communications Officer, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A1. Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Trustee Nohr and seconded:

That the September 25, 2017 Agenda be approved with the following addition:

**E1. b) Trustee Municipal Liaisons**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A2. Approval of the Minutes**

a) It was moved by Trustee Nohr and seconded:

That the June 20, 2017 Regular Board Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b) It was moved by Trustee Watters and seconded:

That the August 21, 2017 Special Board Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None**

**A4. Student Achievement - None**

**A5. District Presentations**

- a) Secretary-Treasurer Mark Walsh welcomed and thanked Ms. Lenora Lee and Ms. Heather Crow from the audit firm of KPMG for attending the Board meeting and presenting the District's audited financial statements for 2016-2017.

Ms. Lee directed Trustees to the information contained in the agenda and highlighted specific areas of the report and provided a high level overview of the report.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Walsh.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga thanked Ms. Lee and Ms. Crow for attending and presenting to the Board.

**A6. Community Presentations**

- a) Tasha Diamant, a parent with children in the District, attended the board meeting and spoke about the SD61 dress code.
- b) Chelsea Sherwood, a parent with children in the District, attended the board meeting and spoke about the SD61 dress code.
- c) Allison McNeill, attended the board meeting to speak about dress codes.
- d) Matt Paxman, a parent with children in the District, attended the board meeting to speak about dress codes.
- e) Renay Maurice, attended the board meeting to speak to Trustees about the SD61 dress code.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE****B1. Letter from Mitzi Dean, MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin**

A letter from MLA, Mitzi Dean, was provided for information purposes. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved by Trustee Watters and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter in response to the July 5, 2017 letter received from MLA, Mitzi Dean.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**B2. Letter from B.C. School Trustees' Association**

A letter from the B.C. School Trustees' Association was provided for information purposes.

**C. TRUSTEE REPORTS****C1. Chair's Report**

Chair Loring-Kuhanga welcomed staff, teachers and students back after the summer break and highlighted her various activities over the past month including a Board planning meeting and facilities tour at the end of August.

**C2. Trustees' Reports - None****D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS****D1. Education Policy and Directions Committee**

- a) The September 11, 2017 meeting minutes were received for information.
- b) Trustee Whiteaker referred to the minutes from the Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motions.

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct that the School Code of Conduct will not include any other statements regarding expectations of dress, save for the following:
  - 1. Our school is committed to creating a learning community that values diversity and is free of all forms of discrimination. In line with the BC Human Rights Code which prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and age, (insert school name) promotes a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights. Actions through verbal and non-verbal communication (including clothing) must demonstrate support for the BC Human Rights Code.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to refer the motion back to the One Learning Community Ad Hoc Committee for further discussion and input from stakeholder groups.

*That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct that the School Code of Conduct will not include any other statements regarding expectations of dress, save for the following:*

*Our school is committed to creating a learning community that values diversity and is free of all forms of discrimination. In line with the BC Human Rights Code which prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and age, (insert school name) promotes a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights. Actions through verbal and non-verbal communication (including clothing) must demonstrate support for the BC Human Rights Code"* be referred back to the One Learning Community Ad Hoc Committee for further discussion and input from Stakeholder groups.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Ferris, Nohr, Leonard and Loring-Kuhanga

Against: Trustees Watters, McNally and Whiteaker

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) establish a French Advisory Ad Hoc Committee to meet at least annually or as required.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent provide a report and recommendation on elementary counselling supports for elementary children and their families for the November 2017 Education Policy and Directions meeting.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## D2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The September 18, 2017 meeting minutes were received for information.
- b) Trustee Watters referred to the minutes from the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motions.

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve recommended motions i), ii) and v) from the September 18, 2017 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) increase trustee remuneration by \$1,500 effective January 1, 2019 to offset the impact of the Federal income tax change.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept expense reimbursement claims as of July 2018 for trustee expenses associated with carrying out their duties.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Watters referred to the September 18, 2017 meeting minutes and presented the following recommended motion.

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve that trustees shall submit professional development requests and that professional development expenses shall be treated independently of trustee business expenses.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the motion.

It was moved by Trustee McNally and seconded:

- iii) That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve that trustees shall submit professional development requests and that professional development expenses shall be treated independently of trustee business expenses*" be amended to strike the word "*requests*" and replace it with "*plans*."

**Motion Defeated**

For: Trustees McNally, Nohr and Loring-Kuhanga  
Against: Trustees Leonard, Ferris, Whiteaker, and Watters

Chair Loring-Kuhanga called for the vote on the main motion.

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve that trustees shall submit professional development requests and that professional development expenses shall be treated independently of trustee business expenses.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Watters referred to the September 18, 2017 meeting minutes and the following recommended motion.

