



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

**MINUTES**

**May 17, 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 (left meeting at 10:59 p.m.)

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

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 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 announced the postponement of Special Budget meeting until further notice.

**A.2 Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the May 17, 2021 agenda be amended as follows:

Move **C.1.a Chair's Report** to **H.1. New Business**.

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

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

**Motion Carried (5 to 4)**

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the May 17, 2021 agenda be amended to add the following:

**H.1 New Business**

H.1.b Trustee McNally - Rollover Budget

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (1): Trustee Leonard

**Motion Carried (8 to 1)**

By consensus the May 17, 2021 agenda be approved with the following addition:

**C.2 Trustee Reports**

C.2.b Trustee Painter

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

That the May 17, 2021 agenda be approved, as amended.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.3 Approval of the Minutes**

**Moved by** Trustee Hentze  
**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That the April 26, 2021 Regular Board minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.4 Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

**A.5 Student Achievement**

None

**A.6 District Presentations**

None

**A.7 Community Presentations**

- a. Alanna Wish, SD61 Teacher and Parent, Proposed Budget Cuts to Inclusive Education

Ms. Wish attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the 2021-2022 Budget and the impact of the proposed cuts to inclusive education and reading recovery.

- b. Melanie Maclsaac, Retired SD61 Teacher, Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Ms. Maclsaac attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the 2021-2022 budget and the proposed cuts to programs.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

**B.1 March 4, 2021, Songhees Nation to SD61, Education Policy and Directions Meeting of March 1st**

Trustee Duncan requested an update with regards to a response from Songhees Nation. Superintendent Green responded that there was no update to report.

**B.2 April 21, 2021, Campus View Elementary Grade 1/2 Student Letters to Trustees, Use of Rodenticides**

**B.3 April 30, 2021, SD61 to Local MLA's, invitation to meet re SD61 Budget**

- B.4 May 11, 2021, SD61 to Ms. Alvarez' Grade 1/2 Class, re Use of Rodenticides**
- B.5 April 22 - May 12, 2021, Correspondence for Proposed Budget**
- B.6 May 11, 2021, Songhees Nation to SD61, Proposed 2021-2022 Budget**

**Moved by** Trustee Paynter

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write to the Chiefs and Councils of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations and to the representatives of the Metis Nation of Greater Victoria and the Indigenous Nations Education Council, to respectfully request meetings between the Board and their respective Chiefs and Councils to listen to their interests and concerns regarding public education and their relationship with the Board and staff of School District No. 61.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- B.7 May 13, 2021, Carey Newman to SD61, Reconciliation, Music, and Systemic Racism**

Chair Watters advised that the board has collaborated on a formal response to Mr. Newman.

- B.8 May 13, 2021, Esquimalt Nation to SD61, 2021-2022 Proposed Budget**

Trustee Whiteaker presented the motion.

Superintendent Green advised that she has reached out to the First Nations Education Steering Committee via the Ministry of Education for guidance and will report back at a future meeting once she has heard back.

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to create a professional development plan to raise awareness and competency of School District No. 61 Senior Administration and Trustees around reconciliation, colonialism and systematic racism.

**B.9 May 16, 2021, Metis Nation of Greater Victoria to SD61, Proposed 2021-2022 Budget**

**C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**C.1 Chair's Report**

a. Chair's Report

Chair Watters recognized and acknowledged International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and stated that the District celebrates diversity in our schools and reaffirmed the District's commitment to ensuring all students, staff & community members feel safe & respected.

Chair Watters provided a verbal highlight of her recent meetings that included both the Minister of Education and local MLA's with respect to the District's budget process. Trustees Paynter and McNally expressed concern that other Trustees were not invited to the meetings.

b. Annual Workplan: June

Chair Watters presented for information, the Board Work Plan for June 2021. Trustee Whiteaker referred to the Review and Adjust the Governance Framework for the coming school year item and requested further information. Superintendent Green provided an overview of what this item would entail but further advised that due to the pandemic and other more emergent items, that this work would most likely occur in July. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a request being made by Trustee Paynter for a post COVID fall contingency plan to be brought to the Board. Superintendent Green stated that she would include this in her June Board Report.

**C.2 Trustees' Reports**

a. Trustee Hentze - George Jay Naming Committee Report

Trustee Hentze presented the report for information.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the George Jay Naming Committee Report, as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Trustee Painter

Trustee Painter provided a verbal statement and apology for the Education Policy and Directions meeting of March 1, 2021 and resigned as the Chair of that Committee.

- c. Recess / Break

**Moved by** Trustee Hentze  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) take a recess break at 8:51 p.m.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Abstain (2): Trustee Ferris, and Trustee McNally

**Motion Carried (7 to 0)**

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Watters called the meeting back to order at 8:58 p.m.

### **D.1 Education Policy and Directions Committee**

- a. May 3, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the May 3, 2021 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting were presented for information.

### **D.2 Operations Policy and Planning Committee**

- a. May 10, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the May 10, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting were presented for information.

- b. Recommended motions from the May 10, 2021 meeting

- a. Policy Development - Bylaw 9360

Trustee Painter provided rationale for the motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Policy Development Sub-Committee to develop an addition or addendum to Bylaw 9360 addressing how Board correspondence is managed in order to provide clear direction and transparency around Board processes.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Revised Bylaw 9140, Ad Hoc Committee of the Board

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Bylaw 9140, *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board*.

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (1): Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried (8 to 1)**

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give one reading to revised Bylaw 9140, Ad Hoc Committee of the Board, at the May 17, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

Read a first time the 17th day of May, 2021;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **D.3 Audit Committee Report**

- a. Recommended motion from the May 10, 2021 meeting

Trustee Painter presented the report on behalf of the Audit Committee.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter  
**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the March 2021 Quarterly Financial Report as presented to the Audit Committee.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Abstain (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried (7 to 0)**

## **E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **E.1 Superintendent's Report**

#### a. Monthly Report - April and May 2021

Superintendent Green presented the report and provided a verbal update with respect to postponing and extending the budget process in order to hire an independent advisor to assess the budget and provide recommendations and advice going forward. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Green.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### b. 2021-2022 Specialty Academy Fees

Associate Superintendent Roberts provided background and information with regards to specialty academy fees.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze



That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) makes available to the public via the District website, the schedules of fees that have been approved by the parents' advisory council for the school where the board proposes to offer specialty academy.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

c. Trustee Questions

Trustee Whiteaker requested to know how many consultations has the Superintendent recommended to the board, how many have been hired and how much money has been spent on this area in the term since she was hired as Superintendent. Superintendent Green advised that she would bring that information to the June Board meeting.

Trustee Duncan requested an update with respect to when the new aviation program will be offered at Mt. Douglas High School. Superintendent Green advised that she would provide an answer to this at the June Board meeting.

Trustee Painter stated that during a recent school visit he was advised that there seems to be a disconnect between schools and senior leadership and expressed his concerns. Superintendent Green advised that due to COVID visits have been curtailed and stated that when restrictions are lifted school visits will resume.

**E.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

a. Monthly Report - April and May 2021

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the April and May report.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Ferris

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b. Sundance/Bank Street: Update

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided Trustees with an update as it relates to the Sundance/Bank Street property and stated that the City of Victoria has not yet reached a decision with respect to the heritage status of this property. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Director of Facilities Morris.

c. Summer School 2020 Ministry Compliance Audit Results

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided Trustees with information with respect to the Ministry Compliance Audit Results as it relates to summer school 2020. The District claimed 147 courses of which 15 were not eligible for funding resulting in losses of revenue totaling \$3225. Secretary-Treasurer Morris advised that summer learning would be administered through School District No. 61 Distributed Learning program for summer 2021. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

d. Bylaw No. 2021-03: Disposal of Surplus Land located at 1765 Lansdowne Road

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the Bylaw and provided an explanation on the surplus land disposal at Lansdowne Middle School as well as the public consultation process. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

**Moved by** Trustee Ferris

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves:

- the disposal of a 7.3 acre portion of School District property municipally known as 1765 Lansdowne Road, Saanich, BC and legally described as: PID: 005-852-962, Lot A Section 27 Victoria District Plan 6679 (the "**Property**");
- the entering into and completion of the obligations contained in an agreement of purchase and sale (the "**Purchase and Sale Agreement**") in respect of the Property with Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (the "**Purchaser**") in the amount of \$15,232,000.00 more or less;

- the granting of authority for the Purchaser, acting in the name of the Board or otherwise, to advance certain zoning, subdivision, and development related amendments to the Property with the District of Saanich and other third parties prior to completion of the disposal of the Property;
- the taking of all such action and the execution and delivery of all such documentation ancillary to, or related to, the foregoing; and
- the authorization of the Secretary-Treasurer to execute and deliver, on behalf of the Board, the Purchase and Sale Agreement and all such amendments thereto and all related and ancillary documents as the Secretary-Treasurer may, in her discretion, consider advisable.

The Board confirms that the Board will not require the Property for future educational purposes.

READ A FIRST TIME THE 21st DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

For (2): Trustee Leonard, and Trustee Ferris

Against (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

**Motion Defeated (2 to 7)**

## **F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Q: With regards to the Budget Meeting agenda, I am writing to ask a clarification question to be answered prior to agenda item E.3. It seems to me that the way the agenda is structured, that the final reading of the budget and motions will be passed prior to the agenda item F.

A: Chair Watters stated that Trustees can make a motion at the beginning of the meeting to move the motions up on the agenda.

Q: In their March 4th letter, the Songhees Nation requested funding from the district for the purpose of creating a position dedicated to seeking input from and advocating for the Songhees Nation in its interactions with the board. Why didn't

the March 8th and April 13th draft budgets reflect this request, in alignment with goal 2 of the district's strategic plan?

A: Chair Watters stated that the board made a commitment in their letter to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations that it would be built into the budget.

Q: Under what authority did the Superintendent and Board Chair request the Ministry of Education to "identify an independent advisor to help review the process and options and make recommendations to the Board?"

A: Superintendent Green recognized that it is her role and responsibility when she sees that there are concerns from the community. It is the discretion of the Board if they chose to take this process or not.

Q: As an indigenous member of the public I thank Ryan Painter for your sincere apology and Chair Jordan Watters for yours as well. My question is whether we the public will see an apology from Trustee McNally and Paynter as well?

A: Chair Watters stated that she would share this question with the Trustees.

Q: As a friend of Carey Newman, SD61 teacher and mother of two elementary students, how will you or multiple senior administration members take responsibility and respond to Carey Newman's letter outlining the blatant racism present in our District?

A: Superintendent Green stated that she takes all responsibility for all systemic racism that has come forward through staff. She takes it very seriously and wants to improve. Superintendent Green personally spoke with Carey Newman to apologize.

Q: Does the Superintendent of School District 61 take full responsibility and ownership for the racist rationale provide for this years budget in the May 10th Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting?

A: Superintendent Green takes full responsibility as does Chair Watters.

## **G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

**G.1 Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - April 26, 2020**

**G.2 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - May 10, 2021**

## **H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**H.1 New Business**

a. Extend Meeting Time

**Moved by** Trustee McNally  
**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b. Independent Advisor

The motion was presented and Trustees engaged in discussion and asked questions of clarification of Superintendent Green.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

WHEREAS the Superintendent has engaged the Ministry by way of independent advisor to review where the District is, and to provide advice toward creating a balanced 2021-2022 budget,

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend its 2021-2022 budget process until such time as the advisor can report to the Board.

For (6): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (3): Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried (6 to 3)**

Trustee Whiteaker exited the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

c. Rollover Budget

Trustee McNally presented the motion and provided a rationale.

Ann Whiteaker left the meeting at 10:59 pm.

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Secretary-Treasurer to construct a rollover budget using the usual / past year's budget process for fiscal year 2021-2022, and that the Board direct the Superintendent to dismiss the special advisor called in by the Superintendent.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to table the motion until after the independent advisor has made a presentation and report.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Ferris

*That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to direct the Secretary-Treasurer to construct a rollover budget using the usual / past year's budget process for fiscal year 2021-2022, and that the Board direct the Superintendent to dismiss the special advisor called in by the Superintendent" be tabled until after the independent advisor has presented and provided a report.*

For (6): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter

Against (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

Abstain (1): Trustee Duncan

**Motion Carried (6 to 2)**

## **H.2 Notice of Motions**

None

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

**Moved by** Trustee Hentze  
**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer