

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
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Chair: Jordan Watters Vice-Chair: Elaine Leonard  
Trustees: Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze,  
Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Angie Hentze  
RE: Motion to Bring to BCSTA AGM  
DATE: January 25, 2021

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
JANUARY 25, 2021**

## Rationale:

The BC government recognizes the vital importance of clean energy, and the CleanBC initiative outlines their plan for fighting climate change by changing “how we get around, heat our homes, and fuel our industry”. As part of this initiative, “By 2032, all new buildings constructed in B.C. will be “net-zero energy ready.” Net-zero energy ready buildings are designed to be so efficient that they could meet all or most of their own energy consumption requirements with onsite renewable energy technologies.” From their website:

### Cleaner public-sector buildings

New schools, hospitals and other facilities continue to be built in B.C. to achieve high levels of environmental performance, meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification or equivalent. On average, these facilities have been designed to perform 40 per cent better than LEED’s reference energy standard.

With this strategy we’re also taking steps to make our existing stock of buildings cleaner, smarter and more energy efficient by taking advantage of the latest proven technologies. Early analysis of net-zero construction shows that savings more than make up for any added costs. As we retrofit older public buildings in communities throughout B.C. we’ll create opportunities for local businesses, Indigenous peoples, professions and trades to develop the new energy step code skills and expertise to retrofit other buildings in their communities. For every one per cent improvement in its energy efficiency, including buildings and vehicles, B.C.’s public sector reduces its energy costs by an estimated \$4 million a year.

The Ministry of Education funds major capital projects through districts’ annual 5-year capital plans. Major capital upgrade or replacement projects are funded by government.

Given the current climate emergency, and SD61’s June 2019 climate emergency resolution, it is incumbent on Boards of Education to build major capital projects to a “net zero” standard. Currently “net zero” is at each Board’s cost. For example: In the case of upcoming replacement project in

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SD61, the cost to bridge the Ministry's funding to net zero is \$2.5 million. This cost is untenable for school districts, and may require diverting funds from classrooms to capital.

This is not just a local problem. Throughout the province, districts struggle to finance climate change action. Rather than limit our advocacy to our own district, we believe BCSTA should advocate for all districts. SD61 should present this motion at the BCSTA AGM this spring.

**Recommended Motion:**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the following motion for submission to the 2021 BCSTA AGM:

*"That the BCSTA urge the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Finance to fully fund net zero capital upgrade and replacement projects effective immediately."*

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One *Learning* Community