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to amend Regulation 8230 - *Trustee Remuneration and Expenses* for changes to the expense reimbursement and professional development procedures, and to reflect that trustee remuneration be adjusted on an ongoing basis for any salary percentage increases received by the GVTA and that trustee remuneration be amended as of January 2018 to reflect the GVTA increases that have occurred since the beginning of the current Board's term.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the motion.

It was moved by Trustee Watters and seconded:

- iv) That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to amend Regulation 8230 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses for changes to the expense reimbursement and professional development procedures, and to reflect that trustee remuneration be adjusted on an ongoing basis for any salary percentage increases received by the GVTA and that trustee remuneration be amended as of January 2018 to reflect the GVTA increases that have occurred since the beginning of the current Board's term*" be amended to strike the words "*ongoing basis for any salary percentage increases received by the GVTA*" and replace with the words "*annual basis to reflect the inflation rate as per Statistic Canada's Consumer Price Index*" and to strike the word "*GVTA*" and replace with the word "*inflationary*."

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Watters, McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Ferris and Whiteaker  
Against: Trustees Nohr and Leonard

Chair Loring-Kuhanga called for the vote on the main motion as amended.

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to amend Regulation 8230 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses for changes to the expense reimbursement and professional development procedures, and to reflect that trustee remuneration be adjusted on an annual basis to reflect the inflation rate as per Statistic Canada's Consumer Price Index and that trustee remuneration be amended as of January 2018 to reflect the inflationary increases that have occurred since the beginning of the current Board's term.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Watters, McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Ferris and Whiteaker  
Against: Trustees Nohr and Leonard

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- v) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) strike an ad hoc committee of administration and trustees to discuss the processes, procedures and practices regarding the reimbursement of business expenses and professional development for trustees and report back to the October 2017 Operations Policy and Planning Committee.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

- vi) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support in principle the upgrading of the upper Esquimalt High School field and direct the Superintendent to have discussions with community partners regarding the capital requirements of the project.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### E1. Superintendent's Report

- a) Superintendent Langstraat presented his monthly report.

It was moved by Trustee Nohr and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Superintendent's report as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b) Trustee Questions

Superintendent Langstraat responded to trustee questions regarding media coverage of delayed start for select students in other districts, recruiting of students for the International Student Program and generative dialogue sessions.

- c) Trustee Municipal Liaisons

Superintendent Langstraat provided Trustees with background information regarding meetings with local municipalities and politicians and suggested that a Trustee liaison be present when these meetings occur. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Langstraat.

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) assign trustees to act as municipal liaisons and that administration assist in the drafting of guidelines for such assignments.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## E2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh presented his monthly report.

It was moved by Trustee Leonard and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Secretary-Treasurer's report as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### a) 2016/2017 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer referred Trustees to the information in their agendas and highlighted specific areas of interest. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Walsh.

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the internally restricted surplus appropriation of \$19,769,564 as shown on Schedule 2 of the Financial Statements, being held for school level funds \$5,379,427 (Note A), unspent project budgets \$3,729,737 (Note B), purchase order commitments \$1,385,806 (Note C), and the previously approved budgeted surplus of \$5,500,000 (Note D).

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$2,304,887 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to be carried forward and applied towards the 2018/2019 projected deficit of \$3,700,000 (\$1,395,113 carry forward approved in April 2017 (Note D).

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$500,000 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to provide supports for children and families in elementary schools.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$400,000 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) for facility environmental upgrades.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$199,300 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to hire two technology support teachers, for one year, who will provide teacher support in the use of technology to enhance student learning within the revised curriculum.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$270,407 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to provide learning resources to support the new curriculum.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$100,000 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to provide district-wide library support.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the transfer of \$211,782 to local capital for the student device replacement reserve.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved by Trustee Whiteaker and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the audited financial statements of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) for the year ended June 30, 2017; and that the Board Chair, the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to execute these statements, where applicable, on behalf of the Board.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b) Statement of Financial Information

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh referred Trustees to the Schedules as required by the Financial Information Act, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Walsh.

It was moved by Trustee Watters and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the schedules as required by the Financial Information Act for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**



**F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Superintendent Langstraat and Secretary-Treasurer Walsh provided answers to the following questions:

1. A question was asked about SD61 dress code and protecting the rights of minority students.
2. A question was asked about SD61 collecting funds from parents and businesses for capital cost expenditures.
3. A question was asked about District policy with regards to teachers teaching their own children.

**G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None****H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**H1. New Business - None**

**H2. Notice of Motions**

**a) Trustee Watters – School District No. 61 Dress Codes**

Trustee Watters provided a notice of motion for the October 23, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to instruct Principal's to suspend the enforcement of school dress codes pending the One Learning Community Ad Hoc Committee consultation and recommendations on dress codes.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee Ferris and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer