



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

MINUTES

January 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Jordan Watters, Board Chair, Elaine Leonard, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker

Administration: Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Lisa McPhail, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

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

Chair Watters provided the email address for agenda item F. Question Period.

A.2 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the January 25, 2021 agenda be approved with the following addition:

B. Correspondence:

B.10 January 24, 2021, My Place Transition Shelter Neighbourhood Group to SD61, Renewal of Lease at 1240 Yates St.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the January 25, 2021 agenda be approved with the following addition:

H.1.b. Trustee McNally - School Masks Mandate Motion

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the January 25, 2021 agenda be approved with the following addition:

B. Correspondence:

B.11 January 13, 2021 GVTA Letter to Superintendent Green, COVID Related Health and Safety Measures in Schools

For (7): Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Abstain (2): Trustee Watters, and Trustee Leonard

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the January 25, 2021 agenda be approved with the following change:

H.1. a and H.1.b be moved to D.4 and D.5

For (6): Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (3): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, and Trustee Painter

Motion Carried (6 to 3)

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the January 25, 2021 agenda be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3 Approval of the Minutes

Trustee McNally requested that the December 14, 2020 meeting minutes be amended under agenda item C.2.b. to reflect '*Council*' and not '*Committee*'.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the December 14, 2020 Regular meeting minutes be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

Trustee Whiteaker requested an update from Secretary-Treasurer Morris with respect to Section 72 Reports, as it relates to agenda item G. Public Disclosure of In-Camera Items, and the opinion requested from legal counsel at the BCSTA. Secretary-Treasurer Morris advised that no advice has been offered to date. Trustee Whiteaker further stated that she would provide a Notice of Motion with regards to this item.

Trustee Whiteaker requested an update from Superintendent Green with respect to E.1.c. and the response to the letter received from VCPAC on November 18, 2020. Superintendent Green provided an update.

A.5 Student Achievement

a. Spectrum Community School

Chair Watters welcomed Bruce Bidney, Principal of Spectrum Community School. Principal Bidney introduced Vice-Principals, Heather Brown and Jen Wignall and the three provided a presentation entitled "Building a School Goal" which centered around data and focusing on personal and academic success, social emotional needs, belonging and community.

Chair Watters thanked Principal Bidney and Vice-Principals Brown and Wignall for attending and presenting to Trustees.

A.6 District Presentations

None

A.7 Community Presentations

None

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1 December 2, 2020, SD72 to Minister of Education, covid vaccination

B.2 December 11, 2020, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Provincial Council Motions and Priorities

B.3 December 16, 2020, SD61 to VCPAC, Letter of Response

B.4 December 16, 2020, SD42 to Minister of Education, Congratulations on Appointment

B.5 December 17, 2020, SD48 to Minister of Finance, Executive Compensation Freeze

B.6 December 17, 2020, SD69 to Minister of Education, FSA Testing Cancellation

B.7 December 21, 2020, District of Oak Bay to SD61, Municipal Council Liaison

B.8 January 4, 2021, Strawberry Vale Students to the Board, Budget/Outdoor Education

Chair Watters highlighted the letter received from Strawberry Vale Elementary School students and suggested that the letter be referred to the budget process for feedback.

Moved by Trustee Watters
Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) forward the January 4, 2021 correspondence from Strawberry Vale Elementary School students to the Secretary-Treasurer to be included in the budget review process for feedback.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B.9 January 7, 2021, SD5 to Minister of Education, FSA Testing

B.10 January 24, 2021, My Place Transition Shelter Neighbourhood Group to SD61, Renewal of Lease at 1240 Yates Street

Trustee Whiteaker advised that she received a letter from My Place Transition Shelter Neighbourhood Group and added it to correspondence at the call of the agenda. Trustee Whiteaker requested that a response be sent. Superintendent Green stated that she would respond and will advise the group how to formally send correspondence to all Board members in the future.

B.11 January 13, 2021, GVTA to Superintendent Green, COVID Related Health and Safety Measures in Schools

Trustee Duncan requested to know how the District will respond to the January 13, 2021 correspondence from the GVTA regarding improving COVID related safety measures in schools. Superintendent Green advised that she had met with the GVTA and went through the items of concern in the correspondence and provided a brief outline of the discussion.

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1 Chair's Report

a. January Report

Chair Watters presented her report and highlighted that Kindergarten registration begins this week. Chair Watters responded to questions from Trustees with regards to the January 22, 2021 Ministry of Education partner liaison meeting, the BCSTA COVID working group committee and her meetings with the Mayor from View Royal, relative to the Shoreline/Craigflower consultation, and City of Victoria.

- b. Annual Workplan: February

Chair Watters presented the Board Work Plan for February 2021 for information.

C.2 Trustees' Reports

- a. Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally provided a verbal report of her attendance at the Indigenous Nations Education Council meeting, including meeting frequency, and provided a list of books she has been reading.

- b. Trustee Duncan

Trustee Duncan presented her report and highlighted that January 28th is Data Privacy Day. Trustee Duncan extended her gratitude to the staff and students of Oaklands Elementary School for their holiday messages and invitations prior to the winter break and advised of her participation in School Police Liaison Officer Committee meetings.

C.3 BCSTA AGM - Motions Submission

- a. Ministry Capital Funding of Net Zero

Trustee Painter advised that as the Board representative to BCSTA, he would be submitting recommended motions on behalf of the Board to the BCSTA AGM. Trustee Hentze directed Trustees to her recommended motion and provided a rationale. Discussion ensued amongst District stakeholder and Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Hentze

Seconded by Trustee Painter

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."

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1 Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the January 4, 2021 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting were presented for information.

- b. Recommended motion from the January 4, 2021 meeting

Trustee Painter referred to the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes and presented one recommended motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the new Board Authority Authorized Course: Aviation Maintenance 12.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.2 Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the January 11, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting were presented for information.

- b. Recommended motion from the January 11, 2021 meeting

Trustee Leonard referred to the January 11, 2021 meeting minutes and presented one recommended motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt Bylaw 9130.4, *Audit Sub-Committee* as presented.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend point #5 of the Bylaw.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Paynter

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt Bylaw 9130.4, with the following amendment:

#5. That the Audit Sub-Committee report to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee or Education Policy and Directions Committee, as appropriate.

For (6): Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Against (2): Trustee Watters, and Trustee Leonard

Abstain (1): Trustee Whiteaker

Motion Carried (6 to 2)

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the amended motion with regards to point #5.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt Bylaw 9130.4, *Audit Sub-Committee*, to include the following amended wording for point #5.

5. Prior to reporting to the Board of Education, the Audit Sub-Committee shall report to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee or the Education Policy and Directions Committee, as appropriate.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair Watters called for the vote on the main motion as amended.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt Bylaw 9130.4, *Audit Sub-Committee*, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.3 Advocacy Committee Report

Trustee Whiteaker advised that she was seeking direction from the Board with regards to the future of the Advocacy Committee. Discussion relative to the committee being inactive until such time there is a specific task.

Trustee Whiteaker advised that she would prepare and provide a recommended motion and bring it to a future meeting.

D.4 Trustee Duncan - Climate Accountability Working Group

Trustee Duncan presented the motion and provided rationale. Stakeholders and Trustees engaged in discussion.

Superintendent Green reminded the Board about current commitments: Renaming George Jay, Craigflower/Shoreline consultation, Budget, Police Liaison Officer Committee, Equity Scan, and the Board's focus on the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Green advised regular updates would be coming to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee from the Energy Manager.

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to establish a Climate Accountability Working Group comprised of representatives from our stakeholder groups, including: staff, students, parents and representatives from First Nations along with Trustees in order to identify potential actions to minimize School District greenhouse gas emissions, plans to continue to minimize those emissions and to meet our obligations under the Climate Accountability Act and CleanBC.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

Motion Defeated (4 to 5)

D.5 Trustee McNally - Report Menu and Submenus SD61 Website

Trustee McNally presented the motion and provided rationale.

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education SD61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Information Technology Department to set up submenus under the "Our District" menu, between "Provincial School Act" and "Trustee Elections",

And Further;

That the Superintendent develop a protocol by the end of November 2020 with staff that will ensure all public reports are placed in the appropriate file, following approval / receipt by the Board, the day after the meeting that approves / receives the report.

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

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the motion "That the Board of Education SD61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Information Technology Department to set up submenus under the "Our District" menu, between "Provincial School Act" and "Trustee Elections",

And Further;

That the Superintendent develop a protocol by the end of November 2020 with staff that will ensure all public reports are placed in the appropriate file, following approval / receipt by the Board, the day after the meeting that approves / receives the report" be amended to strike the first paragraph of the motion and amend the second paragraph to read "That the Superintendent develop a process by June 2021, with staff, that will ensure that all public reports are searchable in a database."

Further discussion ensued amongst Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the amendment to the motion.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Painter

That the motion "That the Board of Education SD61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Information Technology Department to set up submenus under the "Our District" menu, between "Provincial School Act" and "Trustee Elections",

And Further;

That the Superintendent develop a protocol by the end of November 2020 with staff that will ensure all public reports are placed in the appropriate file, following approval / receipt by the Board, the day after the meeting that approves / receives the report" be amended to strike the first paragraph and amend the second paragraph to say "That the

Superintendent develop a digital solution by June 30, 2021, with staff, that will ensure that all public reports are accessible."

Further discussion ensued amongst Trustees with a suggestion being made to refer the motion and discussion to the February 8, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting and task the Information for Technology Director to provide recommendations.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the motion "That the Board of Education SD61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Information Technology Department to set up submenus under the "Our District" menu, between "Provincial School Act" and "Trustee Elections",

And Further;

That the Superintendent develop a protocol by the end of November 2020 with staff that will ensure all public reports are placed in the appropriate file, following approval / receipt by the Board, the day after the meeting that approves / receives the report" be referred to the February 8, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting for Information Technology for Learning to wordsmith.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1 Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Green presented the report. Trustee McNally requested minutes from the Equity Committee be posted.

Superintendent Green advised that a full report would be coming to the February 1, 2021 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

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

Secretary-Treasurer Morris responded to a question from Trustee McNally with respect to the District Shops Audit Report.

Trustee McNally requested that the Ministry of Education Safe Return to School Grants Report be shared with the Board and the public.

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the interim report from the Ministry of Education with respect to the Safe Return to School Grants for School District No. 61 be shared with the Board of Education as soon as possible.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

Motion Defeated (4 to 5)

E.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the report.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Statutory (Right-of-Way) for BC Hydro - Bylaw No. 20-01

Director of Facilities Services Morris provided an explanation to Trustees with respect to the need for a Bylaw to cover a Statutory Right of Way in favour of BC Hydro and Power Authority at

Macaulay Elementary School. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Director Morris.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the granting of a Statutory Right-of-Way to British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority for the purpose of installing expanded services at Macaulay Elementary School, legally described as Lot 15, Block 20, Section 11, Esquimalt District, Plan 195A, PID 009-290-371.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw No. 21-01 at the January 25, 2021 Board meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw No. 21-01, being a bylaw to grant a Statutory Right-of-Way to British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority on the property legally described as Lot 15, Block 20, Section 11, Esquimalt District, Plan 195A, PID 009-290-371, for the purpose of installing expanded services at Macaulay Elementary School.

Read a first time the 25th day of January, 2021;

Read a second time the 25th day of January, 2021;

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 25th day of January, 2021;

And that the Chairperson and the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign, seal and execute this Bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: Re: Climate Action Plan:

- The IPCC Call referenced in this resolution demands that CO2 emissions decline by 45% from 2010 levels. Could the Board confirm that the new Energy Manager will be bound by this target and be required and empowered to find ways to reduce emissions commensurate with the IPCC report?
- If not, what target will the Energy Manager be bound by?
- What mechanisms are in place to make up for any shortfall in emission reductions?
- What accountability mechanisms has the board put in place to ensure that the district delivers the emissions reductions demanded by the June 24, 2019 Climate Emergency resolution and IPCC report?

A: By visiting the Climate Action Initiatives page on the District website you will find information on what measures the District is taking to with respect to climate action. The page is a collection of the District's work in creating a more sustainable learning community and include advocacy letters, reports, policies and media coverage. Staff is working on climate action initiatives but are not bound by any particular target on how they are achieving these actions. The newly hired Energy Manager will be making monthly reports to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee to keep the Board and public up to date on current initiatives. The goal of the plan is to create bench marks, have conversations and to report out regularly.

Q: Re: Climate Action Plan:

- You say you are "working on it". This information is not available to us. When and how do you plan to communicate your plan and progress to the parents and community at large?

- You have a vast resource of people and energy within the people that you serve. How are you going to include the parents and the children in working together to deal with this Climate Crisis?
- You are renovating and seismically upgrading many schools in the coming years. Do you have basic environmental upgrades that work toward a goal of reducing the GHG's worked into the budget? Where is the plan that shows what you will do for each renovation in regards to these upgrades?

A: Updates will be provided at the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meetings as well as the District webpage found here:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/climate-action-initiatives/>

Q: On June 24 2019 The Board passed a unanimous motion declaring a climate emergency and included the following provision. One of the provisions of this declaration was that the Superintendent develop a Climate Action Plan that establishes targets and strategies commensurate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Greg Kitchen had been working on this, with the final plan due in June 2020. I feel that the hire of an energy manager is a great climate asset for the district, but hope that it is not replacing the promised Climate Action Plan. What is the current status of the plan and when will it be revealed?

A: Yes, the plan is still be worked on and will include more complex infrastructure pieces in terms of District buildings and the fleet. The new energy manager has just joined the District and once he is up to speed he will be providing recommendations on how to move forward. Also, he will be providing reports on a monthly basis to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1 Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - December 14, 2020

G.2 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - December 15, 2020

G.3 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - January 4, 2021

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1 New Business

- a. Trustee Whiteaker - Burnside Education Center Project

Trustee Whiteaker requested to know why her rationale was not included in the agenda package and presented the motion. Superintendent Green advised that the rationale documents were not included as the motion speaks to personnel and personnel items are discussed In-Camera.

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

That Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) hire an independent external auditor who will report directly to the Board and investigate the Burnside Education Center Project to a) identify what occurred to allow this project to progress from a proposed \$2.6 million project to an overall cost of \$8.1 million, b) to identify when Senior Staff and Trustees should have been aware of the overspending and what occurred that they were not aware or did not act, c) to make recommendations to the Board.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to refer the motion to an In-Camera meeting.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the motion "That Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) hire an independent external auditor who will report directly to the Board and investigate the Burnside Education Center Project to a) identify what occurred to allow this project to progress from a proposed \$2.6 million project to an overall cost of \$8.1 million, b) to identify when Senior Staff and Trustees should have been aware of the overspending and what occurred that they were not aware or did not act, c) to make recommendations to the Board" be referred to an In-Camera meeting.

For (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

Against (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Motion Carried (5 to 4)

- b. Trustee McNally - Meeting to Continue Past 11:00 p.m.

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the January 25, 2021 Regular Board of Education meeting continue past 11:00 p.m.

For (5): Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (4): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, and Trustee Painter

Motion Carried (5 to 4)

- c. Trustee McNally - School Masks Mandate

Trustee McNally presented the motion and provided a rationale. Discussion ensued amongst District stakeholders and Trustees with clarification being asked of Superintendent Green.

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board direct the Superintendent to add the following to the District's COVID plan: All students and staff are required to wear non-medical masks when physical distancing is not possible, with exemptions for those who are unable to wear them, and FURTHER,

That the Board direct the Board Chair to write a letter to Dr. Henry expressing support for a broadened mask mandate for schools.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

Motion Defeated (4 to 5)

H.2 Notice of Motions

a. Trustee Whiteaker - Section 72 Report

Trustee Whiteaker provided a Notice of Motion for the February 8, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting agenda.

"That when disclosing in camera decisions of the Board to the public that the written motion, as passed, be included in section 72 report, with the exception of items pertaining to individuals."

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer