



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**AGENDA**  
**Via Zoom**

**Monday, January 24, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Broadcasted via YouTube**  
**<https://bit.ly/3czx8bA>**

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.

**A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

**A.2. Approval of the Agenda**

Recommended Motion:  
That the January 24, 2022 agenda be approved.

**A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

Recommended Motion:  
That the December 13, 2021 Regular Board minutes be approved.

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

**A.5. Student Achievement**

**A.6. District Presentations**

**A.7. Community Presentations (5 minutes per presentation)**

- a. Soren Henrich, Friends of Bowker Creek Society, SD61 Land Disposal
- b. Alexa Tuton, CUPE 947 Educational Assistant, A Day in the Life of an EA
- c. Peter Haddon, SD61 Land Disposal
- d. Deanna Pfeier, SD61 Land Disposal
- e. Kevin Harter, CEO, Victoria Hospice Society, Proposed Victoria Hospice site – Design Intent

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

- B.1. December 9, 2021, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Increased Funding**
- B.2. December 10, 2021, BCSTA to SD20, Travel Concerns**
- B.3. December 15, 2021, SD61 to Mainland School Districts, Letter of Support**
- B.4. December 17, 2021, BCSTA to Deputy Minister of Education**
- B.5. December 17, 2021, BCSTA to new Deputy Minister of Education**
- B.6. December 21, 2021, SD57 to Minister of Education, Invitation to Visit**
- B.7. [REDACTED]**
- B.8. January 12, 2022, Dogwood BC to SD61 Trustees, Gas Emissions**
- B.9. January 12, 2022, Friends of Bowker Creek Society and Camosun Community Association to Minister of Education, Proposed Disposal of Public Lands**
- B.10. November 23, 2021 to January 18, 2022 – Public correspondence re proposed land disposal at Lansdowne Middle School South Campus**
- B.11. January 19, 2022, SD61 to Minister of Education and Minister of Finance, Capital Funding for Electric Buses**
- B.12. January 19, 2022, SD61 to BC Hydro, BC Utilities Commission, BC Premier, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment, BC Hydro Net Metering Cap**



## **C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **C.1. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Annual Workplan: February 2022

### **C.2. Trustees' Reports** (2 minutes per verbal presentation)

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- a. Draft minutes from the January 10, 2022 meeting - Information only
- b. Recommended motions from the January 10, 2022 meeting:
  - a. Board/Authority Authorized Course: Sports Psychology 12

#### Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the new Board/Authority Authorized course: Sports Psychology 12.

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

- a. Draft minutes from the January 17, 2022 meeting - Information only
- b. Recommended motions from the January 17, 2022 meeting
  - a. Climate Action

#### Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Interim Superintendent to establish an Ad Hoc Climate Action Committee to assist with the further development and implementation of a District Climate Action Plan as per Bylaw 9140;

#### AND FURTHER

That the Committee report its recommendations to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee by May 2023.

#### AND FURTHER

That a budget of \$15,000 be established to support the committee's work.

b. BCSTA – AGM Motion

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) bring forward a motion to the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting asking the BCSTA to advocate for the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly to BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission, the Premier of British Columbia, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.

c. BCSTA – AGM Motion

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) bring forward a motion to the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting asking that the BCSTA request the Province of British Columbia amend the Motor Vehicle Act to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide 1 metre of space on roads with posted speeds of 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space on roads with posted speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking; and clarify the obligation of all motorists to establish reasonable distance when passing a cyclist or a pedestrian, as well as definitive guidance on an appropriate minimum distance when doing so.

**E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

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

a. Monthly Report

Recommended Motion:

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

b. Trustee Questions

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

a. Monthly Report

Recommended Motion:

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

b. 2022-2023 Budget Update

i. Terms of Reference

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2022-2023 Budget Advisory Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference, as presented.

c. Appointment of Election Official

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint Joan Axford as Chief Election Officer to administer and conduct the school trustee election on October 15, 2022.

d. Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus

i. Partial Disposal Bylaw 2022: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Recommended Motion:

Whereas a board of education may dispose of land or improvements owned or administered by the board under the authority of Section 96(3) of the School Act, subject to the Orders of the Minister of Education (the "Minister");

AND WHEREAS the Minister issued Order M193/08 effective September 3, 2008 (the "Order") requiring fee simple sales and leases of land or improvements for a term of ten years or more to be specifically approved by the Minister, unless the transferee is an independent school or another school board;

AND WHEREAS Section 65(5) of the School Act requires a board of education to exercise a power with respect to the acquisition or disposal of property only by bylaw;

AND WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) (the "Board") owns lands and improvements at 2780 Richmond Road, Victoria, B.C. known as Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus (formerly Richmond Elementary School site (the "Property");

B. The Facility Number of the Property is:105629.

C. The legal description of the Property is:  
Parcel Identifier: 005-170-222  
Lot 3, Section 26, Victoria District, Plan 10792;

D. The Board proposes to subdivide and sell to the Victoria Hospice Society (the “VHS”) the portion of the Property lying to the west and south of Bowker Creek and measuring approximately 1.9 acres in area as shown on Schedule A attached hereto (the “Lands”), pursuant to the terms of a conditional agreement of purchase and sale (the “Sale Agreement”) for a price of \$2,500,000, adjusted as provided in the Sale Agreement (the “Price”);

E. The Board is satisfied that it would be in the best interests of the Board to enter into the Sale Agreement and pursuant to its obligations thereunder subdivide the Property and sell the Lands to the VHS for the Price (the “Subdivision and Sale”);

F. The Board is satisfied that the Subdivision and Sale will not interfere with the use by the Board of the remainder of the Property for educational purposes.

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted as a Bylaw of the Board that the Sale Agreement and the Subdivision and Sale be and are hereby authorized, ratified and approved, subject to the Minister of Education providing a written Certificate of Disposal approving the sale of the Lands.

BE IT FURTHER enacted that the Secretary-Treasurer be and is hereby authorized on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver the Sale Agreement and, subject to the Minister’s Approval, all documents required to complete the Subdivision and Sale, and all related and ancillary documents, with all such amendments thereto as the Secretary-Treasurer may, in her discretion, consider advisable.

This Bylaw may be cited as “School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus (formerly Richmond Elementary School) Site Partial Disposal Bylaw 2022”.

Read a first time this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.  
Read a second time this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

**F. QUESTION PERIOD (15 minutes total)**

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

**G.1. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – October 5, 2021**

**G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – December 13, 2021**

**G.3. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - December 13, 2021**

**G.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – January 10, 2022**

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

**H.1. New Business**

**H.2. Notice of Motions**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion:  
That the meeting be adjourned.



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

**MINUTES**

**Via Zoom**

**December 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m.**

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

Regrets: Diane McNally

Administration: Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Colin Roberts, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Associate Director, Facilities Services, Sean Powell, District Principal, Learning Team, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

Guests: Chief Rob Thomas, Esquimalt Nation, Kalie Dyer, Director of Education, Esquimalt Nation  
Kate Lemon, Principal Architect, KMBR Architects Planners Inc.

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

**A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

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

## **A.2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by** Trustee Ferris

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the December 13, 2021 agenda be approved with the following amendments:

Add – B.5. Correspondence, First Nations Leadership Council, Nov 18, 2021 Advocacy Letter to Ministry

Remove – E.2.d.ii – Lansdowne Partial Disposal Bylaw 2021: postponed to January 2022

Add – G.2. District Vaccine Mandate Decision

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **A.3. Local Education Agreement: Esquimalt Nation**

Interim Superintendent Whitten welcomed Chief Rob Thomas and Kalie Dyer of the Esquimalt Nation and shared that she'd recently met with them to discuss and finalize the Local Education Agreement between the Board of Education and the Esquimalt Nation. Interim Superintendent Whitten stated the importance of this essential agreement for all parties involved, as it describes the process of building on the relationship between the District and the Esquimalt Nation to improve the outcomes of the students of the Nation. Interim Superintendent Whitten expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the writing team for their many hours of commitment to the agreement.

Chief Rob Thomas congratulated Chair Painter, Interim Superintendent Whitten and Vice-Chair Ferris on a fresh start.

Chief Rob Thomas expressed his appreciation to all parties involved in creating the LEA and stated what a huge step forward it is for the Esquimalt Nation and the Nation's children. Chief Thomas stated that he was looking forward to building on the relationship between the Nation and the District, for the greater good of the success of students.

Ms. Dyer expressed her appreciation in working with Chief Thomas and the Council of Esquimalt Nation, along with staff of School District 61, on collaborating and creating this important agreement.

Chair Painter thanked Chief Rob Thomas and Ms. Dyer.

Lastly, Interim Superintendent Whitten stated that she looked forward to bringing everyone together in the spring, in person, in the community, with the hopes of celebrating this milestone and the signing of the LEA.

**Moved by:** Trustee Watters  
**Seconded by:** Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Local Education Agreement with the Esquimalt Nation, as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.4. Approval of the Minutes**

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Watters

That the November 22, 2021 Regular Board minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

**A.6. Student Achievement**

None

**A.7. District Presentations**

None

**A.8. Community Presentations**

- a. Paul Pallin, Board Chair, Victoria Hospice Society, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the history of Victoria Hospice and the need to expand their facility. Mr. Pallin stated that the Society is looking forward to collaborating with the community and moving forward on the purchase of a portion of land located at Lansdowne Middle School South.
- b. Soren Henrich attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Friends of Bowker Creek Society, to urge Trustees not to sell a portion of land located at Lansdowne Middle School South, as it would disrupt and negatively impact the restoration of Bowker Creek.
- c. Susan Haddon attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Friends of Bowker Creek Society, to urge Trustees not to sell a portion of land located at Lansdowne Middle School South, as it would disrupt and negatively impact the restoration of Bowker Creek.



- d. Ian Graeme attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Friends of Bowker Creek Society, to urge Trustees not to sell a portion of land located at Lansdowne Middle School South, as it would disrupt and negatively impact the restoration of Bowker Creek.
- e. Mary Ann Watson attended the Board meeting to request that Trustees uphold their obligation to investigate, address, resolve and remove racism in the school district.

## **B. CORRESPONDENCE**

- B.1. November 18, 2021, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association to SD61 Trustees, Bill 22 and Student Data Privacy.**
- B.2. November 21, 2021, South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association to SD61 Trustees, Bank Street and Sundance Schools**
- B.3. November 23, 2021, Ruth Currey to SD61 Trustees, Proposed Sale of School Property at Lansdowne South Campus to Victoria Hospice**
- B.4. November 30, 2021, BCSTA to CSBA, Declaration of national Opiate Death Crisis**
- B.5. November 18, 2021, First Nations Leadership Council to Minister of Education, Foundations Skills Assessment**

Trustee Watters highlighted the FNLC's support of FSA's and the importance of upholding agreements.

## **C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **C.1. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair Painter provided a report on his activities over the past month and highlighted his attendance at the BCSTA Trustee Academy.
- b. Annual Workplan: January 2022  
  
Chair Painter presented for information the Board work plan for January 2022.
- c. Standing Committee Chair Elections
  - a. Chair Painter called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Education Policy and Directions Committee for the period of January 2022 to December 2022. Nominations were received for Trustee Paynter and Trustee Watters.

Trustees Paynter and Watters both declined the nomination. Chair Painter called for nominations a second time. Nominations were received for Trustees Whiteaker, Ferris and Hentze. Trustees Whiteaker and Hentze declined the nomination and Trustee Ferris accepted. Trustee Ferris was declared the Chair of the Education Policy and Directions Committee by acclamation.

- b. Chair Painter called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Operations Policy and Planning Committee for the period of January 2022 to December 2022. Nominations were received for Trustees Paynter and Leonard. Trustees Paynter and Leonard both accepted the nomination. Chair Painter called for the vote. Chair Painter declared Trustee Leonard the Chair of the Operations Policy and Planning Committee.

## **C.2. Trustees' Reports**

- a. Trustee Hentze provided a written report and highlights with regards to her attendance at the BCSTA Trustee Academy.

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **D.1. Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee**

- a. The draft combined minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting were presented for information.
- b. Recommended motions from the December 6, 2021 meeting:
  - a. Cedar Hill Middle School Project: Net Zero Energy Ready  
Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Associate Director Vistisen-Harwood from Facilities Services, provided answers and clarification to questions that were asked by Trustees at the December 6, 2021 Committee meeting.

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61  
(Greater Victoria) promote Bundle 2 - Net Zero Energy

Ready with a 100kW PV array at a cost of \$538,375 for the following reasons:

- Bundle 3 – NZER with 272kW PV Solar Array is not feasible with BC Hydro's current net metering regulatory constraint of 100kW.
- Less capital costs than Bundle 3 – NZER with a 272kW PV Solar Array
- Achievable now without relying on changes from BC Hydro which are not guaranteed.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b. BC Hydro: Net Metering Cap

Recommended motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advocate for BC Hydro to lift the 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly with BC Hydro and through BCSTA to BC Hydro, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.

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

**Moved by:** Trustee Whiteaker

**Seconded by:** Trustee Henzle

That the motion *"That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advocate for BC Hydro to lift the 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly with BC Hydro and through BCSTA to BC Hydro, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC"* be amended to strike the words *"for BC Hydro"* and add *"BC Utilities Commission and Premier."*

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advocate to lift BC Hydro's 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly with BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission, and through BCSTA, to BC Hydro, BC Utilities Commission, the Premier of British Columbia,

Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

c. School Shops Health and Safety Audit

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to provide monthly progress reports at the Operations, Policy and Planning Standing Committee in relation to the outstanding school shop health and safety issues identified in the school shop health and safety audits from 2016 and 2017.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

d. Letter to Ministries re Climate Action

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Premier of British Columbia, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment and Climate Change to request that they closely collaborate to address the misalignment between provincial obligations to address the climate emergency by reducing GHG emissions in line with CleanBC and the Climate Accountability Act and the current school district capital funding gaps which result from: a) the provincial capital funding cost sharing model; and b) the difference between the actual capital costs associated with a “zero emissions” building and the current so called “net zero ready” capital funding standard applied to both building and renovating school district buildings. As noted by other school boards the decision to build to a zero emission standard resides with the local school board resulting in the local school board having to identify the additional funding.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

e. Letter to Ministries re Bus Replacement

Recommended motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Finance to request that, going forward, the level of funding for bus replacement be set at the cost of the purchase price for electric buses;  
AND FURTHER

That the Board understands that the Ministry sets the schedule of bus replacement based on age and mileage of the vehicle and that the funding standard is applied against the cost of a diesel or gas-driven vehicle.

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

**Moved by:** Trustee Whiteaker

**Seconded by:** Trustee Duncan

That the motion *“That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Finance to request that, going forward, the level of funding for bus replacement be set at the cost of the purchase price for electric buses;*

**AND FURTHER**

*That the Board understands that the Ministry sets the schedule of bus replacement based on age and mileage of the vehicle and that the funding standard is applied against the cost of a diesel or gas-driven vehicle”* be amended to strike the words *“the Ministry”* in the second paragraph and add the words *“rather than an electric vehicle”* at the end of the second paragraph.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Finance to request that, going forward, the level of funding for bus replacement be set at the cost of the purchase price for electric buses;

**AND FURTHER**

That the Board understands that the schedule of bus replacement is based on age and mileage of the vehicle and that the funding standard is applied against the cost of a diesel or gas-driven vehicle rather than an electric vehicle.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

f. Re-Affirm \$10 a day Childcare Plan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write re-affirm its endorsement of the \$10 a day Childcare Plan including the inclusion of early learning

and childcare being brought under the Ministry of Education;  
AND FURTHER that the Chair write a letter to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development urging this change and the necessary capital investment and on-going operating funding to create childcare space on school district property with the announced \$7.5 billion Federal funding.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- g. Letter of Support to School Districts Affected by Recent Floods

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to write letters of support to Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Fraser-Cascade and Nicola-Similkameen School Districts affected by the recent floods, landslides, and road closures.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- h. Revised Bylaw 9330.1 – *Appeal Process*

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Bylaw 9330.1 and Notice of Appeal and Feedback on the Appeal Process forms, as amended.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- c. Revised Bylaw 9330.1 *Appeal Process*: Bylaw Readings

**Moved by:** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by:** Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings to revised Bylaw 9330.1 *Appeal Process* at the meeting of December 13, 2021.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by:** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by:** Trustee Ferris

That revised Bylaw 9330.1 *Appeal Process* be:  
Read a first time the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by:** Trustee Leonard  
**Moved by:** Trustee Watters

That revised Bylaw 9330.1 *Appeal Process* be:  
Read a second time the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by:** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by:** Trustee Duncan

That revised Bylaw 9330.1 *Appeal Process* be:  
Read a third time, passed and adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

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

#### **a. Monthly Report**

Interim Superintendent Whitten provided the report and highlighted the Representative Advisory Committee of Students' meeting on December 6, 2021 on the topic of Unconscious Bias with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, which was also attended by Principal's, Vice-Principal's and Trustees. Interim Superintendent Whitten welcomed student representatives Sadie and Isabella to the Board meeting, and expressed gratitude to Dana Marchant as she retires from the District after 20+ years of service.

**Moved by** Trustee Ferris  
**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

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**

Trustee Duncan requested an update with respect to the status of discussions with the Ministry of Education on the shortfall in funding on the 2/2/2 salary increase mandate and not receiving the third year of funding. Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided a response and advised that this topic will be added to a future Budget Advisory Committee meeting agenda.

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

### **a. Monthly Report**

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided the report.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **b. SJ Burnside Alternative School Site Disposal Bylaw, 2021: Third Reading**

Chair Painter reminded Trustees that the first and second reading of this Bylaw were conducted at the October 25, 2021 Board meeting and this will be the third and final reading. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Director of Facilities Services Morris.

Trustee Whiteaker added Trustees that she would be once again recusing herself from the vote for this Bylaw, as she is in a conflict of interest.

Recommended motion:

WHEREAS section 65 (5) of the School Act provides that a board of education may exercise a power with respect to the acquisition or disposal of property owned or administered by the board only by bylaw;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 96 (1) of the School Act, "land" includes any interest in land, including any right, title or estate in it of any tenure;

AND WHEREAS section 96 (3) of the School Act provides that a board of education may dispose of land or improvements, or both, subject to the orders of the British Columbia Minister of Education (the "Minister");

AND WHEREAS section 3 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order M193/08 (the "Order") provides that boards must not dispose of land or improvements by sale and transfer in fee simple or by way of lease of 10 years or more unless such disposal is to another board or an independent school for



educational purposes or is approved by the Minister in accordance with section 5 of the Order;

AND WHEREAS section 5 of the Order provides that the Minister may approve, with any terms and conditions, a disposition of land or improvements;

AND WHEREAS:

(a) The property described in this Bylaw (the "Property") is registered in the name of The Corporation of the City of Victoria (the "City") but is being used and administered by The Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) (the "Board") for school purposes;

(b) The Board is operating SJ Burnside Alternative School on a portion of the Property and has determined that the remainder of the Property, shown outlined in bold on Schedule A attached to this Bylaw (the "Quit Claim Area"), is no longer required for school purposes;

(c) The Board has agreed to release to the City all of its interest in the Quit Claim Area by way of a Quit Claim Deed in favour of the City (the "Quit Claim Deed") in exchange for consideration to be provided to the Board as described in an agreement (the "Framework Agreement") among the City, the Board, Pacifica Housing Advisory Association and British Columbia Housing Management Association, which will be fully executed as a precondition to the disposition of the Quit Claim Area as contemplated by this Bylaw;

(d) The Property is legally described as:

PID: 030-095-859 - Lot 1, Section 4, Victoria District, Plan EPP70074;

(e) The Board has confirmed that the Quit Claim Area will not be required for future educational purposes; and

(f) The Board is satisfied that the consideration to be provided to the Board under the Framework Agreement represents the fair market value of the Quit Claim Area;

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted as a Bylaw, that:

1. Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Board hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of the Quit Claim Deed in favour of the City on the terms and subject to the conditions in the Framework Agreement; and

2. Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Board hereby approves, ratifies and confirms the terms, covenants and conditions of the Framework Agreement and authorizes the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, for and on behalf of the Board, to execute and deliver the Quit Claim Deed in the form provided as an attachment to the Framework Agreement, and all other documents required to complete the transactions contemplated in the

Framework Agreement, with such amendments as the Secretary-Treasurer may consider reasonable and in the best interests of the Board.

This bylaw may be cited as "School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) SJ Burnside Alternative School Site Disposal Bylaw, 2021".

Read a first time the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

Read a second time the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

Read a third time this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021 and passed and adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Ferris, Hentze, Leonard, Painter, Watters

Against: Trustees Duncan, Paynter

Recused: Trustee Whiteaker

- c. Cedar Hill Middle School Replacement Project: Visioning Engagement Report

Secretary-Treasurer Morris introduced Kate Lemon, Principal Architect from KMBR. KMBR Architects Planners Inc. has been hired by the Greater Victoria School District No. 61 to conduct workshops, interviews, review survey results, and public information sessions, and to provide documentation to the School District CHMS Core Committee with respect to the School's long range vision and overarching design goals. The Vision and Design Drivers will help steer the decision making and help the Design Team understand the priorities for the design of the replacement school. Ms. Lemon provided a presentation on the results from the visioning group with respect to the replacement of Cedar Hill Middle School and answered questions of clarification from Trustees. Chair Painter thanked Ms. Lemon for attending and presenting to Trustees.

- d. Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus

- i. Land Disposal Public Consultation Report

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided the report and advised that correspondence received after the report had been produced will appear in the January 24, 2021 Board meeting agenda package.

- e. 2022-2023 Budget Update
  - i. Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the report from the Talking Tables budget meeting, highlighting a few areas and thanked participants for their feedback.
  - ii. Budget Advisory Committee
    - a. The draft minutes from the December 7, 2021 Budget Advisory Committee meeting were presented for information.

## **F. QUESTION PERIOD**

- Q:** Relative to the Cedar Hill Middle School project, all bundles specify a 'backup gas boiler'. Is this to provide backup for space heating or water heating or both? If it's for space heating too, then have alternative electricity-based options been explored?
- A:** The gas boiler will be used for heating of the building but only for 3% of the heating load. The use of hot water for showers etc will be electric and will most likely be an electric boiler.

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

- G.1.** Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – November 22, 2021
- G.2.** The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) will not be implementing a COVID-19 vaccine mandate at this time for employees of the District.

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

### **H.1. New Business**

None

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

None

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer



December 9, 2021

**The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside**

*Minister of Education*

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Whiteside,

**Subject: Increased Funding for the Annual Facilities Grant**

At the October 23, 2021, meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association's Provincial Council, representing all 60 boards of education in our province, our members passed the following motion:

*"That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, Province of BC to increase the Annual Facilities Grants provided to School Districts."*

Boards of education across B.C. share a common interest in having safe, healthy schools for students to learn within. Annual Facilities Grants, which focus on the regular maintenance of schools and related facilities, are intended to contribute to this goal.

While these targeted funds are valued, our membership regularly reports that the amounts provided do not adequately fund the needs of districts. Boards of education regularly find that the requirements for annual maintenance exceed the financial resources that the provincial government provides, resulting in boards making difficult decisions on prioritizing needs. These choices can potentially drain funds from other sources, including operational funds, impacting classroom resources.

While districts actively submit annual plans for the grant, spending is often adjusted based on emergent needs and issues not factored into initial outlooks. The resulting lack of funds leads to buildings falling further into disrepair due to deferred maintenance.

It is also worth noting that the requirements of school districts vary. For example, some added pressures faced by certain districts involve seismic upgrades and enrollment growth pressures. School districts have also been impacted by the increasing cost of building supplies, which have risen due to COVID-19 supply chain concerns. These pressures represent only a few of the additional considerations boards of education face that impede the proper maintenance of school facilities.



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

In the spring of 2021, BCSTA's Capital Working Group produced a paper titled *The Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding*. The document outlined increasing deferred life cycle maintenance concerns faced across the province and provided recommendations to the government, including a request for increases to the Annual Facilities Grant. The paper, with detailed proposals, is enclosed with this letter for reference.

To summarize, these increases are required to address the growing levels of deferred maintenance identified across B.C. as poor-quality learning environments can negatively impact learning outcomes for students. We must prioritize the learning spaces for our students as they rely on them to learn, be safe and flourish.

Thank you for considering this request on behalf of our member boards of education, as well as the students, families and communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Higginson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**Stephanie Higginson**

*President*

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: P120219.3

Enclosure: The Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding

CC: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education  
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA  
BCSTA member boards of education



# THE CASE FOR INCREASED SCHOOL LIFE CYCLE FUNDING

*a report from the BC School Trustees Association | March 2021*

## Introduction

Life cycle maintenance refers to the work which must be completed over the “life” of a building to ensure it remains in peak operating condition. A roof may need to be replaced a few times over the typical 50 to 60 year life of a public school building, as will mechanical and electrical systems. Structural and building envelope upgrading may also be required. This is not an exhaustive list but serves to provide examples of the type of work included in life cycle maintenance.

By all accounts B.C. schools suffer from an ever-increasing level of deferred life cycle maintenance. Several measures of this situation are offered in the following pages. One critical measure suggests the shortfall in 2020 needed to address deferred maintenance in the public school system is \$237M (see Figure 1, page 3).

The intent of this paper is to define the problem and make recommendations for consideration by government to correct the shortfall.

The context of these recommendations is also worthy of consideration given the need for economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential for significant infrastructure investments to fuel that recovery.

Premier Horgan’s November 2020 mandate letter to Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside offers additional context. The letter directs the minister to “continue to invest in new and modernized schools, including focussing on meeting seismic requirements and climate change and energy efficiency standards as set out in our Clean BC plan.”

In 2020 the routine capital program funded by the provincial government for schools totaled \$204M. By comparison the estimated cost of repairs and maintenance recommended by building system engineers engaged by the Ministry was more than double that amount at \$441M.

# Summary of Recommendations

1. That a building life cycle plan be developed for each new public school facility at the time of construction including an indication of the annual contributions necessary to fully implement the plan over time.
2. That the Annual Facilities Grant (currently \$115M) be increased by:
  - a. inflation (currently roughly 2%), plus
  - b. an amount equivalent to the annual contribution necessary to implement the detailed life cycle plan for new buildings (roughly 3%) and
  - c. a minimum of 15% for “catch up” each year amounting to a minimum of \$139.5M in 2021/22, \$168.5M in 2022/23, \$203.6M in 2023/24, \$246M in 2024/25, etc., noting that annual increases should continue until the recommended deferred maintenance costs can be covered.
3. That School Enhancement Program funding (currently \$64M) be increased by:
  - a. inflation (currently roughly 2%) and
  - b. a minimum of 15% for “catch up” each year amounting to a minimum of \$75M in 2021/22, \$88M in 2022/23, \$103.2M in 2023/24 and \$121M in 2024/25, etc., noting that annual increases should continue until the recommended immediate deferred maintenance costs can be covered and
4. That the Carbon Neutral Capital program be increased a minimum of 100% in 2021/22 and 10% per year thereafter amounting to \$33.4M in 2021/22, \$36.74M in 2022/23, \$40.41M in 2023/24 and \$44.45M in 2024/25.
5. That the provincial government carry out the required research to identify appropriate technologies and determine the funding required to achieve provincial government energy conservation objectives for existing public buildings outlined in the Clean BC program; and further, that the provincial government work with the federal government to provide the necessary funding to achieve those objectives.
6. That the need for more up-to-date learning environments to support student success and the level of accumulated deferred maintenance both be given greater consideration in the decision-making process about whether to complete major renovations or replace school buildings as they approach the end of their useful life.
7. That a review of the process to determine the Facility Condition Index be undertaken by the Ministry of Education in concert with school district Directors of Facilities and Maintenance to ensure accuracy incorporating more frequent local updates.
8. That a review of the Building Envelope Program be completed by the Ministries of Education and BC Housing in concert with school district Directors of Facilities and Maintenance to ensure adequate funding is available to finally complete all building envelope repairs that stemmed from the “leaky condo” era.
9. That all of the additional funding identified as being required in this paper be provided beyond the current Ministry of Education funding envelope.



# Background

## Deferred Maintenance

Figure 1 (below) identifies historic routine capital program allocations, deferred maintenance recommended within 1 year, deferred maintenance recommended within 5 years, and the change in the average provincial facility condition index (FCI) of school facility assets.

The listed capital programs in Figure 1 include the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG), the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNC), the School Enhancement Program (SEP) and the Building Envelope Program (BEP) all of which contribute to addressing facility life cycle maintenance requirements. It will be noted Figure 1 captures a long term trend toward poorer conditions in school buildings, along with a growing estimate of unfunded immediate deferred maintenance costs (a \$237M shortfall in 2020).

If the trend toward a worse average facility condition index were to continue at a certain point the province would experience a crisis of needing to replace many school buildings all at once. That may not occur for several years, however, the trend is definitely of concern. The FCI descriptor on page four of this paper and the current average FCI rating of 0.47 suggest many school buildings must already be in the poor or very poor rating category.

We have based all of our analysis on data obtained from the Ministry of Education. It has been identified by some districts that more detailed and frequent analysis is needed on the process of assessing school buildings and that the analysis should involve school district staff involved in facility maintenance, to ensure the FCI is accurate and up to date. As a consequence we have made a recommendation for such a review to be completed at the earliest opportunity.

Fiscal Year	EDUC Routine Capital Program Allocations (AFG, BEP, CNC, SEP) plus AFG operating	Immediate Deferred Maintenance (Cost of repairs and upgrades required within 1 year) n.i.c. closed schools	Total Deferred Maintenance (Cost of repairs and upgrades required within 5 years) n.i.c. closed schools	Average Provincial Facility Condition Index (FCI) for Total Asset Inventory
2020/21	\$204M	\$441M	\$7.05B	0.47
2019/20	\$192M	\$491M	\$6.95B	0.44
2018/19	\$193M	\$396M	\$6.70B	0.43
2017/18	\$195M	\$343M	\$6.28B	0.43
2016/17	\$174M	\$332M	\$6.26B	0.42
2015/16	\$152M	\$305M	\$6.09B	0.42
2014/15	\$98M	\$296M	\$5.98B	0.41
2013/14	\$98M	\$254M	\$5.41B	0.38
2012/13	\$96M	\$236M	\$5.38B	0.37

Figure 1 - Source: Ministry of Education

## Facility Condition Index

The BC Ministry of Education has established a Capital Asset Management System (CAMS) for all schools in the province and has contracted with VFA Inc. to conduct facility condition audits.

The purpose of the facility condition audit is to determine the equivalent age and condition of each school building. The condition includes structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, equipment and furnishings and life safety. An audit of site conditions is also included.

The audit determines what resources will be required over the coming years to maintain or replace aging facilities. Each school is given a rating called the Facility Condition Index (FCI). This is a comparative index that allows the Ministry to rank each school against all others in the province and is expressed as a decimal percentage of the cost to remediate maintenance deficiencies divided by the current replacement value (i.e. 0.26).

According to VFA Inc.,  
FCI ratings have the following meanings:

### 0.00 to 0.05 - Excellent

Near new condition.  
Meets present and foreseeable future requirements.

### 0.05 to 0.15 - Good

Good condition. Meets all present requirements.

### 0.15 to 0.30 - Average

Has significant deficiencies, but meets minimum requirements. Some significant building system components nearing the end of their normal life cycle.

### 0.30 to 0.60 - Poor

Does not meet requirements. Immediate attention required to some significant building systems. Some significant building systems at the end of their life cycle. Parts may no longer be in stock or very difficult to obtain. High risk of failure of some systems.

### 0.60 and above - Very Poor

Does not meet requirements. Immediate attention required to most of the significant building systems. Most building systems at the end of their life cycle. Parts may no longer be in stock or very difficult to obtain. High risk of failure of some systems.

*The FCI is a significant factor the Ministry of Education uses to determine funding priorities for rejuvenation or replacement projects. Generally, a school will not be considered for replacement unless the FCI is close to 0.60 or above.*

## How Deferred Maintenance is Calculated

In Figure 1 immediate deferred maintenance refers to those projects which are recommended by the engineering firm engaged by MOE to complete facility condition assessments each year. While the projects included in those recommendations do not necessarily involve building systems that will fail in the next year, preventive maintenance is always better than reactive or crisis maintenance. Building systems need to be properly maintained before they fail.

Building condition assessments are completed by engineers who are specialists in this field. They rely upon their knowledge of building systems to know where the sweet spot is.....that place where an ounce of prevention avoids a pound of cure and where replacement is more cost effective than constant repairs. Deferred maintenance reflects the work these specialists indicate should be done which has not been done as a result of inadequate funding. It is appropriately a requirement of government that building condition assessments are completed so government can direct limited funding to the areas of greatest need. We commend government for that, however, identifying and not addressing other maintenance requirements must still be considered a shortfall.

## Capital Maintenance Project Requests/ Allocations

Figure 2 (below) documents shortfalls in each of several capital programs over the past five years.

The number of projects and funding for requests beyond the actual number of projects and funding provided by the ministry are reported for

- the Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP),
- the School Enhancement Program (SEP),
- the Bus Acquisition Program (BUS) and
- the Playground Equipment Program (PEP).

All of these programs indicate the inadequacy of current levels of funding. Full program descriptions are available [here](#).

Unlike other programs listed in Figure 2, the Annual Facilities Grant is based on what is provided to districts by formula. Districts seek approval from the ministry on how they intend to use their AFG allocation. The best indication of an AFG shortfall is that provided in Figure 1. Figure 3 (page 5) provides another indication of less than adequate AFG funding.

The Building Envelope Program (BEP) identified in Figure 1 is not listed in Figure 2. We are advised the annual funding provided for this program amounts to approximately \$10M each year and is intended to address building envelope issues arising during the “leaky condo” years and will be phased out over time as they are addressed. Some additional funding for this purpose has been provided through litigation. We are advised by some districts relying on this funding that it is inadequate and, therefore, we are making a recommendation that the program be reviewed by the Ministry of Education and BC Housing Authority in concert with affected school districts and appropriately funded to address outstanding projects.

### Figure 2 - Source: Ministry of Education

#### 2020/21

AFG	2993 projects submitted in district spending plans, \$113.5M total allocated
BUS	165 project requests valued at \$24.2M. 101 projects approved for \$14.6M.
CNCP	124 project requests valued at \$40M. 67 projects approved for \$16.7M.
PEP	137 projects requests valued at \$12M. 40 projects approved for \$5M.
SEP	413 project requests valued at \$207.8M, 164 projects approved for \$64M

#### 2019/20

AFG	2768 projects submitted in district spending plans, \$113.5M total allocated
BUS	148 project requests valued at \$21.8M. 87 projects approved for \$12.8M.
CNCP	112 project requests valued at \$36.3M. 19 projects approved for \$5M.
PEP	146 requests valued at \$14M. 50 projects approved for \$5M.
SEP	431 requests valued at \$219.5M. 138 projects approved for \$65M.

#### 2018/19

AFG	2605 projects submitted in district spending plans, \$113.5M total allocate
BUS	123 project requests valued at \$16.M. 93 projects approved for \$13M.
CNCP	90 project requests valued at \$26.5M. 19 projects approved for \$5M.
PEP	158 project requests valued at \$15M. 51 projects approved for \$5M.
SEP	415 project requests valued at \$145M. 175 projects approved for \$65M.

#### 2017/18

AFG	2704 projects submitted in district spending plans, \$108.5M total allocated
BUS	134 project requests valued at \$16.2M. 73 projects approved for \$10M.
CNCP	91 project requests valued at \$30.6M. 15 projects approved for \$5M.
SEP	346 project requests valued at \$167M. 130 projects approved for \$55M.

#### 2016/17

AFG	2123 projects submitted in district spending plans, \$108.5M total allocated
BUS	126 project requests valued at \$16M. 73 projects approved for \$10.8M.
CNCP	85 project requests valued at \$22.2M. 25 projects approved for \$5M.
SEP	462 project requests valued at \$277.3M. 146 projects approved for \$70M.

## Annual Facility Grant

Figure 3 tracks changes in the Annual Facilities Grant since 2002 indicating increases in that specific area of funding have risen by far less than inflation even though capital costs have risen significantly during that same period.

Given the shortfalls noted earlier we have recommended increases to the AFG program which are considerably greater than inflation beyond 2021/22. These increases and those recommended to other education routine capital programs are required to address the growing levels of deferred maintenance identified in Figure 1.

The result of underfunding public school life cycle funding is that many BC schools suffer from poor life cycle maintenance, looking and feeling tired, and creating less than ideal learning conditions.

As important, they cost more to operate than they should, taking money away from student educational resources. Fairly straight forward energy efficiency upgrades can redirect hundreds of thousands of dollars back into education operating budgets in addition to helping achieve the climate change targets established by the province.

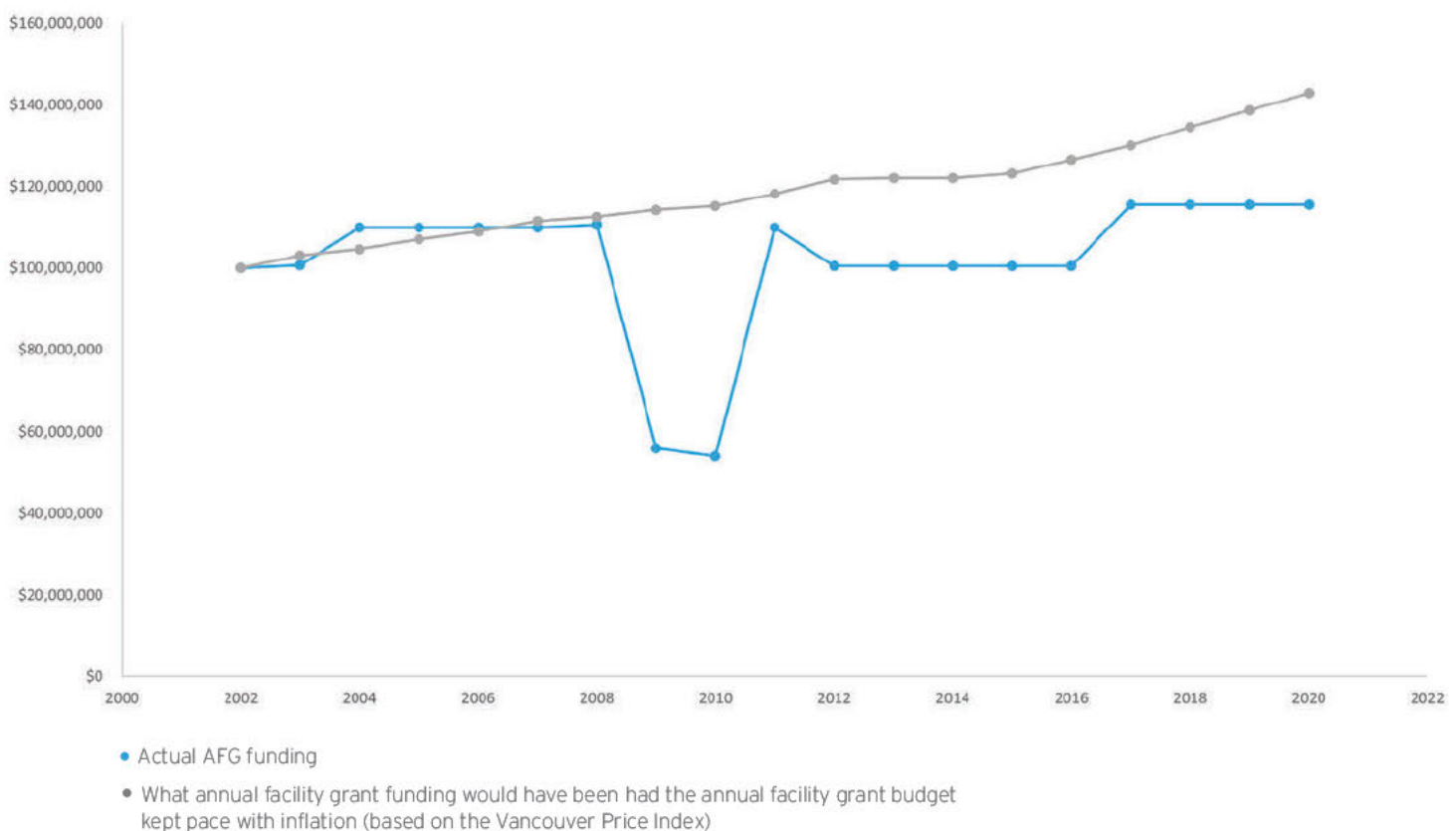


Figure 3 - data sourced from the Ministry of Education. The graph identifies the value of the Annual Facilities Grants (AFGs) awarded for each year beginning in 2002 compared to the amount which should have been budgeted given inflation (based on the Vancouver Consumer Price Index).

Investments in New Schools,  
Seismic Upgrading and School Replacements

It can be said districts and government do a reasonable job of ensuring schools are safe which is a clear priority. The only exception may be those schools for which recommended seismic upgrading has not yet been completed. To their credit government has identified seismic retrofitting as a priority. Unfortunately, government and the boards of education involved in addressing this situation seem to be having some difficulty catching up to the problem, especially since seismic survivability standards appear to be increasing. Keeping up to the need for capital funding for new schools and additions on top of the seismic upgrade program has been extremely challenging. Despite this Government has made substantial attempts to address these issues with increased funding as noted in Figure 4.

	B2018	B2019	B2020
SEISMIC	126M	220M	310M
NEW & ADDITION	102M	166M	332M

Figure 4 - Source: Ministry of Education

A few school replacements are also being funded which will have an impact on the facility condition index as very old schools are fully replaced. The amounts provided over the past three years for full building replacements are \$9.8M in 2018, \$31.4M in 2019 and \$56M in 2020.

All three of these areas of funding (for new schools, additions and seismic upgrading) are important and, although they are not the subject of this discussion paper, we must assume plans have been developed which define the level of funding required to complete seismic upgrades and construct new schools to keep pace with growth in the system.

While these needs are being more appropriately addressed we cannot forget the amount of funding required to address deferred maintenance in existing buildings. New schools and seismic upgrading are both needed. They tend to enjoy a higher profile than maintenance projects in existing schools. However, the latter are equally important if we are to fulfill our responsibility as trustees of important public assets.

Data obtained from the Ministry of Education illustrates a growing level of deferred maintenance and the degree to which we are failing in this responsibility.



## Regional Differences and Equity

During the process of writing this paper the capital working group heard from many school districts both verbally and in writing. A few quotations are shared from the written input on the following page. Apart from validating the need for additional life cycle funding to address deferred maintenance some also raised the need to consider regional differences and matters of equity.

There is no question that growth and seismic survivability are demanding the bulk of limited capital funding. As reported earlier, allocations for 2020 for these two categories of work amounted to \$642 million. This can be compared to education routine capital funding (including AFG from operating) in the same year of \$204M which, as we've noted, is \$237M less than the amount recommended by building system engineers..

Needed upgrades and renovations (deferred maintenance) are often addressed when seismic work or additions are completed. It only makes sense that those upgrades should occur at the same time as major structural work is being undertaken. Of course the addition of upgrades, seismic work and the need for school expansions can also factor into the decision on whether or not to replace an older school. There comes a point in the calculation when complete replacement makes more sense from a purely fiscal analysis.

There really cannot be any arguments as to why \$642M (or more) is needed on an annual basis to address the critical issues of growth and seismic survivability,

especially given the number of portables growing districts are having to purchase from operating funding to ensure there is enough space to accommodate their students. Reducing the number of portables being used in this fashion is a stated goal of government. In the report we've suggested that more detailed analysis and planning may be required to ensure adequate resources in these areas.

However, if funding is limited and seismic mitigation, new schools and school expansions are identified as priorities it means that the replacement of older schools and deferred maintenance (which is the subject of this paper) are severely underfunded. Since the majority of growth and seismic work are occurring in urban areas it is understandable why many of our more rural districts believe they are receiving an inadequate level of attention from government.

On top of that many of them exist in areas that experience more extreme climates, with disproportionate heating and maintenance costs during the winter months. Underfunding programs like the Carbon Neutral Capital Program, which could have an even more significant impact in areas experiencing extreme climates, adds to this sense of regional disparity.

There is another point some districts shared which bears repeating and it is embodied in the following phrase offered by one of our committee members, "your environment fosters your culture". To illustrate, one of the schools referenced by District 72, Campbell River, is 57 years old with an FCI of .69 which is very poor or critical on some FCI scales. Putting any significant amount of money into



deferred maintenance doesn't make a lot of sense at this stage given the strong case for replacement, and yet there is no funding for replacement despite several years of the project topping the district's capital request. It happens that the school is situated in an area of the community experiencing a disproportionate amount of poverty and a vulnerable student population. The result is a community within the district that is perceived to be under-served, with the consequent perception that the need of students for an appropriate and positive physical learning environment is somehow less of a priority in this school than in other SD72 school communities.

This is not a situation we can collectively ignore if we are to create positive learning environments for all of the children of our province....if we are to ensure equity within our education system. The only thing that will address this is increased funding for education routine capital programs and school replacements, and not at the expense of seismic upgrading or addressing growth. All of these needs must be addressed.

## Rules and Standards Have Changed Over the Last Fifty Years.

Standards for health and safety have changed considerably over time with ever increasing and appropriate measures to address such issues as the use of asbestos many years ago, lead content in the water more recently and seismic survivability. The cost of energy has gone up considerably as well, demanding measures to become more efficient, not only to keep costs down but also to reduce green house gas emissions and, literally, save the planet. Government is now requiring that school buildings meet reasonable standards for energy efficiency reducing emissions by 50% from 2007 levels by 2030 and achieving net zero targets for new buildings by 2032. That is very appropriate and to be applauded as we consider the design of new schools, but what about our existing building infrastructure? It is not unusual for schools to be in service for over fifty years. How do we reduce the carbon footprint of buildings constructed that many years ago and ensure they are safe and efficient, not to mention providing positive learning environments for children?

*".....it costs more to operate buildings that are in poor repair which takes away from student educational resources.....the quality of our buildings, especially in rural/remote locations is a factor in staff recruitment and retention."*

### SD60 North Peace

*"Thirteen of our twenty buildings are in the poor or very poor FCI category. Thus we utilize every dollar of our annual facilities grant just trying to triage our most urgent maintenance needs. The district submits an annual plan for the spending then always adjusts based on a roof that sprouts a leak or a boiler that fails. There are never enough funds to address all of the needs thus building deferred maintenance requirements and costs continue to grow."*

### SD71 Comox Valley

*"One wonders what our future selves might wish that we had done today to succeed in managing this challenging problem in the long run...In our experience a majority of projects that are a good fit for CNCP funding tend to be more expensive projects, including HVAC rooftop units, heating, water and electrical systems. The gap between existing equipment and the much lower Clean BC targets (to be achieved with enhanced systems and equipment) would possibly justify .....a doubling in the current amount (of available funding)."*

### SD 37, Delta

*"As a district with most of our buildings more than 30 years old funding to do exterior upgrades to schools would greatly improve student, staff, parent and community morale in our public education system."*

### SD 28, Quesnel

*"Since much of the provincial funding for the Building Envelope Program flows through the BC Housing Authority it creates some further complexity. That the fund is only \$10M annually is a significant detriment to addressing more costly maintenance. The funding is simply insufficient. For example, we have two schools each of which require more than the annual fund provided. As a result these projects never get approved, the buildings are deteriorating more rapidly than others which significantly increases operating costs and (reduces) building life.....the leaky condo era was 1981-98 and 22 years later the building envelope is still a significant issue"*

### SD43, Coquitlam

*".....we are particularly concerned about the specific challenges facing many rural and remote communities in northern BC. The window of time that districts are able to perform cost effective building and maintenance is smaller and northern districts can face significantly higher building and maintenance costs during colder months than other districts might."*

### SD57, Prince George



# How Can We Address the Problem?

Boards of education have long expressed the concern that the annual allocation of capital funding to address deferred maintenance is inadequate. Figure 1 provides a relatively clear substantiation of that claim.

Many municipal governments have addressed this problem for their own facility infrastructure by developing life cycle plans at the point of constructing new buildings, identifying each building's life cycle costs well into the future and putting sufficient funding into a reserve each year to ensure the identified work can be addressed as it comes up in the plan. Roofs, mechanical and electrical systems all need to be replaced several times over the life of a building. Given the extremes of our climate regular reviews and repair/replacement of building envelopes is another aspect of the ongoing work which needs to be addressed more than once during the life of a building.

Strata councils are required in legislation to have lifecycle plans which they are wise to implement to avoid surprise assessments as major issues arise. It is a preferred approach to set monthly strata fees at a level sufficient to accommodate everything in the plan rather than wait until something breaks down and requires an emergency repair or replacement and a somewhat unexpected assessment. An unanticipated \$10,000 bill, or greater, can be a significant blow to a family's budget, not to mention the disruption if replacement is left until something like a water line breaks.

Many commercial buildings operate this way as well with a portion of every lease payment for common costs allocated to life cycle projects.

The cost to address the reported shortfalls for school facility life cycle maintenance is significant (\$237M per year) and couldn't possibly be addressed all at once. We have suggested other sources of funding that could be tapped in another paper of the BCSTA Capital Working Group ([School Site Acquisition Charges - Issues and Solutions](#)). Implementing the recommendations offered in that paper would free up more capital funding over the long term. This is a long term problem and, we submit, requires a steady and considered long term approach to address the issue. If the recommended changes had been made in the years prior government could have saved \$42M in land acquisition costs in 2018 and similar amounts going forward. However, nothing we can suggest short of additional government funding will be sufficient to bring the entirety of public K-12 education infrastructure up to the desired level very quickly.

## Life Cycle Plan Recommendations

To begin we are suggesting that the ministry require a standardized life cycle plan be developed for every new school building that is constructed into the future.....and further....that an adequate annual contribution be added to the Annual Facilities Grant of the school district in which the facility is located to address the lifecycle needs of that building over time.

Ideally school districts would work backwards and create such plans for all their existing buildings and apply to the ministry for the annual funding required to sustain the overall building life cycle plan. That is likely unrealistic given the increased amount of funding required as indicated by the high number of requests made and relatively few which are approved. In 2019/20 the amount allocated by the province to lifecycle maintenance (the combination of AFG, SEP, CNCP and BEP) was \$205M against a recommended amount of \$441M. As noted earlier the recommended amount is derived from the work of building system engineers engaged by MOE to complete the facility condition assessment each year.

Ideally the annual allocation from the ministry would address the annual deficit (\$237M). Since that is unrealistic in the short term we are suggesting a gradual "catch up" to eventually achieve enough annual funding to meet existing building life cycle needs, concurrent with a new system of lifecycle planning and funding for new buildings as they come on board.

In summary we are recommending annual increases in the Annual Facilities Grant, the School Enhancement Program and the Carbon Neutral Capital Program until the total recommended level of funding required to complete recommended immediate deferred maintenance can be achieved.



## Annual Facilities Grant Recommendations

The current AFG allocation in 2020/21 is \$115.5M. We are recommending that amount be increased each year with the addition of:

- the annual contribution identified as being required in new facility life cycle plans plus
- inflation (currently roughly 2%) plus
- a minimum of 15% beyond inflation intended to reduce the shortfall for existing buildings over time.

The investment made in constructing new schools and additions in 2020 was \$332M. In order to provide a rough estimate of the annual life cycle contribution required for new facilities we have anticipated that cost to be the initial capital cost divided by a fifty year life or \$6.6M. That can be roughly translated to 3% of the current combined investment in AFG and SEP. The actual amount added to the system each year should be based on the specific lifecycle plans prepared for each building in the prior year. However, for the purposes of this paper and its recommendations we have simplified the calculation.

This formula would amount to AFG funding of approximately \$139.5 in 2021/22, \$168.5M in 2022/23, \$203.6M in 2023/24 and \$246M in 2024/25.

## School Enhancement Program Recommendations

We are also recommending an annual increase in the School Enhancement Program (SEP). The SEP funding provided for 2020/21 is \$64M. We are recommending that amount be increased each year with the addition of:

- inflation (currently roughly 2%) plus
- a minimum of 15% beyond inflation intended to reduce the shortfall for existing buildings over time

This would amount to SEP funding of \$75M in 2021/22, \$88M in 2022/23, 103.2M in 2023/24 and \$121M in 2024/25.

Both of these programs would continue to increase using these formulas beyond 2025 until the amount being budgeted is sufficient to address the deferred maintenance shortfall.

We have selected a 15% factor in our formula for “catch up” recognizing it will still take several years to do so. If the “catch up” provision was increased to 20% over \$500M would be available in 2025. A smaller “catch up” amount would extend the time needed to achieve the required level of funding and complete the required work.

## Carbon Neutral Capital Program Recommendations

We must also consider the Carbon Neutral Capital Program. Expenditures in this program are often used to replace electrical, mechanical or other systems which need to be replaced in the regular course of completing life cycle maintenance. It only makes sense that completing upgrades to systems to make them more energy efficient would be completed at the same time.

There is another significant argument to be made for increased funding beyond the amount already provided in the Carbon Neutral Capital Program. Reduced consumption generally means reduced operating costs, which can then be redirected to student achievement.

We are hoping the total amount of funding required to achieve the net zero targets established by the province for new buildings and improved efficiency for existing buildings (50% reduced consumption by 2030) will be the subject of further investigation and recommendations by government and is beyond the scope of this paper. However, we do feel it is appropriate in the context of this discussion to suggest a minimal ramping up of the Carbon Neutral Capital Program. It can be seen in Figure 2 that funding requests for this work totalled 2.5 times the available funding in 2020. Total requests amounted to \$40M in 2020/21 while the available funding amounted to only \$16.7M.

We are concerned the amount of annual funding currently available in the Carbon Neutral Capital Program for public schools is significantly less than the amount required to achieve Clean BC objectives. We are recommending the annual allocation to the Carbon Neutral Capital Program be doubled in the next year and increased by 10% per year thereafter. At this point we do not know if that level of investment will be sufficient to achieve the goals of the Clean BC program. We do know that most districts have already completed the easiest upgrades beginning with lighting systems followed by more efficient Boiler and HVAC equipment as mechanical systems reach the end of their life expectancy. What remains are projects which will be needed to achieve the Clean BC goals by 2030. They are very likely to be more complex and expensive as conversions from traditional to more innovative systems using alternative clean energy sources are contemplated. We are recommending CNCP allocations over the next four years should be \$33.4M in 2021/22, \$36.74M in 2022/23, \$40.41M in 2023/24 and \$44.45M in 2024/25. These increases are considered to be the minimum required. A more detailed analysis on what it will take to achieve Clean BC goals by 2030 may indicate the need for even greater resources. We are also recommending that analysis be undertaken by the provincial government as soon as possible.

Of course Initial capital funding for new buildings should be based on achieving as close to net zero emission targets as possible going forward, leading to new buildings fully achieving the net zero target by 2032.

Access the Clean BC program details [here](#).

### Renovate or Replace?

Many districts and the Ministry of Education face difficult decisions as schools approach the end of their useful life (fifty to sixty years of service) and encounter the need to complete relatively costly seismic upgrades and building system upgrades if they are to continue safely accommodating students in those facilities.

The dilemma is that schools built so many years ago often do not include the kind of learning environments we want to offer to students. For example most older secondary schools do not include the kind of trades and technical training facilities which are commonplace in modern secondary schools. Most older elementary schools do not provide the kind of break out space needed for Education Assistants to work one on one with students who have specialized needs, resulting in hallways filled with EAs and their assigned students when working in regular classrooms is not appropriate.

Unfortunately in the process of making capital submissions for older facilities to the Ministry of Education many school districts have experienced a direction from government to plan for the least expensive solution which will ensure student safety and meet basic building system requirements. This is often occurring without adequately addressing the needs of students. With that the case we are recommending that decisions concerning whether or not to complete major upgrades or replace older buildings which have effectively reached the end of their useful life (50 to 60 years) include greater consideration of the changing learning needs of students. Full replacement may cost more than renovations in the short term but will often be more educationally effective and justifiable given a longer term perspective.

Moreover, all of the deferred maintenance of an older facility being considered for renovation must be considered in the calculation to determine the comparable costs of renovation vs replacement.

## Conclusion

Building new schools and additions as our student population grows is important as is completing seismic upgrades to ensure our buildings are survivable in the event of an earthquake. With that said ensuring regular, appropriately timed life cycle maintenance on all school facilities is equally necessary to fully achieve our goal of providing safe and efficient school facilities which provide excellent learning environments for children. Accomplishing that can only be achieved with adequate annual funding provided by government. We have offered several recommendations along with a formula which should be used to catch the system up to address the ever increasing levels of deferred maintenance currently being experienced by school districts in British Columbia, and urge consideration of those recommendations and the proposed formula by government. Maintaining our schools is not a luxury that can wait until the economy is better. We need to act now to avoid serious problems in the future.

## Acknowledgements

The historical data used in this report was obtained from available Ministry of Education records.

This discussion paper was developed by the BCSTA's Capital Working Group. Members of the working group include:

JANICE CATON  
SD 71 Comox Valley

GREG FRANK  
BC Association of  
School Business Officials  
SD36, Surrey

ESTRELLITA GONZALEZ  
SD39, Vancouver

KATHLEEN KARPUK  
SD73, Kamloops

MIKE MURRAY  
BCSTA Board,  
SD42, Maple Ridge  
and Pitt Meadows

RAVI PARMAR  
SD62, Sooke

DONNA SARGENT  
BCSTA Board,  
SD38, Richmond



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

December 10, 2021

**Catherine Zaitsoff**

*Board Chair*

School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)

2001 Third Avenue

Trail, B.C. V1R 1R6

Dear Catherine,

**RE: Travel**

Thank you for taking the time to share your board's concerns regarding travel and hybrid options for future BCSTA events. Our objective is to ensure that we reflect the values and needs of our membership, and the association's board of directors appreciates your feedback.

In response to your question regarding our recent Trustee Academy, the board concluded that the association could not provide both virtual and in-person options in a hybrid format at this time. This decision was debated at length and involved many considerations. Our goal is always to host the highest value gathering for trustees possible with the resources available, but hosting a virtual event necessitates substantial resources and staff that exceed our current capabilities. Traditional events already require that BCSTA's 11 staff members go beyond their regular duties. It is worth noting that during BCSTA's response to the pandemic, our virtual events also required staff to take on significantly expanded roles to facilitate the event. The planning, logistics and support needed to administer a virtual event are significant and require dedicated staff. Given these capacity limits, our single team could not support both options for our most recent gathering.

While we have made significant efforts as an association to adapt to new needs generated from the pandemic, just as boards of education across B.C. have, other factors play a role in our recent decision to host our Trustee Academy in person. For example, hotels are contracted in advance to secure gather spaces, room blocks and rates. As part of these contracts, guarantees are established by the hotel for occupancy, meals, etc. Not meeting these thresholds tied to in-person attendance leads to financial penalties against the association. It is also worth noting that contracts signed with speakers often limit streaming and recording options. They can also increase speaker-related costs if added. Ultimately, adding a virtual or hybrid component would have increased our academy's registration fees to recoup the increased costs of running the event and failing to meet hotel targets.



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

The world continues to evolve, and our board and staff will actively evaluate our ability to host events that best fit the needs and requirements of our membership. As outlined in your letter, there are undoubtedly many benefits to hosting events virtually. Climate change, sudden inclement weather, decreased travel time and reduced spending are key considerations to consider as we make future decisions.

Once again, I thank you for your feedback, as it is the voice of our membership that guides our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Higginson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**Stephanie Higginson**

*President*

British Columbia School Trustees Association

CC: BCSTA member boards of education

# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

December 15, 2021

By email: [stan.petersen@abbyschools.ca](mailto:stan.petersen@abbyschools.ca)

Stan Petersen  
Board Chair  
School District No.34 (Abbotsford)

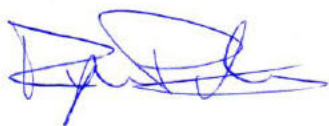
Dear Chair Petersen and Trustees,

In light of the recent flooding and devastation experienced in your school district, we wanted to reach out and express our concern and sadness for all that your community has had to endure.

Please know that you have the sympathy and moral support of the Greater Victoria Board of Education as you navigate the many repairs and the restoration to come.

We know that your leadership lends itself to the resilience and strength of your students, families and communities and you are an inspiration to all of us in SD61.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education  
Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community



# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

December 15, 2021

By email: [jared\\_mumford@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:jared_mumford@sd33.bc.ca)

Jared Mumford  
Board Chair  
School District No. 33 (Chilliwack)

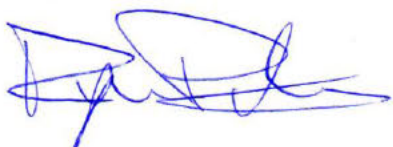
Dear Chair Mumford and Trustees,

In light of the recent flooding and devastation experienced in your school district, we wanted to reach out and express our concern and sadness for all that your community has had to endure.

Please know that you have the sympathy and moral support of the Greater Victoria Board of Education as you navigate the many repairs and the restoration to come.

We know that your leadership lends itself to the resilience and strength of your students, families and communities and you are an inspiration to all of us in SD61.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education  
Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent

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One *Learning* Community

# Board of Education

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556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
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*Chair: Ryan Painter Vice-Chair: Tom Ferris*  
*Trustees: Nicole Duncan, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard,*  
*Diane McNally, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker*

December 15, 2021

By email: [gswan@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:gswan@365.sd58.bc.ca)

Gordon Swan  
Board Chair  
School District No.58 (Nicola-Similkameen)

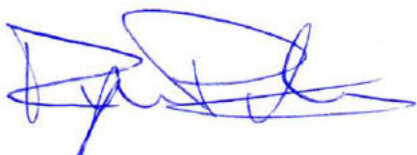
Dear Chair Swan and Trustees,

In light of the recent flooding and devastation experienced in your school district, we wanted to reach out and express our concern and sadness for all that your community has had to endure.

Please know that you have the sympathy and moral support of the Greater Victoria Board of Education as you navigate the many repairs and the restoration to come.

We know that your leadership lends itself to the resilience and strength of your students, families and communities and you are an inspiration to all of us in SD61.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education  
Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community

# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

December 15, 2021

By email: [linda.kerr@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:linda.kerr@sd78.bc.ca)

Ms. Linda Kerr  
Board Chair  
School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade)

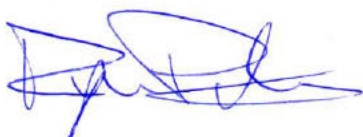
Dear Chair Kerr and Trustees,

In light of the recent flooding and devastation experienced in your school district, we wanted to reach out and express our concern and sadness for all that your community has had to endure.

Please know that you have the sympathy and moral support of the Greater Victoria Board of Education as you navigate the many repairs and the restoration to come.

We know that your leadership lends itself to the resilience and strength of your students, families and communities and you are an inspiration to all of us in SD61.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education  
Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community





British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

December 17, 2021

**Scott MacDonald**

*Deputy Minister*

Ministry of Education

PO Box 9179, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria B.C. V8W9H8

dm.education@gov.bc.ca

Dear Scott,

**Subject: Thank You and Congratulations**

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement. I have enjoyed collaborating with you and will miss your insights, the relationship we had and your dedication to student success.

I would also like to share my gratitude for your work in supporting our association and members. It has been a pleasure to work with you in my role as president of the British Columbia School Trustees Association, and I know our collaborative efforts have led to better learning outcomes for students in our province. I trust you know that the contributions you have made will continue to be built on in the years to come.

You have worked diligently for this province and the people who call it home for over three decades. I thank you for all you have done to support and improve public education in B.C. during that time.

I wish you all the best in 2022 and look forward to our paths crossing again.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Higginson**

*President*

British Columbia School Trustees Association

CC: BCSTA member boards of education  
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

December 17, 2021

**Christina Zacharuk**

*Associate Deputy Minister, Policy & Coordination*  
Office of the Premier  
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria B.C. V8W 9E1  
christina.zacharuk@gov.bc.ca

Dear Christina,

**Subject: Congratulations and Introduction to the BCSTA**

I wish to congratulate you on being appointed as the province's next deputy minister of education. A strong public education system is key to a well-functioning society, and you have taken on a crucial role that contributes to the overall wellbeing of the province.

Your vast background in public service and prior experience with the Ministry of Education and the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat has undoubtedly prepared you well for this role. 2022 promises to be a busy year in public education as we continue to emerge from the impacts of COVID-19, and your experience will prove to be an asset as we enter into provincial bargaining.

As president of the British Columbia School Trustees Association, I look forward to working with you to advocate for the needs of students on behalf of all 60 of the province's boards of education. As co-governors of B.C.'s public education system, boards of education work diligently to put students at the centre of our work, and we look forward to building on that history with you.

Our combined efforts are critical for creating a framework for success for today's learners and tomorrow's leaders. On behalf of BCSTA's board of directors, I would like to invite you to meet with our board in the new year once you have settled into your new position. In the meantime, please know that myself or BCSTA CEO Suzanne Hoffman are available to help with any questions you may have as you settle into your new role.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Higginson**

*President*  
British Columbia School Trustees Association

CC: BCSTA member boards of education  
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801  
www.sd57.bc.ca

December 21, 2021

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

By email: [leah.waters@gov.bc.ca](mailto:leah.waters@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Whiteside:

The Board of Education for School District 57 is pleased to extend an invitation to visit our district and meet with the Board.

We would welcome an opportunity to share with you the great work happening throughout the district in support of students.

Sincerely,

Board of Education,  
Sharel Warrington, Chair  
Ron Polillo, Vice Chair  
Betty Bekkering, Trustee  
Tim Bennett, Trustee  
Bob Thompson, Trustee

cc: Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount  
Mike Morris, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie  
BCSTA Boards of Education

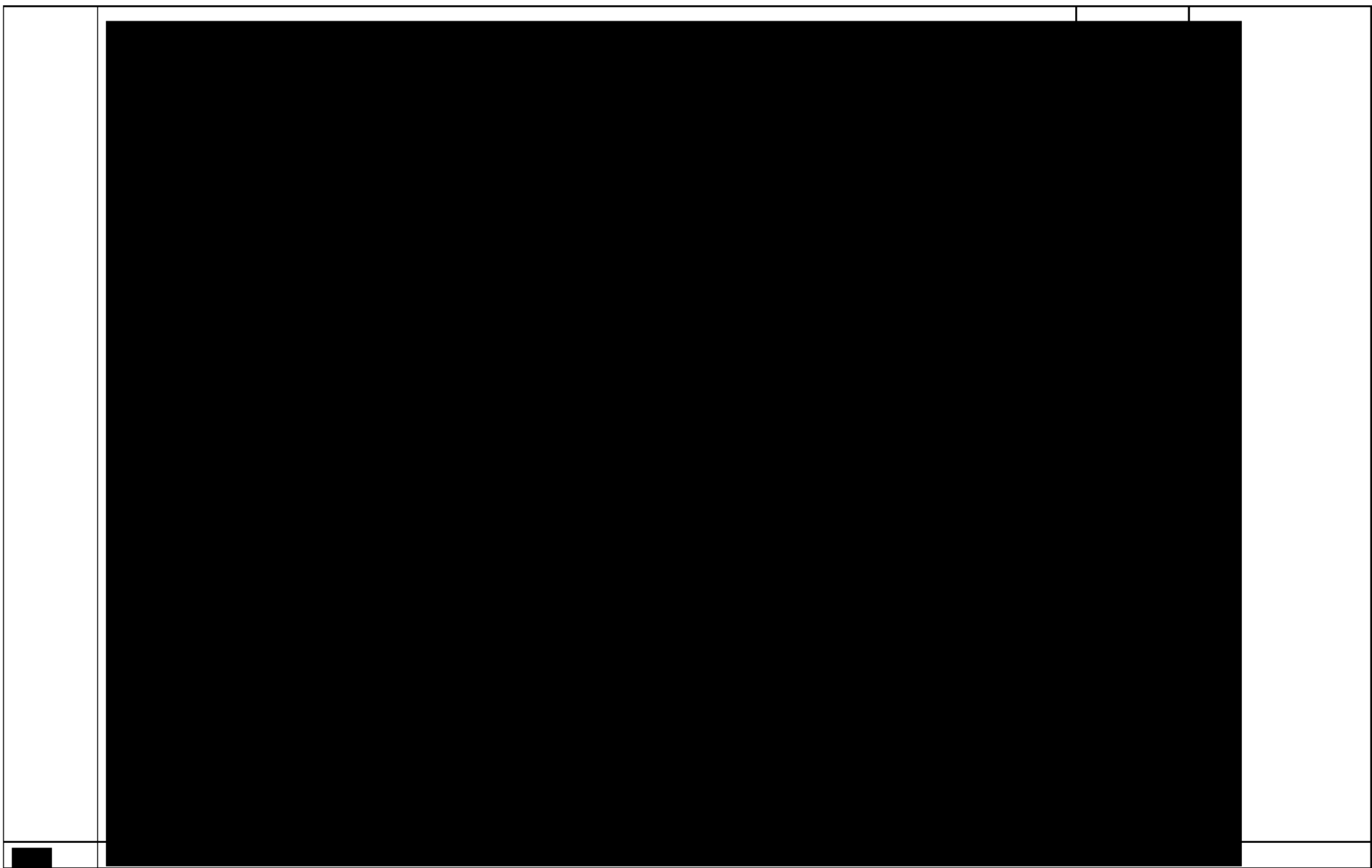
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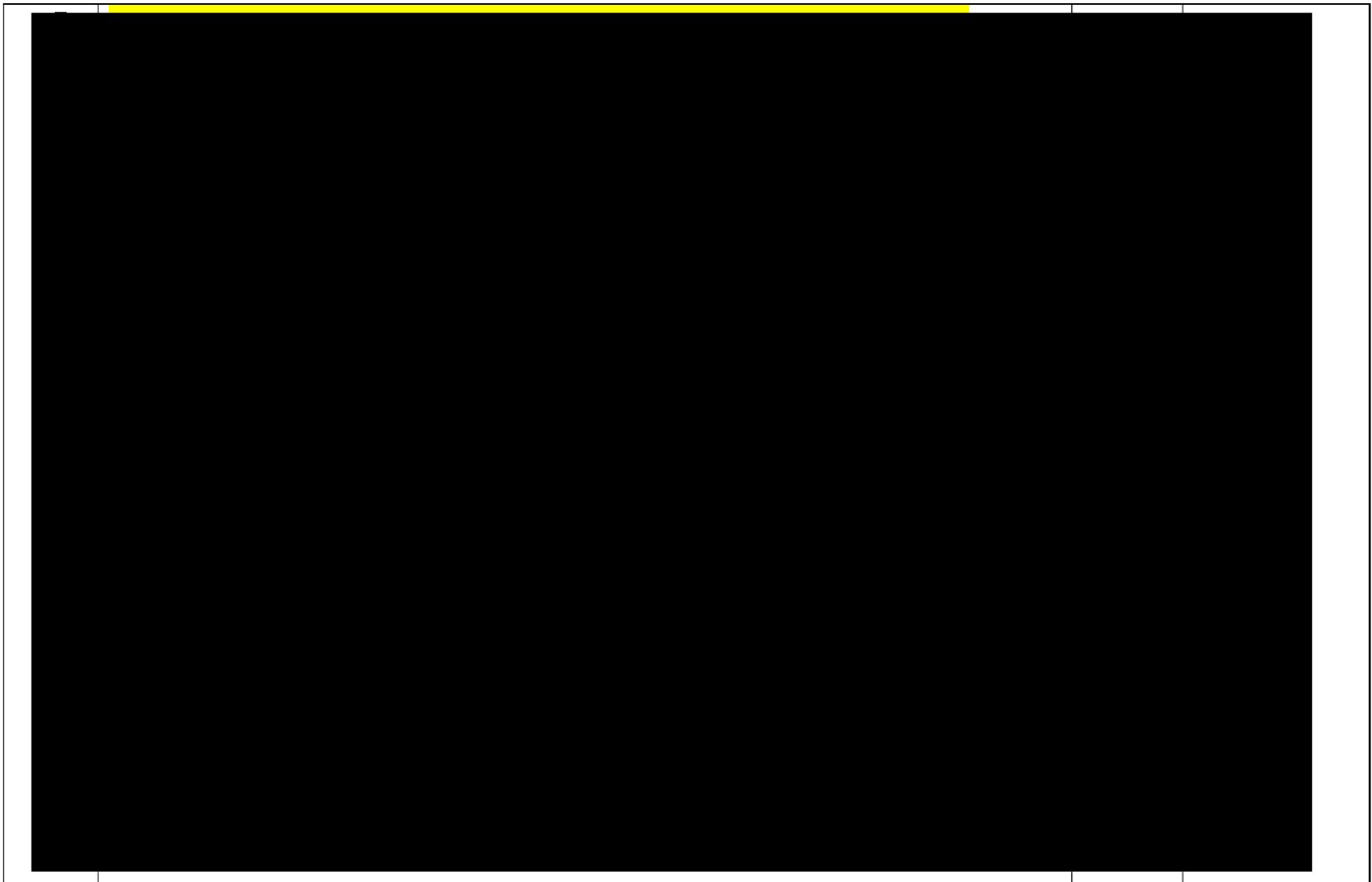


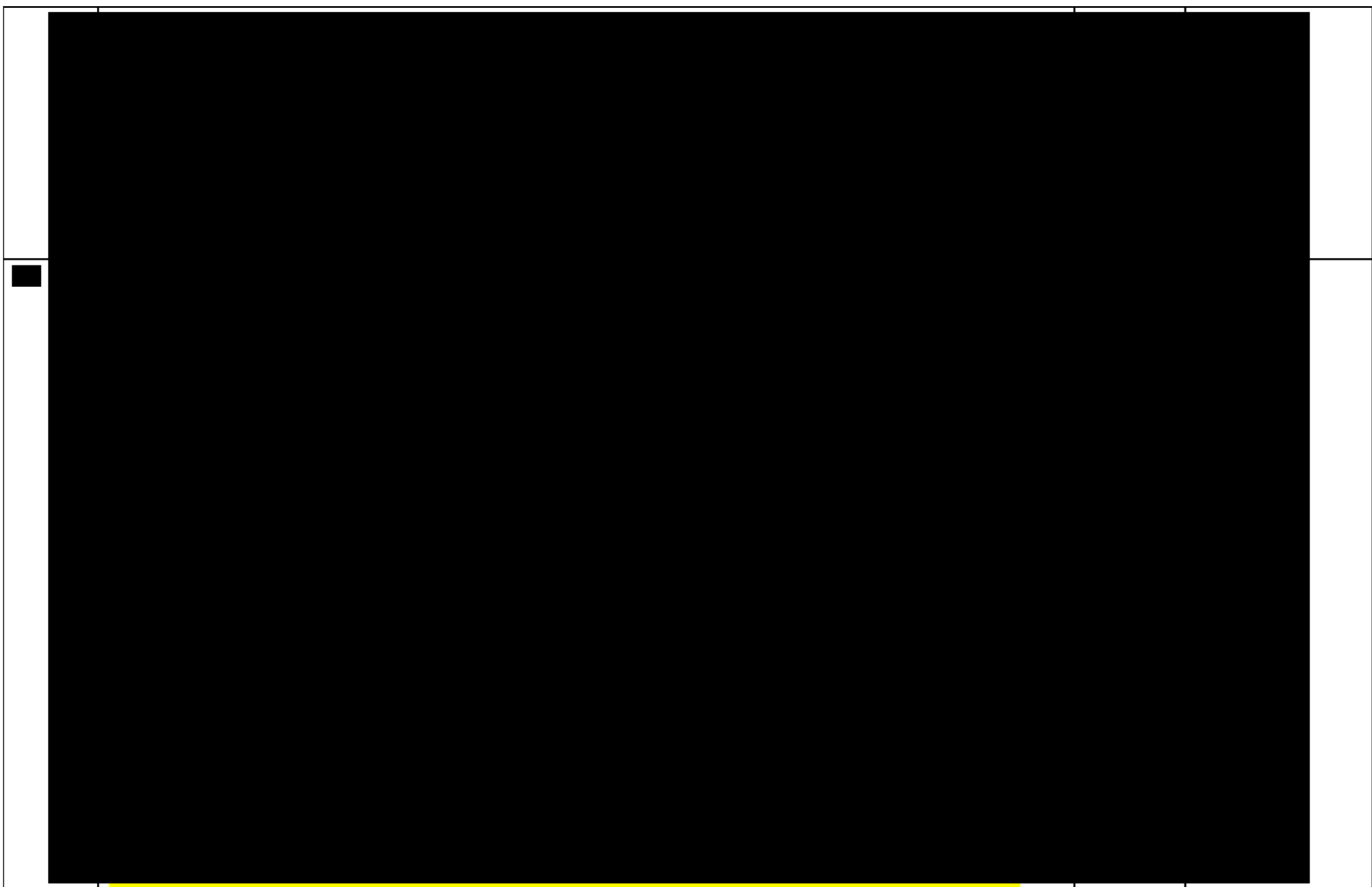


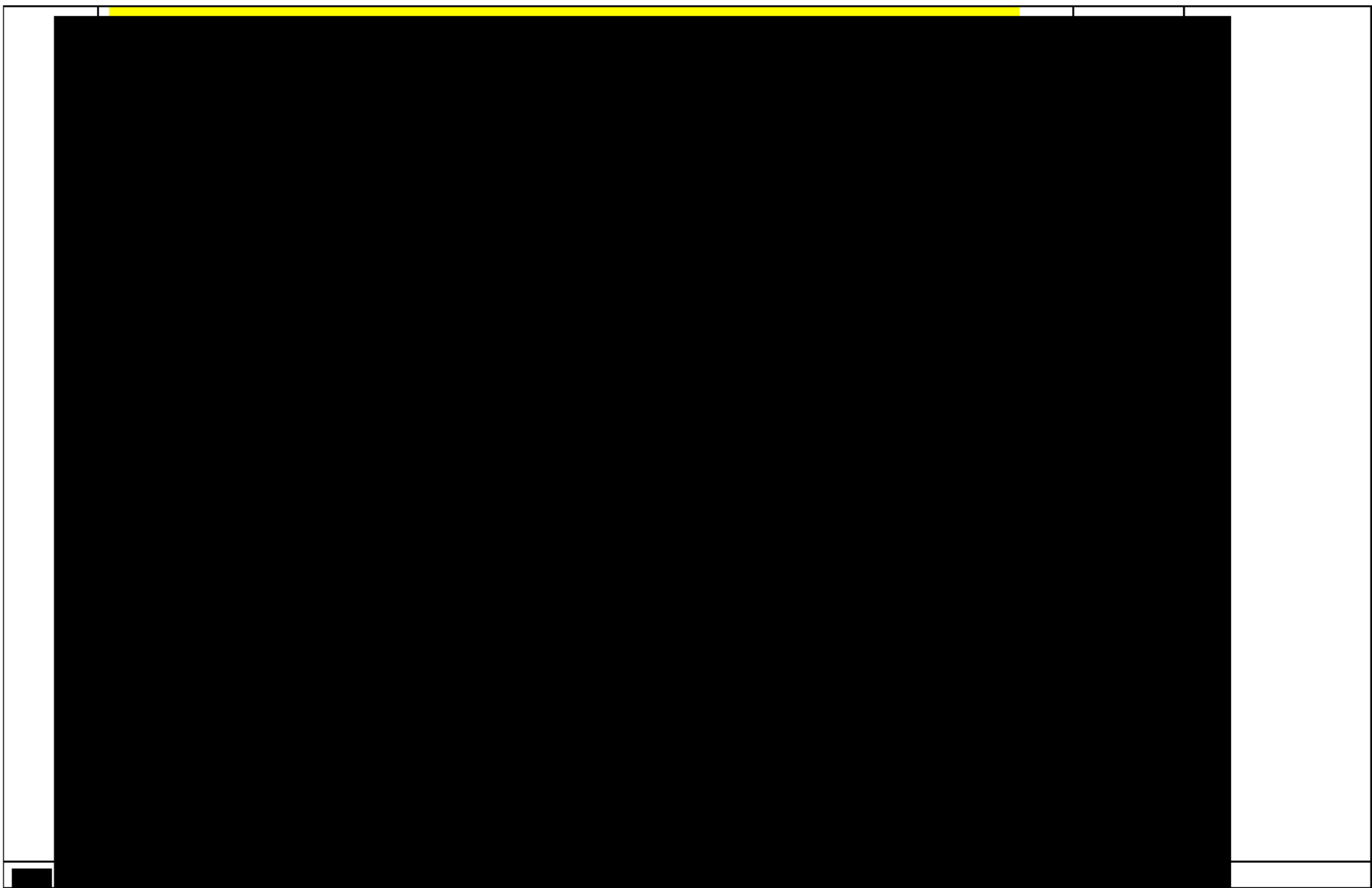
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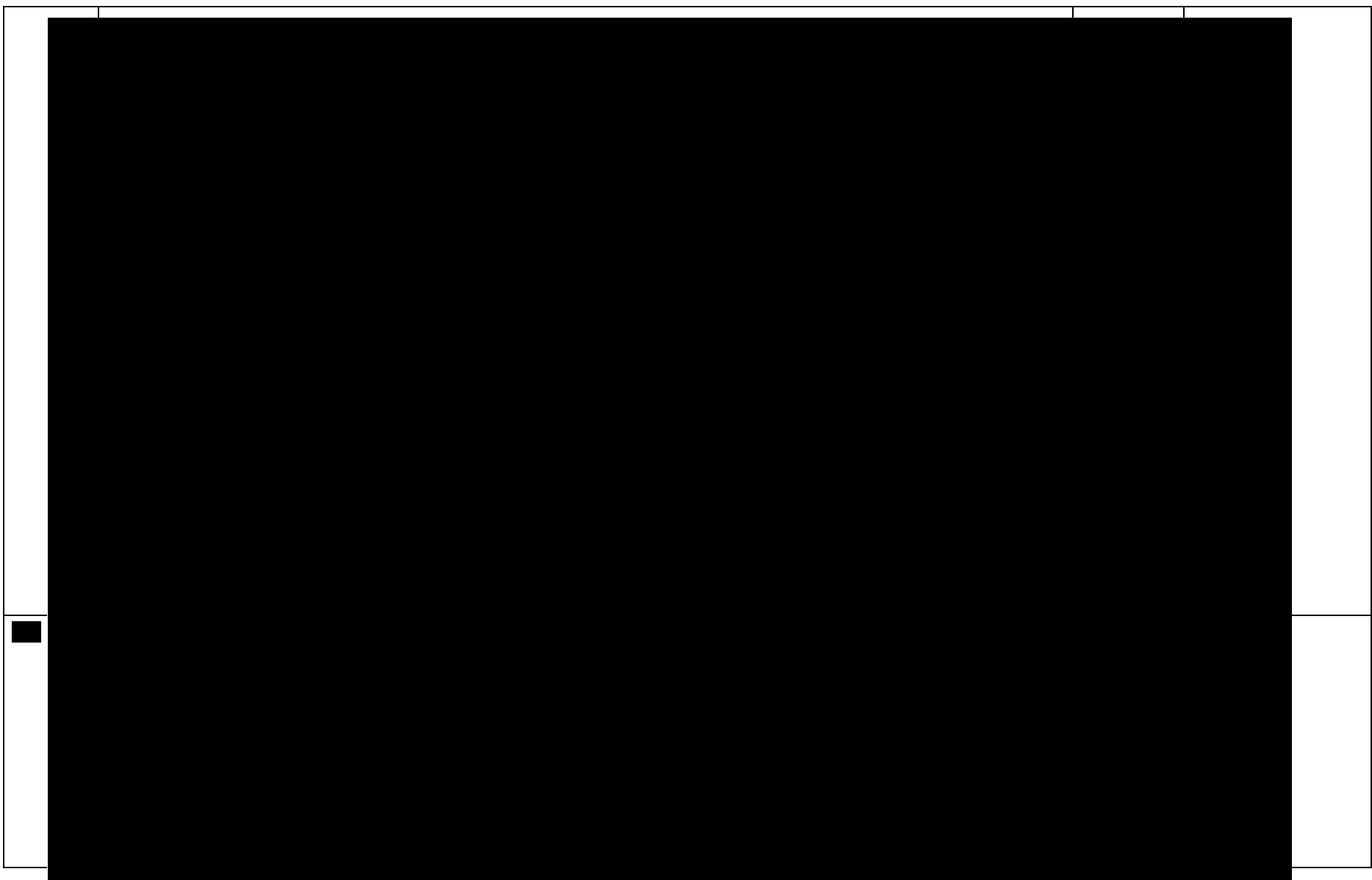












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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

Hoping you all had a peaceful and restful holiday season.

Members of the Dogwood Beyond Gas – Solutions Team have been focused on getting gas out of our schools. Schools in SD61 are significant emitters of GHGs in our municipalities. And emissions from buildings are now under a microscope - with a mandate from the province to eliminate up to 64% of them by 2030.

To this end we have been collaborating with Parents4Climate and youth to see how we might support the acquisition of retrofit funding to support a broad building's decarbonization strategy, not only to do what's required to eliminate emissions, but also to seize the opportunity to build in resiliency.

We now live in a world where heat is a threat to our children. Oil and Gas is responsible for this. For too long we have bought into Energy managers subscriptions that LNG is clean, affordable, and safe. None of that is true. LNG is the primary driver of emissions growth in B.C., and those emissions are what caused the heat dome, the mudslides, the fires and floods, and the destruction of public infrastructure. We must disconnect Fortis from our buildings and from our curriculum and chart a new course with Clean BC electricity from our crown utility, from our building rooftops or both. We can't manage all the threats climate change poses, but we can show our kids that our district will do its part, show them that a fossil fuel free present is possible, keep them safe, and in the long run save money.

For its part Dogwood is taking the following actions

1. Organizing parents and students to meet with MLA's to:
  - a. Educate them about looming emissions reductions targets for buildings and communities, and the capacity for school districts to meet those targets.
  - b. The funding needed to eliminate emissions reduction and keep kids safe.
  - c. The restrictions schools face when considering all the clean energy options available when replacing or retrofitting schools.
2. Entering into a dialogue with B.C. Hydro about eliminating the sizing restrictions on rooftop generation so that schools have the opportunity to consider the costs and benefits of providing their own electricity when a new build or retrofit occurs.
3. Pushing back against dangerous and disingenuous propaganda about 'natural gas' from Fortis, a Newfoundland based fossil fuel provider, which is a member of an alliance of fossil fuel utilities working together to "[fight building electrification.](#)" Remember, Fortis will always put its shareholders first, not our kids.
4. Researching the approach other school districts in B.C. and elsewhere have taken to building electrification



In our last meeting with Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt Metchosin we described the challenge facing districts and communicated the desire of both parents and SD61 to achieve real progress on emissions reductions. For her part she said she would consider our requests. [See notes](#) here for a brief meeting description.

We remain committed to the path of school decarbonization and stand ready to assist and will keep you apprised of our MLA meeting schedule.

With best wishes for a Healthy and Happy the New Year,

Jane Devonshire

Member of Dogwood's Beyond Gas Solutions Team

2021 Recipient of Victoria Honorary Citizen Award

2019 Recipient of Leadership Victoria Award for Healthy Safe Environments

January 12, 2022

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Whiteside:

**Re: Proposed Disposal of public lands adjacent to and including Bowker Creek**

On behalf of the *Friends of Bowker Creek Society* and *Camosun Community Association*, we wish to draw your attention to the Greater Victoria School District's (SD61) proposed disposal of 1.9 acres of public land including part of Bowker Creek (also known as "Thaywun") within the District of Saanich (Attachment 1).

As summarized in our November 24, 2021 letter to SD61 (previously copied to you and attached again for reference), we have serious concerns with SD61's proposal and the credibility of its public process. We understand that any disposal of school lands requires your approval, except those involving another school district or an independent school.

**We request that you and your staff encourage SD61 to engage in a meaningful and transparent process that respects provincial education policies and fully involves and genuinely considers community interests.**

In making this request we would like to emphasize the following concerns:

- **School District 61 appears to be ignoring Ministry of Education Land Disposal policies.**

We note that the [Ministry of Education's School Building Closure and Disposal Policies](#) require that: "*Boards of education must engage in broad consultation and enhanced planning regarding underutilized buildings and other property owned by boards prior to property disposition.*" We also note the requirement that: "*Boards of education must consider potential needs for alternative community use*" and "*must consult with local government, community organizations and the public on alternative community uses.*" As community organizations we have yet to be engaged nor have we received a response to our November 24, 2021 letter.

[Minister's M193/08 Order](#) stipulates that the Minister "*must approve of disposal before SD61 enters into an agreement to sell.*" Your own [Ministry guidance document](#) is very clear on the interpretation of the Order:

**Questions and Answers**

**Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08) • School Building Closure and Disposal Policy**

**12. Is a board of education able to enter into an agreement-to-sell prior to receiving Ministerial approval?**

No. Ministerial approval is required before entering into any such agreements for the sale, exchange or lease of 10 years or more of school property, except where the purchaser is another board of education or an independent school authority.

Please note that SD61 negotiated and signed a *Purchase and Sale Agreement* in September 2021, prior to any ministerial approval, and absent of any discussion of alternative community uses with local governments, community organizations or the public. This appears to be contrary to your Ministry policies,

disrespects the principles of administrative fairness and may constrain you as a decision maker. This also undermines what our educational system stands for and profoundly damages public trust in our institutions.

- **SD61 did not consider the collaborative efforts or recommendations of the Bowker Creek Initiative or its partners.**

The property includes over 180 metres of valuable, publicly-owned Bowker Creek, an urban watercourse that flows through Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay. Please be aware that restoring the creek and watershed have been the long-standing focus of the [Bowker Creek Initiative](#)—a unique collaborative of local government, community groups, and institutions established in 2004. The watershed has been the subject of over 25 years of cooperation and investment including completion of the following detailed assessments and plans:

- [2000 Bowker Creek Watershed Assessment](#)
- [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#)
- [2007 Bowker Creek Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment](#)
- [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan](#)
- [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore Bowker Creek](#)
- [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study](#)

All of the above documents reference the Lansdowne South property, and SD61 specifically endorsed the [Bowker Creek Blueprint](#) vision in 2018. Yet none was considered when SD61 signed its *Purchase and Sale Agreement* in September 2021. The proposal to sell and develop this unique feature undermines the long-standing community efforts to restore the creek and maintain this public asset.

- **Current and future educational and community values have not been adequately considered.**

The disposal and development of this public asset precludes the opportunity to relocate the stream channel along the southwest boundary, as is recommended in the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#) and [2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study](#). The recommendations also provide for enhanced experiential learning opportunities similar to what has been achieved downstream at [Oak Bay High School](#) including opportunities with First Nations to engage in eco-cultural science education like the [Living Lab Project](#).

We also note that Lansdowne School Teaching staff unanimously supported a motion to protect the future of Bowker Creek for students and the community (Attachment 2). Yet none of these interests were considered when SD61 entered into a *Purchase and Sale Agreement* in September 2021.

- **The property has important flood mitigation and climate change adaptation benefits.**

As described in our November 24, 2021 letter, the Bowker Creek watershed including the 1.9-acre parcel are subject to periodic flooding which is projected to increase in the future because of climate change. Hundreds of thousands of dollars (including significant provincial funding) and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer resources have been invested in the Bowker Creek Initiative's [Bowker Creek Blueprint](#) to help address this issue. The associated [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan](#) along with the [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study](#) specifically recommend combining creek restoration and a Stormwater Management Facility to alleviate flooding, erosion, school safety concerns and property damage downstream in Saanich and Oak Bay.

Disposing this public asset for land development undermines these technical recommendations and investments, as well as the principles and goals of the Province's [Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#) and the BC's [Living Water Smart Plan](#) (Attachment 3)—both increasingly important given the unprecedented flooding that occurred in BC last November.

- **SD61's rationale for disposal is based on questionable logic and unreliable enrolment projections.**

SD61's rationale for disposing of the property is based largely on the notion of excessive "acres per student"—that Lansdowne School has "surplus" greenspace that should be sold. Yet provincial Land Disposal policy indicates that "*only in exceptional circumstances should a board consider permanently disposing of school property*". We do not find the circumstances "*exceptional*"; on the contrary we find it short-sighted to sell an *exceptional* and rare section of Bowker Creek and the adjacent public land.

We also note the property is located less than 500 metres from Hillside Centre and the Shelbourne Corridor, and only 400 metres from the Jubilee Hospital precinct, both identified as 'Regional Growth Nodes' in the CRD's updated [2018 Regional Growth Strategy](#) as well as in Saanich and Victoria Official Community Plans. These strategies along with recent findings of the Province's [Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability](#) project strong population growth and densification in the Capital Region over the next 20 years (Attachment 4).

- **Minister's Mandate Letter and the urgency of preparing for climate impacts.**

We note the emphasis in your [current Mandate Letter](#) on climate change mitigation and adaptation including "*protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts*". We also note the emphasis on "*giving students safe, accessible playgrounds*". Selling this public asset further constrains the watercourse and works against these objectives and the [Premier's direction](#) that "*the scale of the climate emergency demands that we act with even greater urgency than ever before*" and his call to building "*a stronger, more resilient B.C. for everyone*".

In closing, we do not believe that SD61's hasty disposal process is consistent with provincial education, climate and water policies. It also undermines community efforts to restore Bowker Creek, create an incredible teaching and experiential resource and enrich the local community. **We urge you to encourage SD61 to engage in a meaningful and transparent process that respects provincial education policies and fully involves and genuinely considers community interests.**

We would be pleased to further discuss our concerns with you or your staff.

Respectfully yours,



Soren Henrich  
Chair, Friends of Bowker Creek Society



Lisa Timmons  
President, Camosun Community Association

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – Location Map
- Attachment 2 – Lansdowne teachers resolution
- Attachment 3 – Provincial climate and water policies
- Attachment 4 – Housing supply and population projections

cc: Chair Ryan Painter and Board of Trustees, Greater Victoria School District #61  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Honourable Murray Rankin, MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head  
Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA, Victoria-Hillside

Chief Ronald Sam and Council, Songhees Nation  
Mayor and Council, District of Saanich  
Mayor and Council, City of Victoria  
Mayor and Council, District of Oak Bay  
Chris Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, Ministry of Education  
John Woycheshin, Regional Director, Capital Projects, Programs & Finance Unit  
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering, District of Saanich  
Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning, District of Saanich  
Lindsey McCrank, Coordinator, Bowker Creek Watershed Renewal Initiative  
Community Associations within the Bowker Creek Watershed  
Angela Carmichael, Chair, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils  
Kevin Harter, Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Hospice Society



**Attachment 1: Location map**



**Resolution from Lansdowne Middle School Teaching Staff re: Bowker Creek**

***WHEREAS the proposed sale of the School District property directly across Bowker Creek from the Lansdowne South campus has the potential to lead to development that could affect the health, planned rehabilitation and restoration of Bowker Creek; and***

***WHEREAS Bowker Creek (“Thaywun” in Lekwungen) is one of the very few urban streams in Greater Victoria, and represents an incredible teaching and experiential resource to both enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and those of other area schools, and increase their understanding of and connection to the natural environment literally in their backyards;***

***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the teaching staff of Lansdowne Middle School requests the opportunity for the teachers, students and staff of our school to have meaningful input into the conditions to be placed on the sale of the aforementioned property in order to protect the future of that portion of Bowker Creek that flows along the Lansdowne South school grounds for our students and community.***

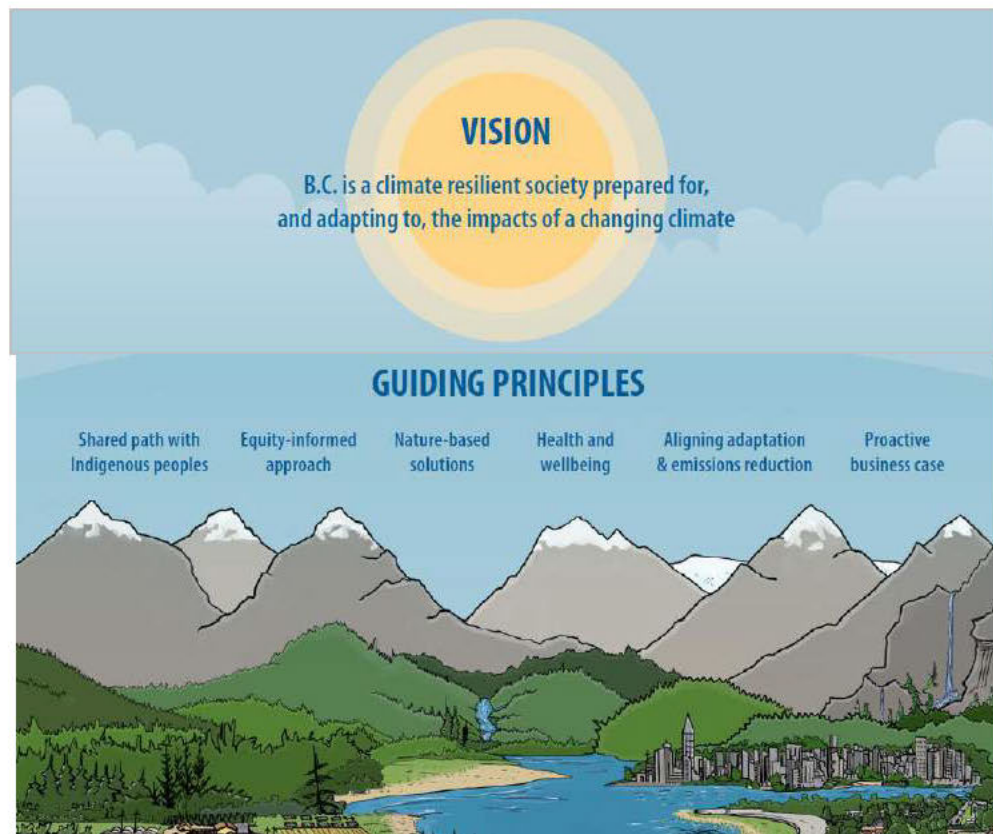
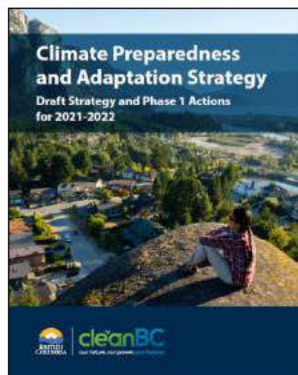
Motion passed unanimously by Lansdowne Middle School Teaching Staff.

December 13, 2021

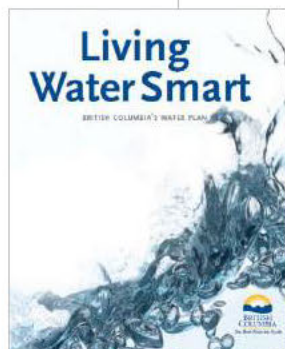


## ATTACHMENT 3: Provincial climate preparedness and water strategies

### BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (2021)



### BC's Living Water Smart Plan (2008)



## rivers need room to meander



**Flood Seasons** will always be characteristic of our province's climate and geography. High waters are essential to a healthy ecosystem; they help rebuild soils, maintain wildlife habitat, and restore groundwater supplies.

To help communities respond to floods, government continues to support the development of Emergency Management Plans.

*Living Water Smart* concentrates on reducing human and property damage during floods.

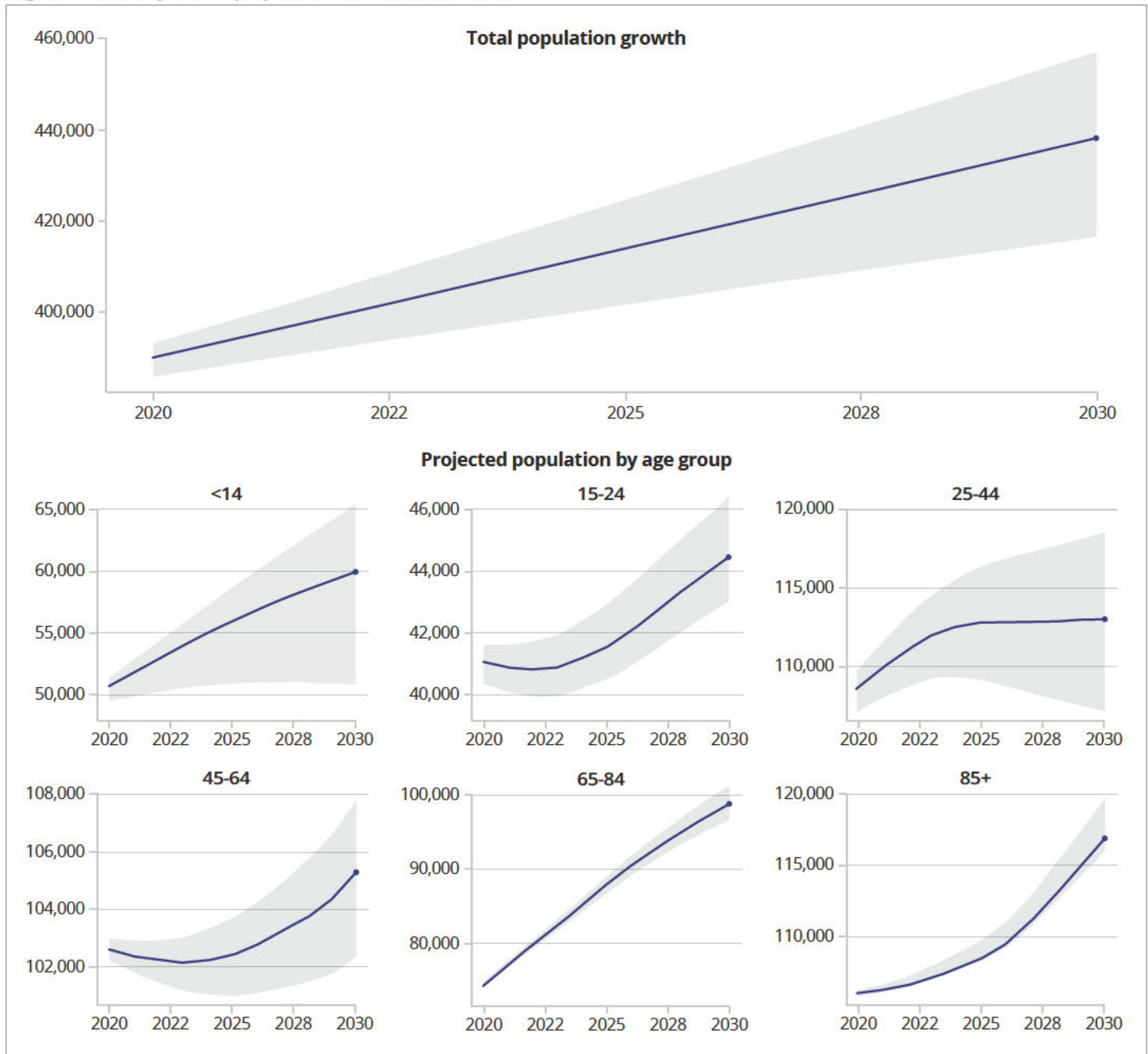
Concentrating on floodplain management and structural flood protection will decrease spending on emergency response and reduce damage in the long term. New design standards for buildings in flood-prone areas and flood protection infrastructure will be developed that reflect increasing flood risk. Effective ways of helping communities better manage the risk of more frequent floods include:

- avoiding building in flood prone areas,
- allowing room for rivers to meander,
- improving flood protection infrastructure, and
- adopting flood proofing measures.



## Victoria CMA

Figure 29: Projected population, Victoria CMA



Source: StatCan, CMHC

Like the Vancouver CMA, the Victoria CMA's population has increased steadily since 2011, posting growth of 16% overall. As in Metro Vancouver, population growth was also mainly observed in the 20 to 35 and 55 and over age groups. Growth has stemmed solely from in-migration (both international and domestic). At 12%, the Victoria CMA's population growth

to 2030 is projected to be lower than the Vancouver CMA's, according to Statistics Canada's baseline scenario. By 2030, the Victoria CMA's population is predicted to approach 440,000 people. The 65+ age group will post the strongest growth rate, and make up 26% of this region's population by 2030.

November 24th, 2021

Chair Ryan Painter and Board of Education  
Greater Victoria School District No. 61  
556 Boleskine Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8



Dear Chair Painter and Board Trustees:

**Re: Proposed Land Disposal at Lansdowne South (former Richmond School)**

The *Friends of Bowker Creek Society* (FOBCS) and *Camosun Community Association* (CCA) understand that School District 61 (SD61) has entered into a *Purchase and Sale Agreement* involving 1.9 acres of public land immediately west of, and including Bowker Creek. Members of our Society and Association attended the District's November 3, 2021 [online "Question/Answer" Session](#) and were disappointed by the complete absence of meaningful dialogue.

Many questions from the public went unanswered or were answered incorrectly and the Question/Answer session was abruptly cut off because of SD61 time limitations. There was no mention of Bowker Creek anywhere on your consultation website. We find this especially troubling given that SD61 specifically endorsed the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision](#) and has been fully aware of and involved in the [Bowker Creek Initiative](#) (BCI) for many years.

Bowker Creek is a key form-maker of the site, yet basic information about the creek, the [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#), the [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage](#), the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#), the [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Study](#), or Saanich's [Streamside Development Permit Area](#) were ignored or avoided in your staff presentation.

**We request that you delay your decision to sell this property, slow down this process and genuinely engage with the community and other Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) partners on the future of this property.**

In addition we also have the following concerns and questions:

- **SD61 endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint in March 2018**  
SD61 participated in the development of the [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#), endorsed the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision](#) in March 2018 and has been aware of the BCI and community's interest in this property for well over a decade. Why were the FOBCS, CCA and other BCI partners not consulted before SD61 entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?
- **Bowker Creek is central to the property and community**  
The Lansdowne South (former Richmond School) property includes over 120 metres of valuable unculverted Bowker Creek channel and is one of the largest undeveloped open spaces along Bowker Creek. This reach currently enjoys public ownership on both banks – a very rare feature. Disposing of the property serves to further fragment ownership of the stream bed and riparian areas and unnecessarily complicate future restoration opportunities. How have these factors been considered in your decision to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?

- **Flooding and the broad public benefits of flood mitigation**

The property has been subject to flooding in the past and the BCI's [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan](#) projects flooding will continue in the future, particularly in the face of climate change (Attachment 1). In addition, the [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study](#) and the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#) identify the parcel as a candidate area for a Stormwater Management Facility to alleviate flooding, erosion, safety concerns and property damage downstream. At the November 3 Question/Answer session, senior staff seemed completely unaware of these issues. How did SD61 consider this information when negotiating its Purchase and Sale Agreement? Given the importance of this property to flood mitigation, has SD61 consulted with local governments including the downstream municipalities of Oak Bay and Victoria?

- **Current and future educational values**

Reconfiguring and restoring the creek as recommended in the 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint and 2020 Daylighting Study can contribute to enhanced student learning similar to what has been achieved at Oak Bay High School. The recommendations also provide the ability to configure safe and functional sports facilities for students by relocating the stream channel along the southwest boundary (Attachment 2). In addition, a restoration partnership has the potential to not only attract hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for climate adaptation work but also presents opportunities with First Nations to engage in ecocultural science education like the [Living Lab Project](#). Subdividing the property at the creek will constrain future opportunities for restoration and creek realignment that could substantially enrich the learning environment SD61, while integrating basic sports facilities, stormwater detention and community greenways. How have future educational values and facilities at the school been considered? How has the teaching staff at Lansdowne Middle School been involved in these decisions?

- **Community planning considerations**

According to local government community plans, the immediate neighbourhoods in both Saanich and Victoria do not meet community Open Space Standards and the current deficiency is being further exacerbated by SD61's recent land disposal at Lansdowne North. In addition, Saanich's 1998 [Shelbourne Local Area Plan](#) has identified the area as "Proposed Park" (Attachment 3). How did you engage with Saanich and Victoria prior to entering into a Purchase and Sale Agreement and how were community plans considered? Why were the FOBCS and area community associations not consulted?

- **Climate Change Emergency**

A central focus of the 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint, the 2007 Master Drainage Plan and the 2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study is climate change adaptation to address flooding, erosion, property damage and safety. The record-breaking rainfalls and flooding experienced last week in southern BC underscores the critical importance of public agency collaboration in achieving climate change goals. The proposed Stormwater Management Facility recommended for the site in the 2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study is a direct response to these broad public interests and provincial priorities. We note that [SD61 declared a Climate Emergency in 2019](#) (Attachment 4), committed to developing a Climate Action Plan and acknowledged that "*The children are the future, and we should be doing everything we can to ensure they have one to look forward to*". Did SD61 consider its climate change commitments and provincial climate adaptation goals when it negotiated its Purchase and Sale Agreement?

- **Regional greenway opportunities**

The property currently includes a 7-metre-wide statutory Right-of-Way in favour of Saanich to the east of Bowker Creek for the purposes of pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle access. This was not acknowledged during SD61's November 3, 2021 Question/Answer session. If SD61 disposes of the property to the west of the creek, how does it propose to configure this publicly-accessible Right-of-Way and accommodate and integrate the minimum 10-metre-wide Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), with school and community activities on the remaining property?

- **Previous attempts to dispose the property**

You should be aware that SD61 previously attempted to sell the entire Richmond School property in January 2007 on the basis that the land *"was surplus to its projected future needs"*. The proposal generated several hundred pages of community input, a public survey and two community workshops. The local community clearly expressed its desire that the land be retained for future school and community use. How did this input inform your current consultation efforts and how did it factor into negotiations of the Purchase and Sale Agreement? We note that contrary to previous projections, the school is no longer "surplus to future needs" as previously stated.

- **Ministry of Education Land Disposal Policies**

We note that the [Ministry of Education's School Building Closure and Disposal Policies](#) require that *"Boards of education must consider potential needs for alternative community use"* and *"must consult with local government, community organizations and the public on alternative community uses"*. We also note the requirement for *"Broad Consultation"* and the [Minister's M193/08 Order](#) that the Minister *"must approve of disposal before SD61 enters into an agreement to sell."* We note that the Board indicates in its [Consultation Policy](#) that it *"values attitudes and practices that encourage integrity, respect and trust in all relationships."* Why is School District 61 fast-tracking this process and marginalizing the participation of community interests? Once again, a 45-min online Question/Answer session is completely inadequate.

- **School enrolment projections**

SD61 Staff's rationale for disposing of the property is based largely on the short-sighted notion of excessive "acres per student". We note the property is located less than 500 metres from Hillside Centre and the Shelbourne Corridor, and only 400 metres from the Jubilee Hospital precinct, both identified as 'Regional Growth Nodes' in the CRD's updated [2018 Regional Growth Strategy](#) (Attachment 5) and in Saanich and Victoria Official Community Plans. How have increasing density and infill been considered in SD61's projections? We again point out that SD61's efforts in 2007 to sell the property were based on a similar "surplus-to-future-needs" assessment. How can the public be confident in SD61's projections given that SD61's previous projections have clearly proven to be incorrect?

- **Previous public investments**

Hundreds of thousands of dollars of public funding and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time has been invested over the past 20 years to improve management of Bowker Creek. For example, SD61 has directly benefited through a \$738,000 federal grant leveraged by the BCI for [creek restoration at Oak Bay High School](#), resulting in improved safety and an outstanding educational feature. All these investments have required the cooperation, commitment and leadership of elected officials, public agency staff and volunteers. How were these previous investments and long-standing relationships considered in SD61's decision to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?



In closing, **we urge you to slow down this process and engage in a meaningful and transparent process that fully involves and genuinely considers community interests.** We acknowledge the fiscal pressures that you currently face and would like to work with you, local and senior governments, and other community partners to explore potential options that optimize overall public benefits of this site. We also request an opportunity to meet and engage in open dialogue with Board Trustees and staff to exchange perspectives on the future of this important property.

Respectfully yours,



Soren Henrich  
Chair, Friends of Bowker Creek Society



Lisa Timmons  
President, Camosun Community Association

**APPENDICES:**

- Attachment 1 - Flooding extent map of SD61 Richmond School property
- Attachment 2 - Concept plans for restoration of Bowker Creek at Richmond School
- Attachment 3 - Shelbourne Local Area Plan (page 27), District of Saanich
- Attachment 4 - Board of Education Climate Action Declaration
- Attachment 5 - CRD Growth Nodes, Regional Growth Strategy (2018)

cc:

**School District 61**

Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent, Greater Victoria School District  
Carter Giesbrecht, Principal, Lansdowne Middle School, Greater Victoria School District  
Alissa Moore, Vice Principal, Lansdowne Middle School South, Greater Victoria School District

**Local government**

Mayor and Council, District of Saanich  
Mayor and Council, City of Victoria  
Mayor and Council District of Oak Bay  
Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, Capital Regional District  
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering, District of Saanich  
Philip Bellefontaine, Director of Engineering and Public Works, City of Victoria  
Dan Horan, Director of Engineering and Public Works, District of Oak Bay

**Province of BC**

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education  
Honourable Murray Rankin, MLA, Oak Bay Gordon Head  
Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

**First Nations**

Chief Ronald Sam and Council, Songhees Nation

**Bowker Creek Initiative**

Jennifer Tyler, Chair, Bowker Creek Initiative  
Lindsey McCrank, Coordinator, Bowker Creek Initiative

**Victoria Hospice Society**

Kevin Harter, Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Hospice Society

**Other**

Angela Carmichael, Chair, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

Winona Waldron, President, Greater Victoria Teachers Association

Community Associations in the Bowker Creek Watershed

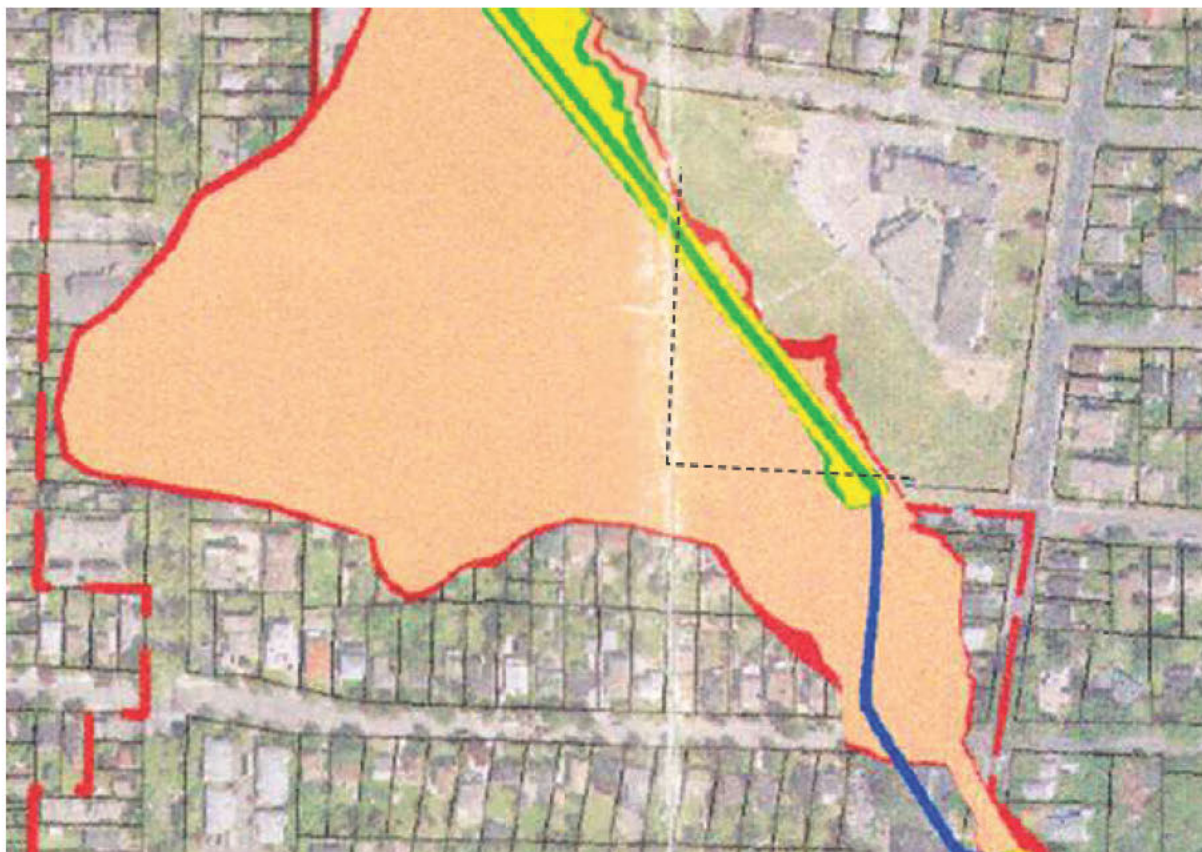
## ATTACHMENT 1: Flooding extent map of SD61 Richmond School property

(Information excerpted from [Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan – Final Report, Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. 2007](#))

### DESCRIPTION

Scenario 1: This scenario reflects existing land-use conditions and existing hydraulics.

**Newton Storm Drain and Upstream Channel** – The storm drain from Newton to Richmond does not have adequate capacity for the 100-year storm event and overland flow occurs. Furthermore, the properties near Pearl are relatively low and as a result of limited storm drain and channel capacity flooding occurs.



### RICHMOND ELEMENTARY

Widen this open channel section to have a base width of 4.0 m and side slopes of 1.5 to 1.0. Potentially, the triangular piece of property to the west of the existing creek alignment could be used to meander the creek through this section.”



## ATTACHMENT 2: Concept plans for restoration of Bowker Creek at Richmond School



Source: 2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study



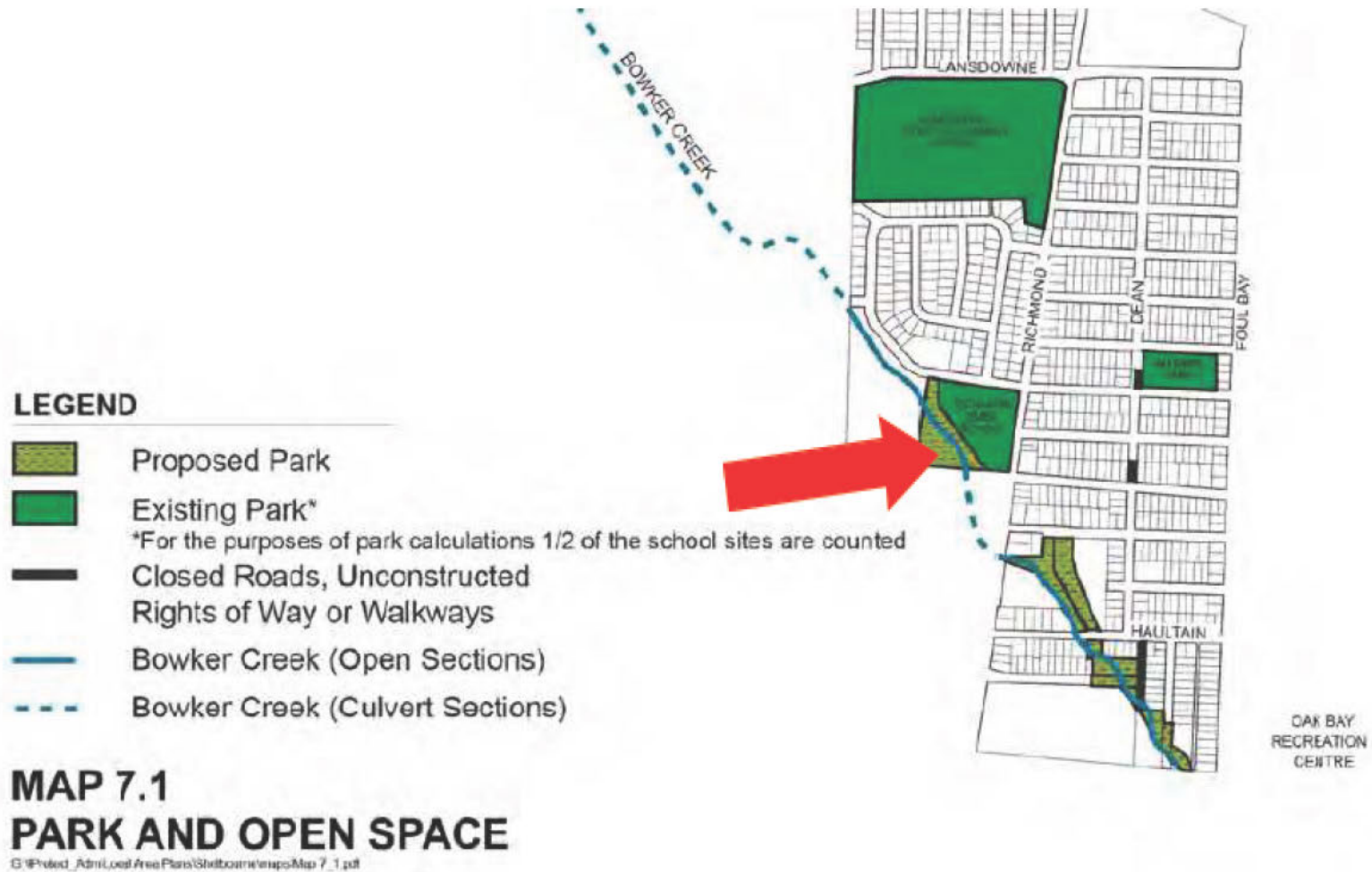
Source: 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed

### Key concepts and benefits

- Move the creek channel west
- Create safe, sloping creek banks
- Enhanced education - outdoor classroom
- More flexible for current and future school uses
- Better able to configure sports facilities (e.g., playing field)
- Native vegetation, habitat restoration and biodiversity
- Create Stormwater Management Facility to mitigate flooding
- Community Greenway for Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School route



**ATTACHMENT 3:** Shelbourne Local Area Plan (page 27), District of Saanich (1998)



## ATTACHMENT 4: Board of Education Climate Emergency Declaration



# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

### **A Message from the Greater Victoria School Board Chair:**

Young people around the globe are calling on all levels of governments to take decisive action on climate change. This should not surprise us, after all, it is their future that hangs in the balance.

Public education is tasked with preparing children for their future, and in so doing we must consider what future awaits them. The Greater Victoria School District declared a Climate Emergency this past June. We recognize that the breakdown of the stable climate and sea level under which human life has developed constitutes an emergency, and we are developing a Climate Action Plan that establishes targets and strategies in alignment with the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

Our Board of Education is urging other school districts to take similar steps and we are calling on the provincial government to support these efforts with resources. We need leadership at all levels to be working on solutions commensurate with the seriousness of the problem.

Despite the scientific consensus that our climate is rapidly changing due to human activities, there continues to be both a lack of understanding of the phenomena and its potential impacts. The science is complex, and many people face barriers to engaging with the facts. Dread and grief permeate discussions, and while it is tempting to look away we must instead be spurred to action.

Public education has an important role to play in supporting climate literacy in our communities. We need all citizens to have a basic understanding of the relationship between human life and Earth's climate system including the role climate plays in human and environmental health as well as social and economic stability.

While climate change is not always explicit as a core concept in BC's redesigned curriculum, teachers across all disciplines and grade levels are taking the initiative to build environmental education into their lessons. From daily weather logs in kindergarten

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community



classrooms, to middle school stream-keepers and poets, all the way through to complex computer modeling of climate systems in specialized high

school courses – there is a focus on ensuring students understand the scientific principles of climate and have the opportunity to explore what climate means for their world and their future.

Communities who understand climate science will be better prepared to respond and adapt to the challenges ahead. And we must be clear—there are challenges ahead.

In the face of these challenges, youth in Victoria, like youth across the country, are both frustrated and confused by the lack of urgency they see from the adults around them. This week's youth-led Climate Strike is evidence of their impatience.

Life, as we know it on Earth, is changing and as the window for action closes, the grown-ups seem to be carrying on as if its business as usual. The Climate Strike is a global effort by young people around the world to snap us out of our inaction.

Led by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg who is capturing headlines around the world, youth are finding their voice on this issue. Locally we have many bright and passionate young activists stepping up to organize and inspire their peers.

With the support of their parents and teachers, these remarkable young people are leading the way. They demand emergency action to avoid climate breakdown. They demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. They demand respect for Indigenous rights.

We would be foolish to dismiss these demands. The children are the future, and we should be doing everything we can to ensure they have one to look forward to.

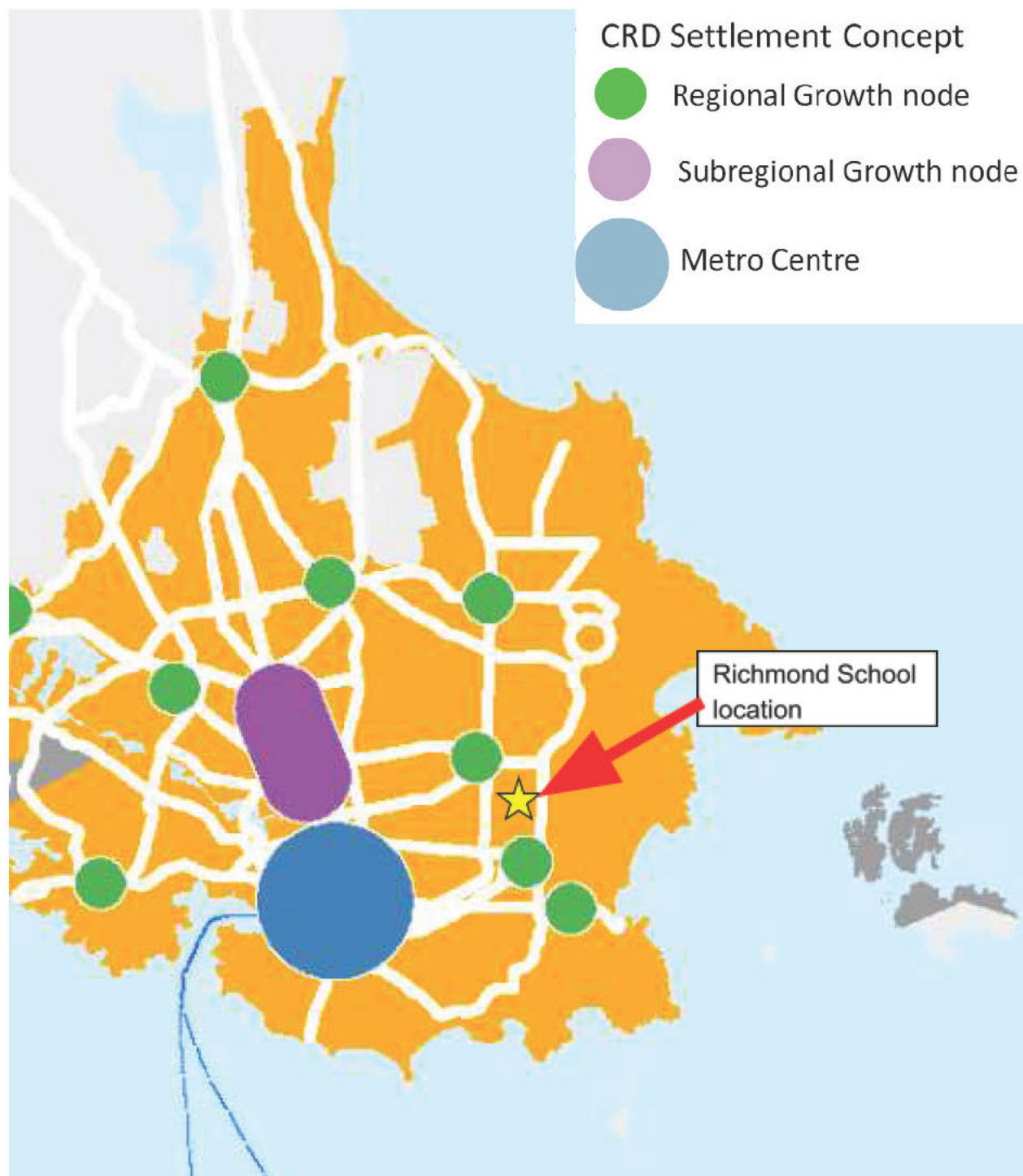
Yours sincerely,



Jordan Watters  
Chair, Board of Education



**ATTACHMENT 5:** CRD Growth Nodes, Regional Growth Strategy (2018)



Richmond School is situated within a rapidly densifying part of Greater Victoria and located ~400-500 metres from the Hillside Centre Growth Node and Jubilee precinct Growth Node.

**From:** [ANDREA GLEICHAUF](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Camosun Community Association](#); [FoBC](#); [mayor@saanich.ca](mailto:mayor@saanich.ca); [council@saanich.ca](mailto:council@saanich.ca)  
**Subject:** 22/ Nov board presentation notes/ land disposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:38:03 AM

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Dear Trustees,

Nov/23/2021

Here is the transcript of my presentation at last nights 22/ Nov sd 61 board meeting.

-

SD 61 RICHMOND SCHOOL/ LANDSDOWNE SOUTH PROPOSED SALE ( Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting presentation)

My name is Andrea Gleichauf, I live in the Shelbourn Valley. I'm a retired respiratory therapist. I used walk across the Landsdowne North and then Landsdowne South campuses to go to work at the RJH

I formerly sat on the BCI steering committee as a community volunteer.

I presently sit on the board of the Camosun Community Association (CCA), but I am speaking on my own behalf. I feel the CCA does not have enough info to provide the public to truly gauge the support for or against this sale.

I attended Jody Watson's presentation of the Blue Print in 2018 to the SD 61 board. I was heartened by the enthusiasm and subsequent unanimous support of the Blue print by the board

So I was gobsmacked when I read of the conditional sales agreement with the hospice society with nary a word to the CCA.

In 2007, SD 61 placed the entire Richmond School property on the market as surplus to need. Due significant public community lobbying and opposition the property was taken off the market and remains in public hands. Now the former Richmond elementary school has become the Landsdown South Middle school. How can you be sure that your prediction that part of the property is surplus to need and is not needed in the future?

In 1998 the Shelbourne Local Area plan identifies the neighborhood as deficient in public green space, which did not meet the standard for community open space. It also includes a map by Saanich that shows the triangle as proposed park. This deficiency has been further increased by the recent sale of 7.3 acres on the Landsdowne north campus.

The ongoing and predicted densification of the neighborhood in Saanich and

Victoria will further decrease the ration of public green space to citizens.

There is 120 m of unculverted creek with both sides of the creek in public hand. This is one of the largest pieces of public land that Bowker creek runs through. Selling the triangle to the Hospice society, essentially a private entity would take the land out of the publics' hands. This would unnecessarily complicate future restoration of the creek.

There is also a 7.3 m statutory right of way in favor of Saanich on the east of the creek for a future multi use green way.

If SD61 disposes of the property to the west of the creek, how does it propose to configure this publicly- accessible Right-of-Way and accommodate and integrate the minimum 10-metre-wide Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), with school and community activities on the remaining property?

Hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time have been spend on improving the health of the creek. The public has clearly shown there is significant interest in a health green/blue space around the creek. SD 61 has been a stakeholder in this process. Yet the proposed sale seems to ignore years of work by the other stakeholders.

In conclusion I'd like to ask, please consider the needs of the creek and the need of the neighborhood for public green space. Something that will get more and more precious with densification. They don't make any more public green space.

Just to clarify, the money of the proposed sale will go towards the upgrade of Cedar Hill middle school. The Ministry is only partially funding the project. The money is needed not because there is a mandate to build to a higher standard, but because SD 61 decided to build to a higher standard. So this is a want have, not a must have ? Do I understand this correctly? I'm of course in favor of a better school building, but not at the cost of loosing precious public green space.

Best regards, Andrea Gleichauf

---

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** ANDREA GLEICHAUF

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:38 AM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Camosun Community Association <CamosunCA@gmail.com>; FoBC <friendsofbowkercreek@gmail.com>; mayor@saanich.ca; council@saanich.ca

**Subject:** 22/ Nov board presentation notes/ land disposal

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

Dear Trustees,

Nov/23/2021

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In 2007, SD 61 placed the entire Richmond School property on the market as surplus to need. Due significant public community lobbying and opposition the property was taken off the market and remains in public hands. Now the former Richmond elementary school has become the Landsdown South Middle school. How can you be sure that your prediction that part of the property is surplus to need and is not needed in the future?

In 1998 the Shelbourne Local Area plan identifies the neighborhood as deficient in public green space, which did not meet the standard for community open space. It also includes a map by Saanich that shows the triangle as proposed park. This deficiency has been further increased by the recent sale of 7.3 acres on the Landsdowne north campus.

The ongoing and predicted densification of the neighborhood in Saanich and Victoria will further decrease the ration of public green space to citizens.

There is 120 m of unculverted creek with both sides of the creek in public hand. This is one of the largest pieces of public land that Bowker creek runs through. Selling the triangle to the Hospice



society, essentially a private entity would take the land out of the public's hands. This would unnecessarily complicate future restoration of the creek.

There is also a 7.3 m statutory right of way in favor of Saanich on the east of the creek for a future multi use green way.

If SD61 disposes of the property to the west of the creek, how does it propose to configure this publicly- accessible Right-of-Way and accommodate and integrate the minimum 10-metre-wide Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), with school and community activities on the remaining property?

Hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time have been spent on improving the health of the creek. The public has clearly shown there is significant interest in a healthy green/blue space around the creek. SD 61 has been a stakeholder in this process. Yet the proposed sale seems to ignore years of work by the other stakeholders.

In conclusion I'd like to ask, please consider the needs of the creek and the need of the neighborhood for public green space. Something that will get more and more precious with densification. They don't make any more public green space.

Just to clarify, the money of the proposed sale will go towards the upgrade of Cedar Hill middle school. The Ministry is only partially funding the project. The money is needed not because there is a mandate to build to a higher standard, but because SD 61 decided to build to a higher standard. So this is a want have, not a must have ? Do I understand this correctly? I'm of course in favor of a better school building, but not at the cost of losing precious public green space.

Best regards, Andrea Gleichauf

School District 61  
Nov, 24, 2021

Dear School Trustees,

If you are a new Trustee and not familiar with our community (not around when Richmond School, now Lansdowne South Campus which was nearly sold in 2007), you and your colleagues might want to think carefully about selling its sister property across the creek, as this would be an even bigger mistake for the community and the region!

Had you listened in to the one hour Zoom Q and A Meeting held a couple of weeks ago, you would have heard a lot of questions from those attending in the 45m minutes allocated, but few answers from staff. Not only did the more than 30 persons question the wisdom of selling this property, but also the haste and the manner by which this sale is being conducted. Not knowing that there was a regional plan in place to protect these lands from development (the Bowker Creek Blueprint) and that SD 61 was a signatory to this plan and now was breaking ranks with all other governing agencies and public organizations endorsing its guiding principles, provided a clue to staff's inability if not enthusiasm in answering questions. I hope it will not be necessary to go through such a process again and that Trustees will see the benefits of keeping this land as is.

The benefits of keeping this riparian property undeveloped and in public hands are spelled out comprehensively in this **Blueprint**. **The concept presented below** shows what might be achieved if the objectives and policies of this regional watershed plan were followed for this stretch of Bowker Creek. And what might be lost for all time if any buildings were attempted built here.



**This concept** of mine focuses on the future value this public land has for mitigating if not preventing downstream flash flooding, then adds to this value related environmental, educational and recreational benefits

for our community and region. Not following this Blueprint and selling off this land would be unfortunate as the community and region would forego the following potential opportunities and benefits:

**Downstream flooding and damage arising** could be minimized by slowing down waters in times of peak flooding (which most experts agree will become more frequent and severe): This could be done by constructing a secondary “bypass” channel for the creek. This channel could for example, incorporate a year around pond together with surrounding wetlands and a floodplain focusing on the west side of the creek to mitigate flash floods. These works would necessitate the construction of a weir at **B** and diversionary control gates at **A** as well as at **B** so as to maintain the water levels and flows required in each channel.

**Habitat Restoration:** These wetlands created, such as the year-around lagoon and marsh habitat for example, could harbour fisheries, waterfowl and other wildlife which were once present along this creek. A mini “urban forest” developed on the higher ground around the periphery of this property could support a wider diversity of wildlife as well as help stabilize the water courses. The overall aim would be to restore the natural habitat and health of this riparian parcel of land so that in addition to achieving flood control, the mix of forest and water habitat created would enable the reintroduction of fisheries as well as other wildlife, creating a semblance of what was there before we came.

**Environmental Education:** For students (both young and old) these fragile riparian lands and the new life that it could support could serve as a living classroom, fostering a respect and caring for the environment not otherwise possible for this section of the creek – and perhaps serve as a model for how this creek might be treated elsewhere along its length. For example a **Nature Centre** at **C**, with a lookout over the pond could be the focus of nature interpretation and outdoor classes for young and old. These and other such creative initiatives could make the School District and many others in our community proud as well as more sensitive to our natural surroundings.

**Recreation:** This land already provides valuable open space for the community as well as an important walking connection with Spirit Park and the Hydro park lands adjacent. As many more people will be expected to live in this vicinity of the creek, (designated a major growth area for Saanich) it is even more essential that these water-fronting lands be protected for the many more who will come to live here, so that they too might continue to enjoy some relief from the growing congestion- as well as some connection with nature!

It should be noted that this “**Bowker Creek Blueprint**” is officially supported by the CRD, City of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich, and U. Vic. as well as all eight Community Associations, School District 61, and of course the Friends of Bowker Creek who were instrumental in its creation and passage.

Al Lubkowski,  
retired Town Planner, resident of Saanich and familiar with the creek

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Quayle

Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 11:47 AM

To: Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: Bowker Creek Blueprint

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Please recall your commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint before selling the Richmond Property.

At bare minimum, please consider extending the consultation period.

Please also bear in mind that massive precipitation events like what we saw last week will become more frequent and severe shortly. The presence of the Richmond land as a flood buffer is valuable, and development there would not only be a loss of potential for ecological restoration but also be an early victim of increased flooding.

Thanks

-Spencer (SD61 grad 2017)

-----Original Message-----

From: DAVE-HEATHER CLARK-GRAMPP

Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: Bowser Creek -Potential sale of school district lands

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Honoured trustees:

Although I currently reside a few hundred metres from the Bowker Creek watershed, I schooled at Saint Patrick's and Oak Bay Junior where I had weekly interaction with the creek and its adjacent riparian areas.

We were members of the 'RiverRats' club, steeling ourselves to 'follow the leader'. In smaller groups we watched the seasonal cycles of riparian life. Our education included recess and lunch hours outdoors. We grew up as naturalists, biologists, artists, medical professionals. That was more than 50 years ago, but that kind of opportunity is even more precious today.

The current and potential ecosystem services that these riparian lands engender are a public good that benefits the larger community.

Please, too, give due consideration to the educational value of any such lands in your deliberations regarding potential property sales.

Kind regards,  
Dave Clark, P. Ag., RPF(ret)

**From:** Graham Watt

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 10:55 PM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Bowker Creek / South Campus Landsdowne Middle School land disposal

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Good evening,

As a former resident of the Bowker Creek watershed (and student of OBHS), and practicing land use and flood mitigation planning professional in BC, I have been following the work of the Bowker Creek Initiative with keen interest. Having supported response to major flooding in my community, and through coordinating a major land buyout to restore a floodplain area, I know the importance of maintaining streamshore and floodplain land in the public trust.

With that in mind, I would like to recommend extending the public feedback period beyond today, and undertake broad public and stakeholder consultation, including with community associations, Friends of Bowker Creek, and Victoria and Oak Bay. Please visit the site and consider it's context in the Bowker Creek Blueprint, in particular its potential to support natural infrastructure and climate adaptation while creating educational opportunities for future stewards.

Thanks for your consideration

Graham Watt

**From:** Richard Garvey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** considerations for SD61 proposed land disposal

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Hello.

Please be aware of my concerns as a member of The Friends of Bowker Creek with regards to the new

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Richard Garvey

**From:** Marion Cumming  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** FoBC <friendsofbowkercreek@gmail.com>;  
**Subject:** Proposed Land Disposal

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Dear Trustees, With apologies for my belated request, I suddenly realised that your deadline is today!

There are ongoing concerns that are important to address wisely.

Please be mindful of obligations to acknowledge the importance of safeguarding the Bowker Creek Watershed. This is NOT "surplus land"! The WSANEC, Songhees and Esquimalt Nations should be respectfully included, honouring their forebears who cared for that land over time immemorial. As a retired teacher, I hope that the trustees are mindful of education-related needs that arise over the generations.

I'm thankful that needs associated with Hospice are being addressed, and trust that Indigenous cultural and spiritual end-of-life sensibilities are included in the spirit of Reconciliation.

Kindly allow for more comprehensive and inclusive consultation.

With gratitude for your diligence, Marion Cumming  
PS Just today I learned that Kings Park is to be protected in perpetuity after years of collaborative effort!



**From:** Nigel Lomas

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 1:15 PM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Greater Victoria School District potential sale 1.9 acres of land - Lansdowne Middle School

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School District Trustees,

I am in support of repurposing the 1.9 acres of land adjacent to Bowker Creek at "Lansdowne Middle School" **as long as** considerations outlined by the Friends of Bowker Creek are followed up on.

The "Engagement Time" provided by the School District is not realistic and provides inadequate time to ensure that the process includes the necessary input. Important considerations, as provided by the Friends of Bowker Creek, must include access for maintenance and repair to the stream and establishment and protection of a riparian area. Securing a well designed public pathway along the stream will allow for educational and environmental benefits. The District of Saanich have been excellent partners regarding Bowker Creek and will be desirous of adequate input to ensure that the proposed sale and use of the land addresses all of the environmental issues, including both local and downstream flooding concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Nigel T Lomas

**From:** Ken Whitcroft

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 12:15 PM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** proposed land disposal at Richmond School / Lansdowne South Middle School campus

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Please consider the following important comments.

Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;

Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;

consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation; open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;

visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Our watershed health everywhere on this planet is extremely critical to all living things.

Thank you for your consideration in the health of this planet for future generations.

Ken Whitcroft

**From:** [Al & Irene Rathbone](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** proposed land disposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 10:54:39 AM

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Dear TRUSTees,

I join with others in expressing my concern regarding the proposed sale of community/district held property alongside Bowker Creek. I ask the following:

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. **the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;**
4. **consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;**
5. **open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;**
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Sincerely,

Al Rathbone  
Victoria

**From:** Patricia Lane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 1:25 PM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** friendsofbowkercreek@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek

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1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Patricia Lane Lawyer\*/Mediator

**From:** Val Aloian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: restoring Bowker creek

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Dear trustees

Apologies for this late submission but i was only made aware of the situation today. I am a volunteer with Streamkeepers and have been regularly taking flow measurements of Bowker for over a year in the hopes it can support salmon and other wildlife as it did only A few decades ago.

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek

Thankyou for your time and good works.  
Val Aloian.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** johnobrien

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 9:02 PM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Proposed land disposal at Richmond School and Lansdowne South Middle School

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Dear Trustees of School District 61:

I write to request that the public be granted a fuller opportunity for participation in the processes needed to inform decisions related to the sale of land along side Bowker Creek. Please extend the deadline for public input beyond today, November 24, 2021.

I co-lead the Oaklands Rise Woonerf ([oaklandsrise.ca](http://oaklandsrise.ca)) intended as a place of community and respite, with people-priority linkages to the Victoria Greenway network and beyond. Our members share the concerns expressed by the Friends of Bowker Creek. Please explain the School District's position on the [Bowker Creek Blueprint](#), the rationale for proposed action and what alternatives will be explored through public engagement.

British Columbia is now confronted with one of the worst environmental disasters imaginable. This is the time to recognize the value of preserving land that can serve as an educational resource and model of environmentally sound approaches to land management—right in the City, already under the protection of the school district.

An exponential increase in housing to fit current needs and as invitation to those seeking to relocate to Victoria is underway. As density increases, so does risk of petty crime, environmental degradation and excessive urbanization of natural spaces. Green spaces are a critical element in community wellness. The [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\)](#) model, [Projects for Public Spaces](#) and [One Planet Saanich](#) (in which S.D. 62 participates) are but a few of relevant movements that can inform your considerations.

We look forward to confirmation that the period for public engagement on this critical matter has been extended. I hope, too, that you may consider innovative collaborations to leverage the value of the Bower Creek opportunity.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

John James O'Brien, MA (LT)

**From:** Michele B

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 11:08 AM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Victoria Hospice Society to purchase property from Greater Victoria School District

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Dear SD61 Trustees,

I am glad to hear that the Victoria Hospice Society is considering developing this parcel of land and expanding its services. There is a great opportunity to utilize the natural space such as the Bowker Creek watershed that runs through this land. There must however be due consideration and protection of the Bowker Creek watershed in the sale of the land to assure that it is not mindlessly developed and disused.

I urge you to grant the following requests:

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Thank you for your due diligence in protecting natural environments while providing space for natural death.

Sincerely,  
Michele Bristow, PhD

**From:** Dorothy Field  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>; mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca  
**Subject:** disposal of Landsdowne school land

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Dear SD61 board:

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

I would like to point out that we are losing school district land at a rate that is troubling. The city's parks policy specifically speaks of the importance of green space. We don't have a whole lot and it's going fast.

please slow this process down so we can seriously consider the implications of this sale.

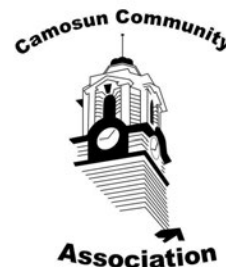
Respectfully,

Dorothy Field



November 24th, 2021

Chair Ryan Painter and Board of Education  
Greater Victoria School District No. 61  
556 Boleskine Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8



Dear Chair Painter and Board Trustees:

**Re: Proposed Land Disposal at Lansdowne South (former Richmond School)**

The *Friends of Bowker Creek Society* (FOBCS) and *Camosun Community Association* (CCA) understand that School District 61 (SD61) has entered into a *Purchase and Sale Agreement* involving 1.9 acres of public land immediately west of, and including Bowker Creek. Members of our Society and Association attended the District's November 3, 2021 [online "Question/Answer" Session](#) and were disappointed by the complete absence of meaningful dialogue.

Many questions from the public went unanswered or were answered incorrectly and the Question/Answer session was abruptly cut off because of SD61 time limitations. There was no mention of Bowker Creek anywhere on your consultation website. We find this especially troubling given that SD61 specifically endorsed the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision](#) and has been fully aware of and involved in the [Bowker Creek Initiative](#) (BCI) for many years.

Bowker Creek is a key form-maker of the site, yet basic information about the creek, the [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#), the [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage](#), the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#), the [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Study](#), or Saanich's [Streamside Development Permit Area](#) were ignored or avoided in your staff presentation.

**We request that you delay your decision to sell this property, slow down this process and genuinely engage with the community and other Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) partners on the future of this property.**

In addition we also have the following concerns and questions:

- **SD61 endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint in March 2018**  
SD61 participated in the development of the [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#), endorsed the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision](#) in March 2018 and has been aware of the BCI and community's interest in this property for well over a decade. Why were the FOBCS, CCA and other BCI partners not consulted before SD61 entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?
- **Bowker Creek is central to the property and community**  
The Lansdowne South (former Richmond School) property includes over 120 metres of valuable unculverted Bowker Creek channel and is one of the largest undeveloped open spaces along Bowker Creek. This reach currently enjoys public ownership on both banks – a very rare feature. Disposing of the property serves to further fragment ownership of the stream bed and riparian areas and unnecessarily complicate future restoration opportunities. How have these factors been considered in your decision to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?

- **Flooding and the broad public benefits of flood mitigation**

The property has been subject to flooding in the past and the BCI's [2007 Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan](#) projects flooding will continue in the future, particularly in the face of climate change (Attachment 1). In addition, the [2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study](#) and the [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#) identify the parcel as a candidate area for a Stormwater Management Facility to alleviate flooding, erosion, safety concerns and property damage downstream. At the November 3 Question/Answer session, senior staff seemed completely unaware of these issues. How did SD61 consider this information when negotiating its Purchase and Sale Agreement? Given the importance of this property to flood mitigation, has SD61 consulted with local governments including the downstream municipalities of Oak Bay and Victoria?

- **Current and future educational values**

Reconfiguring and restoring the creek as recommended in the 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint and 2020 Daylighting Study can contribute to enhanced student learning similar to what has been achieved at Oak Bay High School. The recommendations also provide the ability to configure safe and functional sports facilities for students by relocating the stream channel along the southwest boundary (Attachment 2). In addition, a restoration partnership has the potential to not only attract hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for climate adaptation work but also presents opportunities with First Nations to engage in ecocultural science education like the [Living Lab Project](#). Subdividing the property at the creek will constrain future opportunities for restoration and creek realignment that could substantially enrich the learning environment SD61, while integrating basic sports facilities, stormwater detention and community greenways. How have future educational values and facilities at the school been considered? How has the teaching staff at Lansdowne Middle School been involved in these decisions?

- **Community planning considerations**

According to local government community plans, the immediate neighbourhoods in both Saanich and Victoria do not meet community Open Space Standards and the current deficiency is being further exacerbated by SD61's recent land disposal at Lansdowne North. In addition, Saanich's 1998 [Shelbourne Local Area Plan](#) has identified the area as "Proposed Park" (Attachment 3). How did you engage with Saanich and Victoria prior to entering into a Purchase and Sale Agreement and how were community plans considered? Why were the FOBCS and area community associations not consulted?

- **Climate Change Emergency**

A central focus of the 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint, the 2007 Master Drainage Plan and the 2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study is climate change adaptation to address flooding, erosion, property damage and safety. The record-breaking rainfalls and flooding experienced last week in southern BC underscores the critical importance of public agency collaboration in achieving climate change goals. The proposed Stormwater Management Facility recommended for the site in the 2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study is a direct response to these broad public interests and provincial priorities. We note that [SD61 declared a Climate Emergency in 2019](#) (Attachment 4), committed to developing a Climate Action Plan and acknowledged that "*The children are the future, and we should be doing everything we can to ensure they have one to look forward to*". Did SD61 consider its climate change commitments and provincial climate adaptation goals when it negotiated its Purchase and Sale Agreement?

- **Regional greenway opportunities**

The property currently includes a 7-metre-wide statutory Right-of-Way in favour of Saanich to the east of Bowker Creek for the purposes of pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle access. This was not acknowledged during SD61's November 3, 2021 Question/Answer session. If SD61 disposes of the property to the west of the creek, how does it propose to configure this publicly-accessible Right-of-Way and accommodate and integrate the minimum 10-metre-wide Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), with school and community activities on the remaining property?

- **Previous attempts to dispose the property**

You should be aware that SD61 previously attempted to sell the entire Richmond School property in January 2007 on the basis that the land *"was surplus to its projected future needs"*. The proposal generated several hundred pages of community input, a public survey and two community workshops. The local community clearly expressed its desire that the land be retained for future school and community use. How did this input inform your current consultation efforts and how did it factor into negotiations of the Purchase and Sale Agreement? We note that contrary to previous projections, the school is no longer "surplus to future needs" as previously stated.

- **Ministry of Education Land Disposal Policies**

We note that the [Ministry of Education's School Building Closure and Disposal Policies](#) require that *"Boards of education must consider potential needs for alternative community use"* and *"must consult with local government, community organizations and the public on alternative community uses"*. We also note the requirement for *"Broad Consultation"* and the [Minister's M193/08 Order](#) that the Minister *"must approve of disposal before SD61 enters into an agreement to sell."* We note that the Board indicates in its [Consultation Policy](#) that it *"values attitudes and practices that encourage integrity, respect and trust in all relationships."* Why is School District 61 fast-tracking this process and marginalizing the participation of community interests? Once again, a 45-min online Question/Answer session is completely inadequate.

- **School enrolment projections**

SD61 Staff's rationale for disposing of the property is based largely on the short-sighted notion of excessive "acres per student". We note the property is located less than 500 metres from Hillside Centre and the Shelbourne Corridor, and only 400 metres from the Jubilee Hospital precinct, both identified as 'Regional Growth Nodes' in the CRD's updated [2018 Regional Growth Strategy](#) (Attachment 5) and in Saanich and Victoria Official Community Plans. How have increasing density and infill been considered in SD61's projections? We again point out that SD61's efforts in 2007 to sell the property were based on a similar "surplus-to-future-needs" assessment. How can the public be confident in SD61's projections given that SD61's previous projections have clearly proven to be incorrect?

- **Previous public investments**

Hundreds of thousands of dollars of public funding and thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time has been invested over the past 20 years to improve management of Bowker Creek. For example, SD61 has directly benefited through a \$738,000 federal grant leveraged by the BCI for [creek restoration at Oak Bay High School](#), resulting in improved safety and an outstanding educational feature. All these investments have required the cooperation, commitment and leadership of elected officials, public agency staff and volunteers. How were these previous investments and long-standing relationships considered in SD61's decision to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement?

In closing, we urge you to slow down this process and engage in a meaningful and transparent process that fully involves and genuinely considers community interests. We acknowledge the fiscal pressures that you currently face and would like to work with you, local and senior governments, and other community partners to explore potential options that optimize overall public benefits of this site. We also request an opportunity to meet and engage in open dialogue with Board Trustees and staff to exchange perspectives on the future of this important property.

Respectfully yours,



Soren Henrich  
Chair, Friends of Bowker Creek Society



Lisa Timmons  
President, Camosun Community Association

**APPENDICES:**

- Attachment 1 - Flooding extent map of SD61 Richmond School property
- Attachment 2 - Concept plans for restoration of Bowker Creek at Richmond School
- Attachment 3 - Shelbourne Local Area Plan (page 27), District of Saanich
- Attachment 4 - Board of Education Climate Action Declaration
- Attachment 5 - CRD Growth Nodes, Regional Growth Strategy (2018)

cc:

**School District 61**

Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent, Greater Victoria School District  
Carter Giesbrecht, Principal, Lansdowne Middle School, Greater Victoria School District  
Alissa Moore, Vice Principal, Lansdowne Middle School South, Greater Victoria School District

**Local government**

Mayor and Council, District of Saanich  
Mayor and Council, City of Victoria  
Mayor and Council District of Oak Bay  
Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, Capital Regional District  
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering, District of Saanich  
Philip Bellefontaine, Director of Engineering and Public Works, City of Victoria  
Dan Horan, Director of Engineering and Public Works, District of Oak Bay

**Province of BC**

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education  
Honourable Murray Rankin, MLA, Oak Bay Gordon Head  
Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

**First Nations**

Chief Ronald Sam and Council, Songhees Nation

**Bowker Creek Initiative**

Jennifer Tyler, Chair, Bowker Creek Initiative  
Lindsey McCrank, Coordinator, Bowker Creek Initiative

**Victoria Hospice Society**

Kevin Harter, Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Hospice Society

**Other**

Angela Carmichael, Chair, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

Winona Waldron, President, Greater Victoria Teachers Association

Community Associations in the Bowker Creek Watershed



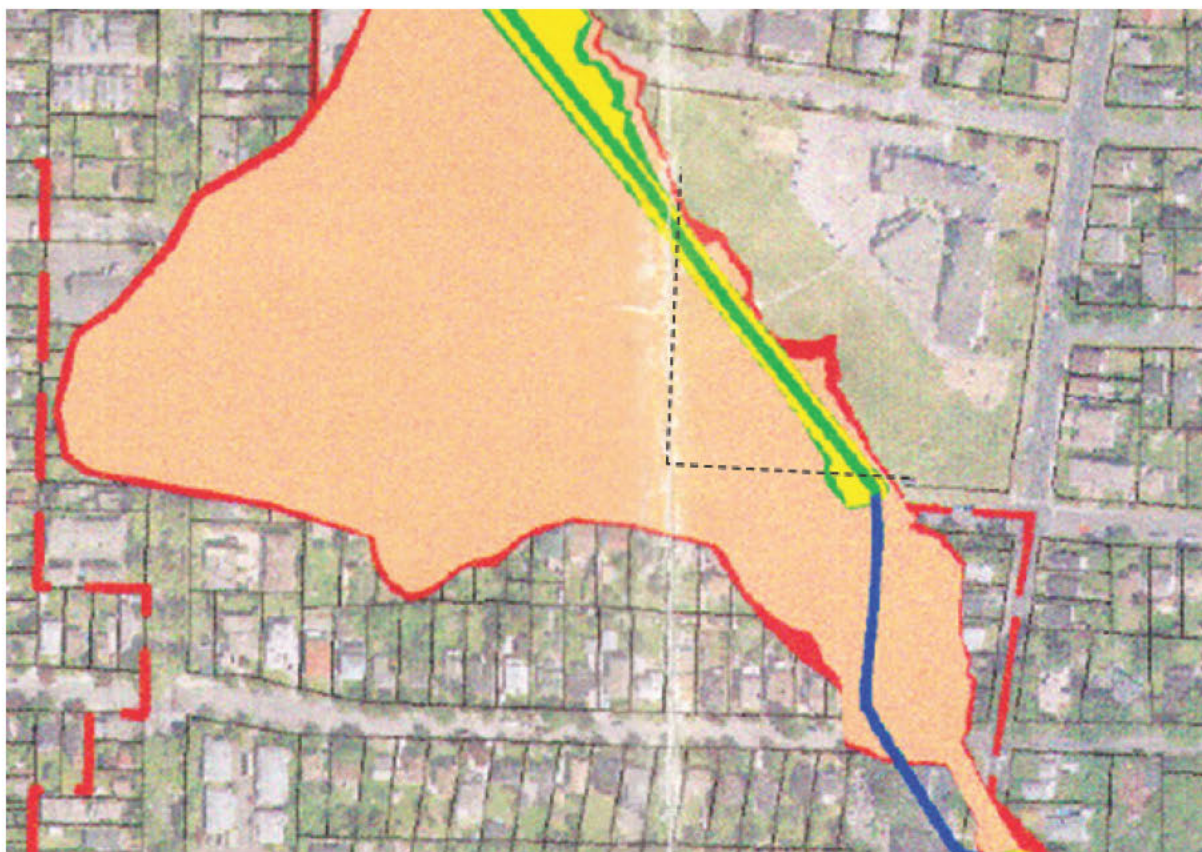
## ATTACHMENT 1: Flooding extent map of SD61 Richmond School property

(Information excerpted from [Bowker Creek Master Drainage Plan – Final Report, Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. 2007](#))

### DESCRIPTION

Scenario 1: This scenario reflects existing land-use conditions and existing hydraulics.

**Newton Storm Drain and Upstream Channel** – The storm drain from Newton to Richmond does not have adequate capacity for the 100-year storm event and overland flow occurs. Furthermore, the properties near Pearl are relatively low and as a result of limited storm drain and channel capacity flooding occurs.



### RICHMOND ELEMENTARY

Widen this open channel section to have a base width of 4.0 m and side slopes of 1.5 to 1.0. Potentially, the triangular piece of property to the west of the existing creek alignment could be used to meander the creek through this section.”

## ATTACHMENT 2: Concept plans for restoration of Bowker Creek at Richmond School



Source: 2020 Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study

### Key concepts and benefits

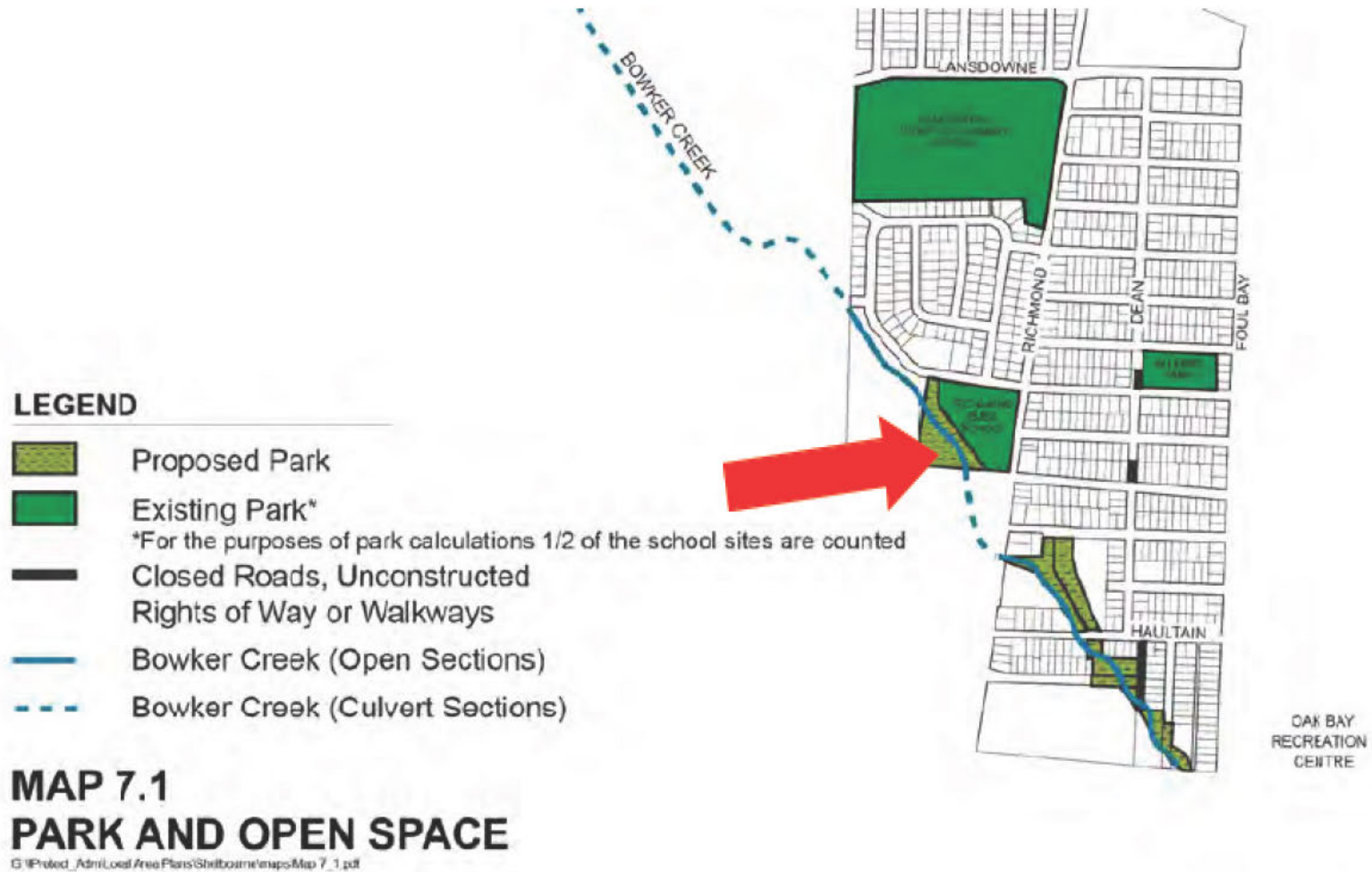
- Move the creek channel west
- Create safe, sloping creek banks
- Enhanced education - outdoor classroom
- More flexible for current and future school uses
- Better able to configure sports facilities (e.g., playing field)
- Native vegetation, habitat restoration and biodiversity
- Create Stormwater Management Facility to mitigate flooding
- Community Greenway for Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School route



Source: 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Vision to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed



**ATTACHMENT 3:** Shelbourne Local Area Plan (page 27), District of Saanich (1998)





## ATTACHMENT 4: Board of Education Climate Emergency Declaration



# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

### **A Message from the Greater Victoria School Board Chair:**

Young people around the globe are calling on all levels of governments to take decisive action on climate change. This should not surprise us, after all, it is their future that hangs in the balance.

Public education is tasked with preparing children for their future, and in so doing we must consider what future awaits them. The Greater Victoria School District declared a Climate Emergency this past June. We recognize that the breakdown of the stable climate and sea level under which human life has developed constitutes an emergency, and we are developing a Climate Action Plan that establishes targets and strategies in alignment with the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

Our Board of Education is urging other school districts to take similar steps and we are calling on the provincial government to support these efforts with resources. We need leadership at all levels to be working on solutions commensurate with the seriousness of the problem.

Despite the scientific consensus that our climate is rapidly changing due to human activities, there continues to be both a lack of understanding of the phenomena and its potential impacts. The science is complex, and many people face barriers to engaging with the facts. Dread and grief permeate discussions, and while it is tempting to look away we must instead be spurred to action.

Public education has an important role to play in supporting climate literacy in our communities. We need all citizens to have a basic understanding of the relationship between human life and Earth's climate system including the role climate plays in human and environmental health as well as social and economic stability.

While climate change is not always explicit as a core concept in BC's redesigned curriculum, teachers across all disciplines and grade levels are taking the initiative to build environmental education into their lessons. From daily weather logs in kindergarten

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community



classrooms, to middle school stream-keepers and poets, all the way through to complex computer modeling of climate systems in specialized high

school courses – there is a focus on ensuring students understand the scientific principles of climate and have the opportunity to explore what climate means for their world and their future.

Communities who understand climate science will be better prepared to respond and adapt to the challenges ahead. And we must be clear—there are challenges ahead.

In the face of these challenges, youth in Victoria, like youth across the country, are both frustrated and confused by the lack of urgency they see from the adults around them. This week's youth-led Climate Strike is evidence of their impatience.

Life, as we know it on Earth, is changing and as the window for action closes, the grown-ups seem to be carrying on as if its business as usual. The Climate Strike is a global effort by young people around the world to snap us out of our inaction.

Led by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg who is capturing headlines around the world, youth are finding their voice on this issue. Locally we have many bright and passionate young activists stepping up to organize and inspire their peers.

With the support of their parents and teachers, these remarkable young people are leading the way. They demand emergency action to avoid climate breakdown. They demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. They demand respect for Indigenous rights.

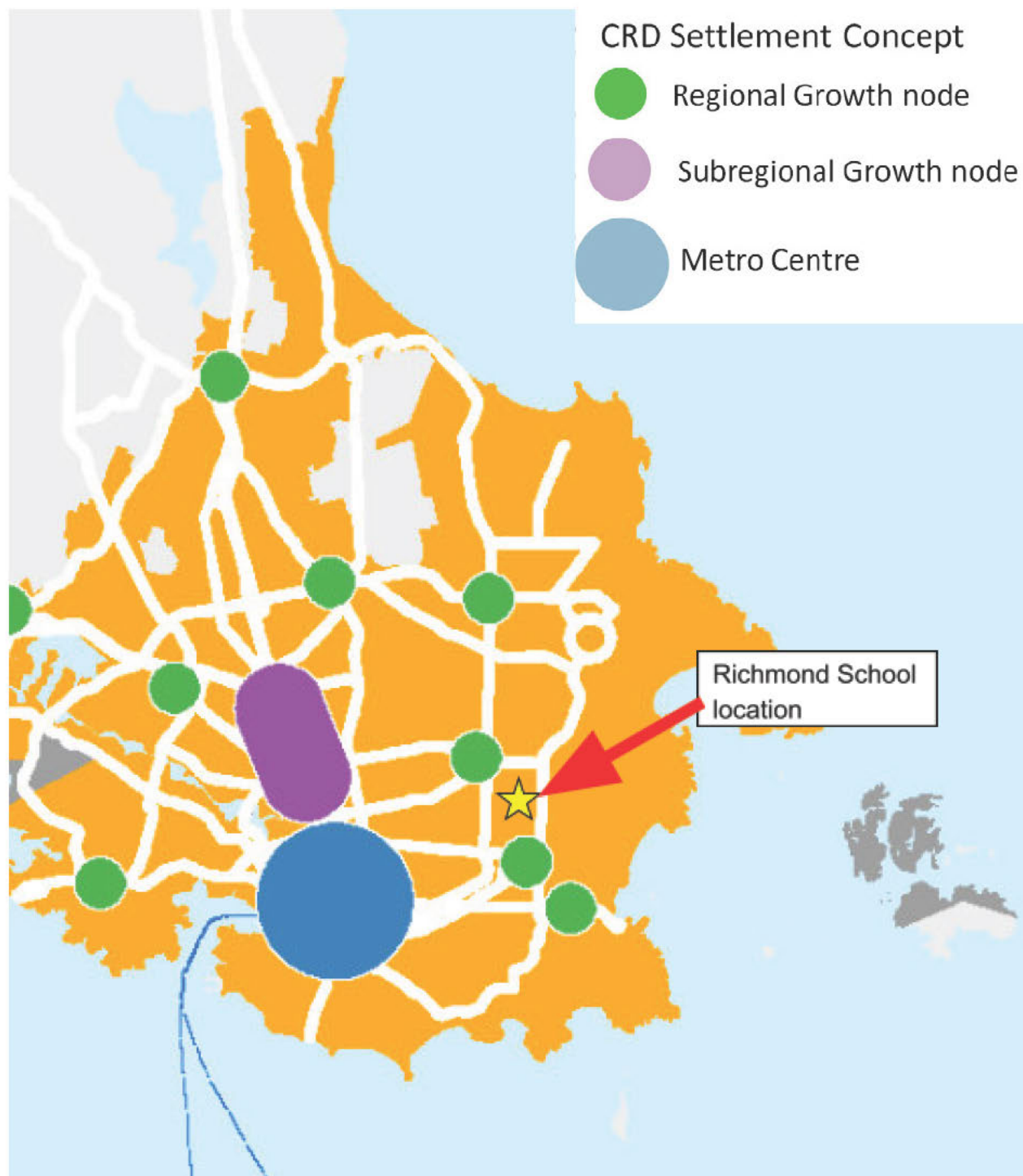
We would be foolish to dismiss these demands. The children are the future, and we should be doing everything we can to ensure they have one to look forward to.

Yours sincerely,



Jordan Watters  
Chair, Board of Education

**ATTACHMENT 5:** CRD Growth Nodes, Regional Growth Strategy (2018)



Richmond School is situated within a rapidly densifying part of Greater Victoria and located ~400-500 metres from the Hillside Centre Growth Node and Jubilee precinct Growth Node.



**From:** Kristian Dubrawski  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek concern

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Greetings – I am concerned that SD61 acknowledged their commitments to the Bowker Creek Blueprint. I am a professor of water quality, and highly concerned that this action could result in increased flooding, pollutant runoff impact salmon, migratory bird, and orca ecosystem health, and could be a detriment to our communities. Please:

1. extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Thank you kindly,

**From:** [Robin Drader](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** SD61 proposed land disposal at Richmond School / Lansdowne South Middle School campus  
**Date:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 11:52:32 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the ***Bowker Creek Blueprint***, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the **Friends of Bowker Creek**, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Thank- you for your attention to this matter,  
Robin Drader

**From:** [Natasha Nolet](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** SD61 proposed land disposal site  
**Date:** Saturday, November 27, 2021 12:47:16 PM

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Hello, I am aware that my e-mail is late but I would like you to consider the following:

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation;
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits;
6. visit the site, including downstream greenway routes to Oak Bay High School - Bowker Creek restoration project with an outdoor classroom in the riparian zone, allowing access to the creek.

Thank you for your time,  
Sincerely,  
Natasha Nolet

**From:** [susanne.rautio](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Reject sale of Land next to Bowker creek  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:36:28 PM

---

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Dear Trustees

I ask you to please reject the sale of land next to Bowker Creek to Victoria Hospice. That land is too valuable as a potential wildlife sanctuary and or park for people to use. Please go to the City of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay to get them to buy the land for a park.

If you are not willing to reject the sale outright then please do the following:

1. Please extend the public feedback period beyond Nov. 24th;
2. Defer making a decision to sell this land until broad public consultation has taken place; and
3. the SD61 Board has a chance to review the relevant content in the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, especially at Reach 9;
4. consult downstream municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay regarding flood protection and mitigation; and
5. open dialog with neighbourhood associations in the watershed, with community groups, – including the Friends of Bowker Creek, who have an interest in this property for educational, environmental and health benefits.

regards

Susanne Rautio  
resident of Victoria

**From:** susan roberts

**Sent:** Sunday, December 12, 2021 11:13 AM

**To:** Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Trustees <[trustees@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:trustees@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed selloff of lands on south campus Landsdowne middle school

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

Below is a copy of my letter and correspondence with Ryan Painter, regarding the proposed sale of Richmond School lands . I wonder if the trustees got my letter, and if so, why it was not included in the agenda package.

Sincerely ,

Susan Roberts



**From:** [Morgan Roskelley](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:25:59 AM

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Dear Trustees:

I am in support not NOT proceeding with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration which I believe needs to be prioritized in our current global climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

**From:** [Danielle P](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker creek - sale of landowne south  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 6:43:52 PM

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Dear Trustees:

Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

This creek houses salmon and biodiversity that is critical to protecting our ecosystem. It will prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Pfeifer

**From:** [Karen Wallace-Prince](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek Blueprint  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:31:21 PM

---

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Hello School District 61 Trustees,

I've been alerted to a potential sale of environmentally sensitive land next to Bowker Creek. When I heard that Victoria Hospice was the purchaser I hesitated to send a letter. Everyone supports such an important institution but I think that there is probably a better location than next to Bowker Creek. I gather that there has not been adequate public consultation and when trying to do some research right now, I was not able to open any School District 61 websites to do with the Bowker Creek Blueprint.

I want to ask SD 61 to take the time to consider its commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and ensure that no sale will proceed without first accounting for the ecological preservation of the creek.

Respectfully yours,  
Karen Wallace-Prince

**From:** [DAN READY](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek Flood Plain  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 11:35:23 AM

---

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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"Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."  
Dan & Cathy Ready

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Brendan Connors](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** land sale at Lansdowne South campus  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:34:34 PM

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Dear Trustees,

I am writing to implore you to NOT proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration, an effort I am passionate about as both a community member and a member of the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part and protect this vital area.

Please repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School (OBHS) renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there, something that most high school students don't have a chance to learn elsewhere. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction. We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere to go.

Thank you,

Brendan Connors

**From:** [Tom Hicks](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Land sale at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 11:17:59 AM

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Dear Trustees:

Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. Selling this vital portion of land for the purpose of development would rob the school board of the chance provide real learning opportunities to students around climate change adaptation and stream restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. SD61 has the opportunity to participate in this plan by holding this land and by working to support stream restoration. This sends the right message to the next generation who's learning is under your care.

The case study at Oak Bay High School is a local example just downstream in Bowker Creek, that showcases how this important can work and benefit learning. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration through this program. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Please do your part for the community. You'll have help and support from the friends of Bowker Creek and the learning from the work already done downstream to help along the way. Every level of government will assist with funding and there is opportunity for local Nation engagement as well. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction. Please help action the 100year plan to daylight Bowker Creek that you have previously endorsed.

Respectfully,

Tom Hicks

**From:** [Gail Miller](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne Field  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 12:35:53 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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"Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Gail Miller

**From:** [Joan Pink](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne Property  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 12:19:55 PM

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Trustees@sd61.bc.ca

"Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Erin Renwick](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne South Campus sale  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:57:18 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

This letter is to ask that you only sell the Lansdowne South Campus to Victoria Hospice, or any other group, with the caveat that they must restore the section of Bowker Creek that crosses their land to biologist's standards, in accordance with the Bowker Creek 100 year plan that SD 61 has signed onto.

This kind of agreement would mean that not only does SD 61 benefit from much needed cash flow, but Bowker Creek also gets the restoration that it needs and deserves, and that you have signed on to help protect and restore.

Restoring the creek would also benefit downstream neighbours with flood mitigation and protection, provide a much-needed wildlife corridor, and provide better habitat for fish and birds.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Erin Renwick

**From:** [Eldan Goldenberg](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#)  
**Subject:** Please reconsider the land sale at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:37:13 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

Please halt the land sale at the Lansdowne South campus. This parcel contains one of the few green spaces adjacent to Bowker Creek, so it will be extremely difficult to build anything additional there without causing flooding downstream. Instead, I urge you to use the space to return a little of the creek to something closer to a natural state. With a meander and some softer edges, the water can be slowed reducing the risk of flooding at or downstream of this location. And as well as helping with the creek restoration effort--which SD61 has signed on to by endorsing the Bowker Creek Blueprint--creating some new habitat next to a school creates a space where students can learn about ecology and landscape function.

Yours,

Eldan Goldenberg

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**From:** [Duncan Sutherland](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed land sale Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 12:20:20 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."  
Duncan Sutherland

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [neil.meechan](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of land at Lansdowne south  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 10:04:18 AM

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Neil Meechan

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Marg Rothery](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of land  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 6:34:52 PM

---

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Please do not sell the land. Bowler Creek is a precious natural habitat to be enjoyed by all greater Victoria citizens.  
Marg Rothery

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Rich Ketchen](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 11:11:52 AM

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Dear Trustees,

Please do not approve the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to our community, to climate change adaptation and to the ongoing restoration of Bowker Creek.

SD61 has already taken a step in the right direction by endorsing the Bowker Creek Blueprint. This 100-year action plan, which is also supported by the CRD, City of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay, aims to restore the Bowker Creek watershed and, in turn, prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms by combining climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration.

Please do your part to continue the work already done on this vital long-term project.

By not proceeding with the land sale, you will support more successes, like the Oak Bay High School renewal initiative. Restoration work near OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store stormwater during increasingly common extreme rain events. Downstream neighbours have already reported decreased flooding. So this restoration work clearly supports climate change adaptation, while also returning the creek to better health.

In addition, OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in environmental learning and restoration around Bowker Creek. Importantly, recent studies by the OBHS biology department have resulted in a new program to return native chum salmon to the creek.

Victoria Hospice is an excellent organization that provides valuable services to people in need, however, the organization can find building sites elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere, unfortunately, especially the stretch of creek on the Lansdowne South campus.

Please do the right thing – do not approve the land sale – and help continue the restoration and protection of an important natural asset in our community.

Thank you,

Richard Ketchen

Member, Friends of Bowker Creek Society

**From:** [Heather Hannah](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 2:41:49 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

--

Heather Hannah, DVM, MS  
Veterinarian & Epidemiologist

**From:** [Liza Harris](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 4:15:50 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Please do not go ahead with sale of lands at Lansdowne South school grounds.

Uphold the Bowker Creek Blueprint, so that the creek may be restored, and flooding prevented.

As at Oak Bay High School, your students can engage with this vital project, and learn to care for their environment. Bowker Creek has been much in the news as its beds are ready for re-introduction of Chum salmon. The community will benefit when SD61 joins in at Lansdowne. Please preserve your stretch of Bowker Creek.

Thank you,

David and Liza Harris



**From:** [robyn bryson](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:04:10 PM

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Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Michelle Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Community Engagement](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Carol Lemery](#); [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:44:18 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

Like many other members of the community, I am writing this email to implore you not to proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne's south campus. This precious parcel of land is an invaluable part of the Bowker Creek restoration plan. There are many other locations where Victoria Hospice's new building can be built, but there are no other locations where Bowker Creek can exist. **The future of our ecosystems depends on the actions we take today.**

Regards,  
Michelle W.

**From:** [Tara Parks](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South.  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:37:02 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

Please, as a homeowner downstream to this it is devastating. We have had our house flooded three times in the past 18 months from OVERLAND FLOODING.

Saanich needs to help by creating a place for the water to go in the events of rainfall that we have had. Please don't add to the problem we are already facing. Please help us and create a solution to the overland flooding.

Sincerely Tara Parks

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Matthew Parsons](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:27:57 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Please do not proceed with selling of the lands at Lansdowne South. That whole area, and the Bowker Creek, are essential for managing flooding in the area in the future, with stormwater management in extreme weather conditions which are predicted to become more and more common in the future.

Matthew Parsons

**From:** [Leslie Reid](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 12:06:34 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,  
Do not proceed with the sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to climate change adaptation and to Bower Creek restoration.

Leslie Reid

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Tom Croft](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale of Lansdowne Land  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 2:59:02 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there.

Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Tom Croft

Former President Community Association of Oak Bay and District Councillor Oak Bay 2014-2018

**From:** [Spencer Quayle](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Sale of land at Lansdowne  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:26:33 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Please recall your commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint before selling the Richmond Property.

At bare minimum, please consider extending the consultation period.

Please also bear in mind that massive precipitation events like what we saw last week will become more frequent and severe shortly. The presence of the Richmond land as a flood buffer is valuable, and development there would not only be a loss of potential for ecological restoration but also be an early victim of increased flooding.

Thanks

-Spencer (SD61 grad 2017)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [marnie machan](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Sale of land at Richmond elementary  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 2:24:08 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Please reconsider your sale of this parcel of land so close to Bowker creek and part of the eco flood plain for the area. Far too much development is putting stress on this precious creek and all the good in the last couple of decades and more that has been done to revitalize it. It would be a shame to have to redeem it once again . I am in full support of those who are trying to oppose this sale and hope that it doesn't get through .

Sincerely M. Machan

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



**From:** [Robert Vanzella](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** selling of land  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 10:12:48 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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"Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Rob Vanzella

**From:** [nancy barnes](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 11:18:21 AM

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Dear Trustees

Please do not proceed with the sale of school district land at Lansdowne South campus.

Please reconsider the future of this property in light of its unique ecological value and uphold your commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint.

The restoration of Bowker Creek is of profound importance to communities all along the creek. A huge investment of time, money, and most importantly community aspiration and dedication is already devoted to the restoration of this unique urban treasure. We are in this together.

Please don't let your decision today crush the efforts of all the communities along the creek who have invested their hearts and resources to the restoration of Bowker Creek.

Respectfully,  
Nancy Barnes

**From:** Barbara Mendel

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 9:57 PM

**To:** Trustees <trustees@sd61.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South - in relation to Flood Prevention and Creek restoration

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Please **do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.**

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek **to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms.** The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. **Do your part.**

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS **allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of storm water in extreme rains.** Downstream neighbours report **decreased flooding.** It works for **climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health.** OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

**Do the right thing.** Every level of government will assist with funding. The **community is now awake to climate change,** to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. **Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.**

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mendel

**From:** [Rick Marshall](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of land at Lansdowne South campus  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 11:53:21 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Please do not proceed now with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land proposed for sale is vital to Bowker Creek restoration and Climate Change adaptation for our community.

In 2018, SD61 Trustees wisely joined the CRD, Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay in endorsing the Bowker Creek Blueprint, a creative and much-praised action plan for restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration and creation of a vital greenway for active transportation. It reverses 100 years of prior destruction to the creek. Please do your part to support this plan with appropriate action.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School Creek restoration, which allows Bowker Creek to slow and store temporarily the rush of storm water in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to ecological health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students delight in learning and restoration work there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department are contributing to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Please do the right thing. Other levels of government will assist with funding for creek restoration and greenway creation, as contemplated in the Blueprint. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

Victoria Hospice does wonderful and much needed work in our community, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere to go.

Sincerely,

Rick Marshall

**From:** [Sandi Henrich](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:30:19 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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This letter expresses my views.

"Dear Trustees:

"Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

"SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

"Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

"Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

"We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Sandi Henrich

**From:** [Deanna Pfeifer](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South.  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 10:40:51 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration and flood mitigation measures.

I am very concerned about the impacts that the proposed sale of land and subsequent development would have on the Bowker Creek Blueprint action plan which includes flood and stormwater mitigation measures and ecosystem restoration. SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek.

I fail to understand how this sale can be proposed without the consultation of the Friends of Bowker Creek especially considering their extensive work involving the SD61 on the planning and restorative work on the Creek and surrounding riparian zone.

After 35 years of working at the RJH in Critical Care I can safely say that no one could dispute the value of the service that Hospice care provides. It would be obviously more convenient if it was located on the hospital premises and to build on developed property, not pave greenspace. As our population explodes in this area it would be important to look at what the hospital plans are for the future growth of all the medical areas, not just hospice. As an example, developed land does exist such as the empty buildings at 2340 Richmond Ave across from RJH.

We should learn from the recent devastating flooding in Abbotsford and the astronomical cost incurred due to inadequate flood mitigation planning and headed warnings. Each year Bowker Creek rises and will continue to rise. Neighbors (cc'd) spoke at the Saanich Council on November 22nd, of the devastating flooding they experienced downstream from Lansdowne School as Bowker Creek overflowed.

It is imperative that adequate time be allowed to examine this proposal thoroughly and not rush the process through, in haste. Allowing more time for engagement will be beneficial for all parties in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deanna Pfeifer

**From:** [Lesley Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 9:16:26 AM

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**CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.**

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Sincerely,  
Lesley

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Lesley Palmer

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**From:** [Diane Morriss](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South  
**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021 10:23:00 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

I am writing to ask that you NOT proceed with the sale of land at Lansdowne South campus. This parcel is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part and repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Please do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

While Victoria Hospice is important, it can be built elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Diane Morriss

From: Sarah Riecken  
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 5:30 PM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Cc: Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; ahentzew@sd61.bc.ca; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Concern re: Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus without a further opportunity for discussion and consultation with stakeholders including neighbours and conservation groups.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

Given recent extreme weather and high water events affecting the area this needs serious consideration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no else.

This area is also an open space used by many including residents, including families, of adjacent high density housing that have no other nearby green space.

Thank you for listening,

Sarah Riecken

**From:** Tom Hicks  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Land sale at Lansdowne South

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. Selling this vital portion of land for the purpose of development would rob the school board of the chance to introduce and provide real learning opportunities to students around Climate Change Adaptation and stream restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. SD61 has the opportunity to participate in this plan by holding this land and by working to support stream restoration. This sends the right message to the next generation who's learning is under your care.

The case study at Oak Bay High School is a local example in the same system, that showcases how this can work and benefit learning. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration through this program. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Please do your part for the community. You'll have help and support from the friends of Bowker Creek and the learning from the work already done downstream to help along the way. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

Respectfully,

Tom Hicks

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Peninsula Streams

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:05 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>;

**Subject:** Letter opposing sale and development of Lansdowne South Property

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Respected Trustees,

RE: proposed sale and development of Lansdowne South

We ask you to please consider the detrimental impact the sale and development will have on the watershed. We hope that you are able to stop this sale and development and continue SD 61's strong watershed leadership and support within the Bowker Creek Watershed. Please find attached our letter outlining the reasons for opposition.

Sincerely,

Ian Bruce  
Executive Coordinator  
Peninsula Streams Society

Trustees and Committee  
Greater Victoria School District 61  
556 Boleskine Rd  
Victoria BC, V8Z 1E8

Dec. 13, 2021

RE: Proposed Sale of Lansdowne South

Dear Respected Trustees,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peninsula Streams Society regarding the proposed sale and development of the Lansdowne South Property. This property has been identified as a key component of the Bowker Creek Watershed in both the SD 61 endorsed 100-Year Blueprint and Daylighting Feasibility Study. We have partnered on numerous projects and initiatives towards the restoration of Bowker Creek, putting in countless staff and volunteer hours with local community stewards and groups such as the Friends of Bowker Creek (FOBC), to this end. We are also continuing efforts to build community rain gardens and green infrastructure in the Capital Region, including partnering with the FOBC on their ambitious '1000 Rain Gardens Project'.

We commend SD 61 on its past support and construction of Rain Gardens on its properties and being a leader in Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Stormwater Management Planning. Now, more than ever, this leadership is needed as we strive to build local resilience within our watershed.

We ask you to please consider the impact this sale and development will have both on the watershed ecologically but also symbolically. We hope that you are able to stop this sale and development and continue SD 61's strong watershed leadership and support within the Bowker Creek Watershed.

Sincerely,



Ian Bruce, B.Sc. R.P.Bio  
Executive Coordinator

**From:** Luis Netter

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:36 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Please do NOT sell the Richmond Property

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear SD61 Trustees,

As a resident of the greater Victoria region I have a strong interest in reserving green and riparian areas in our community.

I greatly respect your dedication to the education of our children and for all the effort it takes to provide staffing, funding, infrastructure and good governance.

I am also impressed with your support of the community's aspirations and efforts to restore sections of the creek so far.

Please continue to embrace the commitments you made to the community and do not allow the financial issues faced by SD61 to affect your prior commitments towards the community's education and aspirations. We should not carve out and further destroy areas of ecological value to the generation we are educating in this school district.

I would be very much pleased if the District could incorporate the area in its educational program while keeping ownership of the area.

With respect,

Luis Netter

**From:** Peter Haddon

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:22 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Please stop the sale of Richmond Property

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear SD61 Trustees,

As a community we have great respect for your dedication to the education of our children and for all the effort it takes to provide staffing, funding, infrastructure and good governance. You are part of our community representing us, the public and taxpayers of Greater Victoria.

In the past you have demonstrated great foresight in your commitment and collaboration to restore Bowker Creek, the primary drainage system in our watershed. You participated in numerous studies leading to endorsement of the Bowker Creek Blueprint in 2018, You supported the public's aspirations and efforts to restore the creek at Oak Bay High School.

Since you initiated the sale of 1.9 acres of the Richmond School property, you have received many letters from the community explaining the value and potential of this area: flood mitigation, recreation and social wellbeing, environmental, and community active transportation, etc.

The Richmond property has been preserved as an undeveloped island of public greenspace due to its proximity to the creek and its use as a school playing field and local park. While I appreciate, admire and support the work of Victoria Hospice Society, I am flabbergasted that the society now scoops up this greenspace for development without consideration for its history and function. Their new facility can be built anywhere in Victoria's developed urban area.

Please embrace the commitments you made to the community to restore Bowker Creek. The financial issues faced by SD61 can be resolved without selling and developing this property, whereas the creek and ecosystem can only exist here, on this public property as an integral part of the larger creek and watershed.

Respectfully,

Peter Haddon

From: Gerald  
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 7:06 AM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Proposed land sale at Lansdowne South campus

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek. Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Respectfully,

Gerald Harris



From: Spencer Quayle  
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 8:12 AM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Proposed sale of land at Lansdowne South

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Please recall your commitment to the Bowker Creek Blueprint before selling the Richmond Property.

At bare minimum, please consider extending the consultation period.

Please also bear in mind that massive precipitation events like what we saw in the last few weeks will become more frequent and severe shortly. The presence of the Richmond land as a flood buffer is valuable, and development there would not only be a loss of potential for ecological restoration but also an early victim of increased flooding.

Thanks

-Spencer (SD61 grad 2017)

From: Michelle Kirby  
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 6:47 PM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Cc: Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne School

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Dear Chair Painter and Trustees,

I have just learned that you are planning to sell a portion of Lansdowne School site. The sale to a small non-profit organization without capacity or expertise in environmental management would be a very big setback for Bowker Creek restoration and our hopes for a healthy creek with salmon.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Please ensure that you fulfill your commitment.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

Victoria Hospice is an excellent organization but will not have the capacity to revitalize Bowker Creek, which must be part of any plan for that parcel of land.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kirby

**From:** Michelle Rachel

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:44 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane Mcnally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Carol Lemery <[cdlemery@gmail.com](mailto:cdlemery@gmail.com)>; Trustees <[trustees@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:trustees@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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Dear Trustees,

Like many other members of the community, I am writing this email to implore you not to proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne's south campus. This precious parcel of land is an invaluable part of the Bowker Creek restoration plan. There are many other locations where Victoria Hospice's new building can be built, but there are no other locations where Bowker Creek can exist. **The future of our ecosystems depends on the actions we take today.**

Regards,

Michelle W.

**From:** Autonomous Nature

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:07 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no else.

- Dustin

**From:** Christopher Shepherd  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,  
Please don't sell the land parcel at Lansdowne South. Volunteers (including me) have put lots of hard work into restoring Bowker Creek, a section of which the land parcel contains, and this section has significant educational and environmental value. Victoria Hospice is a good project, but it can be built elsewhere, the creek can't.

Please don't sell the creek!

Thank you for your time,

Christopher Shepherd

**From:** Banger Sound

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 5:00 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South campus threatens Bowker Creek!

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains - **like the ones we've been having lately that at times have caused floods in people's houses / backyards / etc.**

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no else.

**From:**

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 4:07 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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Don't do this! Important for Bowker creek watershed conservation

**From:** Andrea Warner  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:24 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

---

Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Andrea Warner

Oak Bay Resident



**From:** Arielle Houghton

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 1:05 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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Dear Trustees

As a community member, an environmental caretaker and as a woman who relies on the health of the land, air and waters, I'm asking you to **NOT** proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration. We know that the health of the watershed has a [direct link to the health of communities](#). Furthermore, with flooding and other extreme weather conditions, our watersheds are an important form of resiliency to prevent downstream costs and further economic burdens on those most vulnerable in our society. With the cost of the pandemic, inflation, and extreme weather, we can't afford to lose more watersheds to development.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. I am asking you to do your part by rejecting the sale of this land so it may be conserved and you can deliver on your commitments to the Blueprint and to a healthy ecosystem and watershed for the wellbeing of youth, adults, plants and animals that depend on this vital resource.

Restoration at Oak Bay High School (OBHS) allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbors report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. Furthermore, OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there and learn important lessons about how to care for the planet and themselves through environmental stewardship. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to the renewal of Chum Salmon, a keystone specie, proving the educational value for this land as well.

I'm urging you to do what is best for the students, the neighbourhood, the environment, and the health and wellbeing of all those impacted by climate change. I am here to work with you to ensure every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction. The time is now to take action to conserve and reverse the century of development which has led us to this precipice of climate catastrophe.

We love Victoria Hospice and we believe that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek, the salmon and the watershed has no elsewhere.

Respectfully,

Arielle Houghton

**From:** Patricia Dijak  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 6:07 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale of Lands at Lansdowne South Campus

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

Please **don't** proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Bowker Creek restoration and Climate Change Adaptation.

We love Victoria Hospice, but their new building can be built elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no other options. Every level of government will assist with funding.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. It reverses over 100 years of destruction to the creek.

You can repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restorative work at Oak Bay High School has allowed Bowker Creek to slow down the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Oak Bay High School and Monterey Middle School students have benefited from invaluable education and restoration, renewing chum salmon in the creek. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding.

Please allow for the restoration of Bowker Creek ecosystems by our entire community by not selling the land at Lansdowne South campus.

Thank you,

Patricia Dijak

**From:** Teagan Kelk

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 4:59 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South campus

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Please please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains - **like the ones we've been having lately that at times have caused floods in people's houses / backyards / etc.**

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no else.

- Teagan Kelk ☹️🙏?

**From:** Doug Bales  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 6:10 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale of Lands at Lansdowne South Campus

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Dear Trustees,

Please **don't** proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Bowker Creek restoration and Climate Change Adaptation.

We love Victoria Hospice, but their new building can be built elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no other options. Every level of government will assist with funding.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. It reverses over 100 years of destruction to the creek.

You can repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restorative work at Oak Bay High School has allowed Bowker Creek to slow down the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Oak Bay High School and Monterey Middle School students have benefited from invaluable education and restoration, renewing chum salmon in the creek. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding.

Please allow for the restoration of Bowker Creek ecosystems by our entire community by not selling the land at Lansdowne South campus.

Thank you,

Doug Bales

**From:** Andrea Careless

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 4:46 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane Mcnally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South: What?! Protect Bowker Creek

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Dear trustees:

I can't believe you're even thinking of selling the lands at Lansdowne South.

You KNOW that the land in question is key to climate change adaptation and to the restoration of Bowker Creek, including bringing back the salmon. Remember we're in a climate emergency? Remember that the school district endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms? The blueprint combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek.

Do the right thing. This isn't the way to get funding.

Sincerely, Andrea Careless and Doug Kelk

**From:** Pamela Woodland

**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 6:54 PM

**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South

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## Trustees

I understand time is of the essence in this issue so rather than try to put my own words together let me echo these to stand in for my own:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains.

Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no else.

We need our natural waterways restored and they need us to restore them.

Please be part of the solution to the problem of environmental degradation.

Thanks for listening,  
Pam Woodland

**From:** Debi LaHaise  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 7:33 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands Landsdowne South

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Bowker Creek restoration is an important long-term and long overdue project. Please do not sell this land which would be a huge setback to the Bowker Creek restoration project.

Debi LaHaise

**From:** Paige Evernden  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 7:07 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale of Lansdowne South

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Hello my name is Paige Evernden,

I'm writing to express my disagreement with the sale of Lansdowne South Campus. I have lived in Victoria my whole life and can imagine someday raising children here. Now is the time to be making choices with climate change and future generations in mind. The sale of this campus would be a huge setback on the restoration of Bowker Creek. I as a member of your community ask you not to continue with the sale.

Paige



**From:** Evans J&D  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Sale of public School District lands

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Dear School District 61,

I am writing to ask School District 61 to consider the future of Bowker Creek at the old Richmond School property. Please do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. This property includes one of the longest open lengths of Bowker Creek running along the eastern edge of the field at Richmond School (now Lansdowne South Campus). The possible sale of this land goes against the commitment that SD61 made in supporting the [Bowker Creek Blueprint](#).

A central focus of the 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint, the 2007 Master Drainage Plan and the 2020 Daylighting Feasibility Study is climate change adaptation to address flooding, erosion, property damage and safety. The record-breaking rainfalls and flooding experienced last week in southern BC underscores the critical importance of public agency collaboration in achieving climate change goals.

The reach of Bowker Creek at the Lansdowne South Campus is 120 metres of valuable unculverted open creek channel and is one of the largest undeveloped open spaces along Bowker Creek. It is a profoundly important part of the watershed and could act as a key aspect of future storm water management and flood mitigation in the community.

It is my understanding that SD61 is looking to sell the property to help fund School District property retrofit for energy savings and climate change mitigation. It appears that the group proposing the sale for this reason may be unaware of the importance of the creek and surrounding lands in improving biodiversity and climate mitigation for the community.

Bowker Creek is valued for its unique beauty, its role in the preservation of biological diversity and climate change mitigation, as well as for its many educational and community building opportunities. I respectfully request that the School District consider the value of Bowker Creek to the community in any plans they have for this public land in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Jane Evans

From: Liz Ferris  
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 6:17 PM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Cc: Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Sale of Richmond elementary

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees,

I'm writing to request you reconsider selling the Richmond elementary lands. In a time of urban densification and increasing land values it will be impossible for future school boards to ever regain this land. Please don't solve your current budget woes by selling land that cannot be recovered by future generations. There has to be a better, more sustainable way.

Sincerely  
Liz Ferris  
(Richmond elementary grad-1998)

**From:** [Pam Guilbault](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker floodplain sale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 6:42:04 PM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus.

The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part. Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal.

Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction.

We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere."

Pam Guilbault

**From:** [Ramsey Fendall](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Do not proceed with sale of land  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:08:31 AM

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CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear Trustees:

Do not proceed with the land sale at Lansdowne South campus. The land parcel in question is vital to Climate Change Adaptation and to Bowker Creek restoration.

SD61 has endorsed the Bowker Creek Blueprint, an action plan restoring the creek to prevent flooding in extreme rainstorms. The Blueprint plan combines climate change adaptation with ecosystem restoration. It reverses 100 years of destruction to the creek. Do your part.

Repeat the success of the Oak Bay High School renewal. Restoration at OBHS allows Bowker Creek to slow and store the rush of stormwater in extreme rains. Downstream neighbours report decreased flooding. It works for climate change adaptation while restoring the creek to health. OBHS and Monterey Middle School students engage in learning and restoration there. Studies by the OBHS Biology department have led to Chum salmon renewal for the creek.

Do the right thing. Every level of government will assist with funding. The community is now awake to climate change, to issues of ecosystem, habitat, biodiversity extinction. We love Victoria Hospice, but that excellent organization can build elsewhere. Bowker Creek has no elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Ramsey Fendall

**From:** Baylee Wiswell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale at Landsdowne South

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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This is a request the school district to withdrawal from the sale as it goes against the principles of the Bowker Creek Restoration Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Baylee Wiswell

**From:** Jonathan Velarde  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 9:31 AM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of land at Lansdowne South

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Dear trustees:

My name is Jonathan Velarde. I am a resident of the Oaklands area and I have been since studying at Lansdowne Middle School over 16 years ago, then Oak Bay and Victoria High Schools. I grew up in this neighbourhood, surrounded by Bowker Creek and the magnificent nature it brings to us.

The Friends of Bowker Creek initiative, along with its partners, have made significant progress on the restoration of Bowker Creek. This project has been endorsed by SD61 and it seems counterproductive to change the land use of this parcel when it could become a pillar of the ecological restoration of our important Bowker watershed.

Please look to the actions implemented by UVIC and Oak Bay High to preserve and restore our water resources, and consider following suit.

Thank you,

Jonathan Velarde, B.Eng Environmental Technology

**From:** Eva K  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale at Lansdowne South

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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Hi there,

Please withdraw from the sale of Bowker creek watershed, as it negatively effects Bowker Creek Restoration Project.

Thanks for your time,  
Eva

From: Mei skye  
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 10:54 PM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Proposed sale at Landsdowne south

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please withdraw from the sale of this land, it will seriously harm the return of salmon to Bowker Creek!!!

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** isabella appleford  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale at Lansdowne South

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To whoever's reading this ,

I'm a student at vic high as well as a resident in Oaklands area. This land sale goes against the principles of the bowker creek restoration project. It is silly how you guys backed this project till now. Further perpetuating the urbanization of this watershed. I'm asking that you withdraw from the sale.

Thank you,  
Isabella

**From:** Angus McLaren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed land sale at lansdowne south

Dear sd61,

Do not impede the progress we have already made in the restoration of bowler creek. Do not sell the south lansdowne parcel.

**From:** Justin Dejong  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 1:32 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale at Lansdowne South

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hello,

I would really like to see salmon in the urban streams again! I grew up fishing and always loved salmon. I would highly consider withdrawing from this sale

**From:** Jordan Reichert

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 12:11 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed SD61 Land Disposal

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Dear Board of Trustees,

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria

My dad who died from cancer spent his final days in hospice and I have a great appreciation for their work. However, there are many other options for their relocation besides compromising a sensitive and rare ecosystem in our urban community. My dad, who benefitted from hospice's care, would also value nature before development and oppose the land sale.

Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home and once it is gone, we will never get it back. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November. School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

Personally, as a nearby resident, I would like to see this area of Bowker Creek rewilded to reduce human and domestic animal interference with the creek's ecology and urban wildlife use.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jordan Reichert  
Animal Alliance of Canada  
Saanich, B.C.

**From:** [Al & Irene Rathbone](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek Watershed  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 8:27:22 PM

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Dear Trustees,

Please do NOT go forward with the sale of the 2 acres at Lansdowne south campus. We need its return to natural conditions to provide flood mitigation and offer an ideal site for outdoor education – with safe access to the creek to view a biodiverse system, to connect science concepts to real world experiences, and to experience a deeper caring for thriving ecosystems within the city.

As an SD 61 educator and school administrator, I often arranged for students to travel by bus to Goldstream park to facilitate their understanding of nature's life cycles. Given the environmental crisis before us, this is no longer a viable option. Yet the need for students to understand the flow of energy through the world that sustains us has never been more pressing. The thought that trustees, committed to learning and to our children's future well-being, would even contemplate abandoning the commitment to restoring the Bowker Creek watershed appalls me.

Please do not abandon your commitment to the creek nor to the students who will one day come to thank you for your foresight should the creek be restored as per the restoration plan.

Sincerely,

Al Rathbone

**From:** [Kathleen Ross](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowler creek  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:21:53 PM

---

Dear Trustees,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen to ask that you stop the sale of two acres of land at the Lansdowne South Campus. These lands are our responsibility and our heritage; we must preserve them as part of our duty to future generations. The Bowker Creek Blueprint must be respected, and restoration of the creek should be a top priority. Selling this land will harm our environment and hamper our children's future.

Please do not make the sale.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ross



## Preferred Recommendation: Reach 9



- Move the creek channel west to accommodate alternate land uses
- Widen and naturalize the creek with native species and a riparian buffer
- Safe, sloping creek banks with slower flow to limit erosion and improve safety
- Excellent opportunities for a greenway and outdoor classroom

**From:** [Gerald](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** proposed land sale at Lansdowne south campus  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 9:02:28 AM

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Dear Trustees,

Please halt the sale of School District 61 land at Lansdowne Middle School south campus or delay the decision and allow for fulsome community consultation.

At stake is an opportunity for SD61 and our students to participate strongly in two great works of our time—responding to the dangers of climate change and reconciling humans with natural ecosystems. At Lansdowne south campus the school district can act to avert future flood disasters and to restore freshwater and wetlands ecosystems of Bowker Creek. Students can participate in these actions and can benefit educationally for decades to come.

SD61 stands already as a vital partner in the Bowker Creek Blueprint vision for restoring Bowker Creek and its watershed. The 2016 restoration work at Oak Bay High School ranks high among actions for moderating the creek's flow, restoring habitat and engaging students in learning and in benefitting the community. Student projects at Oak Bay High have led to salmon restoration by Friends of Bowker Creek and Peninsula Streams Society, while the restored section of creek is now beloved in the local community.

As we awaken to the urgency of responding to climate change, we now recognize that Lansdowne south campus can be key to averting floods in Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay. Please partner with governments and community groups to implement this great work.

Yours truly,

Gerald Harris

**From:** [Anne Topp](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Sale of Land at Landsdown School  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 9:50:41 AM

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Dear Board of Trustees SD 61.

My purpose in writing is to register my opposition to the sale of Land from the Richmond /Lansdowne School site or any School District land . This community has been through this before about 15 years ago when a number of parcels were sold as not needed. All public land is need.

More and more I find that " WE" all talk a big environmental story but when it come to actually recognizing the critical...maintaining land adjacent to an " open" section of an urban creek for its environmental values... we don't act. A few meter set back does not cut it.

School land is calculated into the open space/park calculation so this land is critical to the communities social and mental well being far into the future. Think big! To often we think of the immediate and not the future. Think Critical not just what's Important now.

Given the changes in how society will be working I am sure there are buildings to house a French School with the Greater Victoria Area.

Preserving and protecting the Open Bowker Creek and the land immediately adjacent is the most Critical thing. Do not sell any land within the SD portfolio.

Sincerely,

Anne Topp



**From:** [Stephen Ross](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the sale  
**Date:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 9:00:03 PM

---

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Dear Trustees,

I'm writing as a concerned citizen to ask that you stop the sale of two acres of land at the Lansdowne South Campus. These lands are our responsibility and our heritage; we must preserve them as part of our duty to future generations. The Bowker Creek Blueprint must be respected, and restoration of the creek should be a top priority. Selling this land will harm our environment and hamper our children's future.

Please do not make the sale.

Yours,  
Stephen Ross

**From:** [mgenton@telus.net](mailto:mgenton@telus.net)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:48:38 AM

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Hello Trustees,

I am writing to express my concern that the community will be missing a golden environmental opportunity if SD61 votes against the preservation of the 1.9 acre parcel of publicly-owned land at Landsdowne South Middle School. Surely some creative solution can be found to provide needs for the environment and hospice.

Thank you

Monique Genton

**From:** Leslie B  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek

**CAUTION:** External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

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I write today to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a worthy organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will increase impermeability immediately adjacent to the Creek, risking even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel of land. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and Creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth. Please say no to the sale!

Thank you,

Leslie K. Bateman  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Dorothy Field](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** disposal of land at Lansdowne school  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:58:00 AM

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Dear Trustees:

Next week you trustees of School District 61 will be voting on whether or not to sell a 1.9 acre parcel of land at Lansdowne School.

I am writing to ask you to vote NO. Here are my reasons:

- 1) First because it would be a blow to the restoration of Bowker Creek and the possibility of it becoming once again a creek that supports salmon. The restoration of Bowker Creek is also very important for flood mitigation. We are seeing the effects of the climate crisis right here, right now. Any actions to make flooding less likely or at least less destructive are of great importance to the City and the school.
- 2) Because we are already losing 2 acres of land at Vic High -- yes, for affordable housing, but if school land is seen as up for development, we pave the way for much more loss of green space. And what's going to happen when we need more open space to build more facilities to service our schools as Victoria's population increases, as it surely will.
- 3) We are short of green space in Victoria and our school lands provide green space for kids and adults alike. The City of Victoria's park plan specifically states how vital school lands are, especially in neighbourhoods without many parks. But green space is under siege despite that policy. I urge you to protect what we have.

I have been working for the last decade on raising awareness of Rock Bay Creek which was culverted in the 1890s. Our creeks are of great importance to the health of our cities. Cities around the globe are enhancing their creeks because of their value for flood mitigation and the addition of native plants. I urge the school district to look at the larger picture and to seriously consider this as they decide how to vote.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Field  
Victoria

The sale would be a big setback for Bowker Creek restoration, flood mitigation, and our hopes for a healthy creek with salmon. SD61 has entered into an agreement to sell the triangle of school property alongside Bowker Creek to the Victoria Hospice Society. We note that SD61 has entered into this agreement without the required approval from the Minister of Education and ministerial requirement for broad community dialog **before** a sales agreement is made.

**From:** [Kirsten Pizarro](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Bowker Creek - SD61 Land Disposal  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 6:04:54 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense

rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;

- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Many Thanks,

Kirsten Pizarro

**From:** [bart reed](#)  
**To:** Trustees; Ryan Painter; Diane McNally; Nicole Duncan; Tom Ferris; Angie Hentze; Elaine Leonard; Rob Paynter; Jordan Watters; Ann Whiteaker; Community Engagement  
**Subject:** Fw: FYI - Bowker Creek - SD61 Land Disposal  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:17:48 PM

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I support the email below, meaning I am against the sale of the 1.9 acre parcel.  
The constant over-reach of politicians and unions, including teachers' unions especially, must finally stop.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** FYI - Bowker Creek - SD61 Land Disposal

Dear Gonzales Neighbour,  
Please see the request below from Friends of Bowker Creek.  
Gonzales Neighbourhood Association  
(if you would like your name removed from our distribution list please send an e-mail to [gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalesneighbours@gmail.com))

Hello Friends of Bowker Creek,

**On January 24, School District 61 (SD61) Trustees will vote on the sale of a 1.9 acre parcel of publicly-owned land at Lansdowne South Middle School.**

The sale would be a big setback for Bowker Creek restoration, flood mitigation, and our hopes for a healthy creek with salmon. SD61 has entered into an agreement to sell the triangle of school property alongside Bowker Creek to the Victoria Hospice Society. We note that SD61 has entered into this agreement without the required approval from the Minister of Education and ministerial requirement for broad community dialog before a sales agreement is made.

**Please write to the SD61 Trustees and ask a friend to do the same.** Trustees need to hear from hundreds of residents - even a one or two-line email will help. The more emails sent the better!

Please copy/paste these email addresses for the Trustees into your email:

[trustees@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:trustees@sd61.bc.ca); [rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca); [dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca); [nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca); [tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca); [ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca); [eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca); [rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca); [jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca); [awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca); [community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:community@sd61.bc.ca);

Sample email message to copy:

Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, Uvic and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has



not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

**Please say no to the sale of public lands and creeks!**

**SD61 Trustees will vote to sell this land at Bowker Creek on January 24th. If you care about Bowker Creek and your public green space, please take a few minutes to send an email to SD61 to voice your concern.**

More information is available on the [Friends of Bowker Creek Society website](#).



The Friends of Bowker Creek Society supports the restoration and enhancement of Bowker Creek and its watershed to a healthy state, guided by the vision and goals of the [Bowker Creek Blueprint](#).

Find out more at: [bowkercreek.org](http://bowkercreek.org)

**From:** [JENNIFER](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne south campus  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 7:41:39 AM

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Dear SD61 Trustees,

I am writing to request the stop of the sale of the two acres at Lansdowne south campus. It is important site for flood mitigation as well as an invaluable opportunity for children within the city to have access to outdoor education; to experience and learn about nature, science and ecosystems in their community.

Thank you,

Jennifer Riecken

**From:** [Sandy Morrison](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** No sale please!  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 12:06:44 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

W. Morrison  
Victoria

**From:** [Keely Covo](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE DON'T SELL SD61 PROPERTY AT BOWKER CREEK  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:25:42 AM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

I'm sure you are getting many emails in opposition to the proposed sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 publicly owned property including 180 m of Bowker Creek. I am adding to that collection of voices to say please, PLEASE don't vote to sell this land!

Lands held in trust are such a valuable asset to the wellbeing of not just the community, but in this case to Bowker Creek as well. Such a crucial and already struggling ecosystem, Bowker Creek needs us to respect it and help it thrive, not build more things around it.

Victoria Hospice is also a crucial organization, but it doesn't make sense to trade one for the other. There are other options for Victoria Hospice, but there are no other options for Bowker Creek.

To summarize, I DO NOT support the sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne Middle School. I also understand that this proposed sale and development goes against the *Bowker Creek Blueprint*, which has been signed by all involved parties.

Again, PLEASE SAY NO TO THE SALE OF PUBLIC LAND AND BOWKER CREEK! Bowker Creek and everything that relies on it to live need you to stand up and protect it.

Thank you very much,  
Keely

Keely Covo  
Victoria Resident

**From:** [Andrea Warner](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:12:19 AM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage

downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

**From:** [Kristian Dubrawski](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of Lansdowne lands and Bowker Creek?  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:30:37 AM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

I am a professor of water sustainability, and I am greatly concerned with the proposal to sell land at Lansdowne School and put our watershed at risk. I understand the money is important, but more time is needed to develop a sustainable plan.

I want to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-



owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

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- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Best wishes,  
Kristian Dubrawski

**From:** [Josef Krancevic](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 11:29:49 AM

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Hello,

My name is Josef Krancevic and I was born and raised in Victoria. For decades I have known about Bowker Creek and the way it has been abused through misguided development and a failure to recognize its regional significance.

I am taken aback by the short sightedness of the decision by SD 61 to sell a parcel of land including a stretch of Bowker Creek for development. We need to do our utmost to protect our creeks and rivers. This is not the 1850's nor the 1950's. There is no excuse for this development proposal and you should have to stand before the assembled students of SD 61 to apologize for attempting to do this in their name. Their future is in your hands but soon your future will be in theirs.

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

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- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
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- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

**From:** [Ryon Bateman](#)

**Sent:** January 17, 2022 11:33 AM

**Subject:** RE: Water and the challenges facing restoration and recovery of the Bowker Creek

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#### Water and the challenges facing restoration and recovery of the Bowker Creek

Water is to the environment and planet health like blood is to cells in the body. Both are essential fluids transporting nutrients, heat, oxygen. Water supports, sustains life. Go for a walk in a forest, hike in the mountains, look out upon the Salish Sea, boat along a river, walk beside a creek and you find an abundance of life. Having lived in many places, the biodiversity here is extraordinary: Douglas fir, Garry Oaks, migrating waterfowl, snowdrops, salmon, orcas. All sustained by water that circulates via oceans, rainfall, melting snow, glaciers, lakes, ponds, springs, rivers and creeks. On Southern Vancouver Island lies the unique Bowker Creek Watershed – an essential, too much ignored, component of the landscape. A distinctive ecosystem whose high point is Mount Tolmie and main waterway is Bowker Creek, flowing from its headwaters at UVic through Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay before emptying into Oak Bay, acting as the natural watershed drainage system. It used to teem with salmon. Following a 100-year plan (signed by the three municipalities in 2011) to restore and recover the Bowker Creek, efforts are underway to daylight it, restore salmon at its mouth and establish a greenway connecting thousands of people. However, many challenges remain. The most significant of which is the sale, development and redevelopment of parcels of land that impinge on the creek. After watching the impacts of the 2021 atmospheric rivers, it was clear we have to respect and protect the natural waterways more than ever in this time of climate change.



Attached photo Ryon Bateman:

Bowker Creek, Reach # 12, Browning Park

November 30, 2021 (following atmospheric rivers)

Ryon Bateman, MEd, PhD

Acting President, Mount Tolmie Community Association

District of Saanich, BC

**From:** [Lynn Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek at Lansdowne  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 2:30:02 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61. The land is a floodplain and building on it is contrary to the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and creates a risk of worse downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future.

SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this publicly-owned asset.

Please **do not allow** that sale to proceed.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Phillips

**From:** Janet Simpson  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 9:37 AM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek

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### **Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South**

I write today to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a worthy organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will increase impermeability immediately adjacent to the Creek, risking even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel of land. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and Creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth. Please say no to the sale!

Janet Simpson

**From:** [Lister Farrar](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne south property sale  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:44:03 PM

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Dear Trustees:

Thanks for your work supporting  
schools and education.

I'm writing to request you reconsider the sale of sd 61 property along Bowker creek.

The course of the creek was corrupted long before the school was built, but the environmental imperative to restore it remains, and presses, for educational and climate change reasons.

The restoration of the creek less than a km downstream, adjacent to Oak Bay high, shows what a success a restoration can be, as both a venue of education and an oasis of nature.

Please find another way to support the budgets of the district. Once this is built on, restoration is gone for good.

Yours supporting the next generation of environmental advocates,

Lister Farrar

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lister Farrar](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Lansdowne south property sale  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:44:03 PM

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Dear Trustees:

Thanks for your work supporting  
schools and education.

I'm writing to request you reconsider the sale of sd 61 property along Bowker creek.

The course of the creek was corrupted long before the school was built, but the environmental imperative to restore it remains, and presses, for educational and climate change reasons.

The restoration of the creek less than a km downstream, adjacent to Oak Bay high, shows what a success a restoration can be, as both a venue of education and an oasis of nature.

Please find another way to support the budgets of the district. Once this is built on, restoration is gone for good.

Yours supporting the next generation of environmental advocates,

Lister Farrar

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Libby

**Sent:** Sunday, January 16, 2022 8:26 AM

**To:** Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** building on flood plains

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- 
- I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61's publicly owned property with 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society.
  - The property is a flood plain. Recent events in BC surely suggest building on a flood plain is never a good idea.

Respectfully  
Elizabeth Jenkins

**From:** [grahamwhitehead@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamwhitehead@shaw.ca)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:33:14 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

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The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Graham Whitehead  
Victoria, BC,

**From:** [Trevor Walker](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#); [friendsofbowkercreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbowkercreek@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands at Lansdowne South Middle School without regard for Bowker Creek  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:02:35 AM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 property at Lansdowne South. To make this proposal without any regard for Bowker Creek and its rehabilitation is short-sighted and misguided. It sets a poor example for our community and students.

I invite you to review SD 61 Policy 3324 and consider how the district can take up this commitment and lead by example in all its activities:

"The Board of School Trustees believes that the maintenance of our environment is necessary to the quality of our lives. Further, it believes that the district and its schools have the responsibility of fostering and reinforcing positive environmental concepts, concepts that will enhance the relationship between living things and their natural and built surroundings.

The introduction of these concepts must begin early in the life of each child in order to develop a responsible environmental ethic which will be sustained throughout life."

Please show our students that from conviction springs action, not idle words.

Sincerely,

Trevor Walker

**From:** Ken Whitcroft

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 12:50 PM

**To:** Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of

1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

**Please say no to the sale of public lands and creeks!**

Ken Whitcroft original sitting member of the Bowker Creek Steering Committee for the Bowker Creek Blueprint.

We only have a limited number of opportunities within our region for protecting the critical part of our environment that's important to supporting the existence of all species on this planet for future generations and it's even more vital that we don't loose any of those opportunities that already exist within our community plans regarding the health of our watersheds.

**From:** Paula Parker

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 1:12 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Sale of a 1.9 acre parcel of publicly-owned land and a section of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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Dear Board of Trustees,

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November. School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

Thank you,  
Paula Parker,  
North Jubilee homeowner

**From:** [grahamwhitehead@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamwhitehead@shaw.ca)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:33:10 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

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I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:



- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
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- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Graham Whitehead  
 1689 Earle Street  
 Victoria, BC, V8S1N4

**From:** [Ann Steele](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek section on SD 61  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:54:05 AM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

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In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

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- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
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- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Thank you, Ann Steele

From: Monica Fiederer  
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:30 PM  
To: Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
Subject: lansdowne school property

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I am adding my voice to the protests regarding the proposed sale of land from Lansdowne South Bowker Creek area to Hospice. Please do not sell this valuable ecologically sensitive land to anyone! I have raised three children in Victoria and am a property owner here. I care about our green spaces and especially about the health of our small waterways.  
Sincerely, Monica Fiederer

**From:** Lindsay Halldorson

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 3:05 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Loss of Greenspace due to sale of SD61 lands by Bowker Creek

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Dear Board of Trustees,

We are reaching out to express opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 meters of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society.

Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development.

Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has **no other home**.

The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and

Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel.

Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead.

The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes.

Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: Once sold, they will **never again** be held in trust should they be needed in the future.

Please say **no** to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

Lindsay & Chris Halldorson

**From:** Liz&Colin Campbell

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 3:06 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Opposed to the proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth. Please say no to the sale!

Thank you,

Liz Campbell

**From:** DJ Rose

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 3:00 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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### **Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South**

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The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth. Please say no to the sale!

DJ Rose

**From:** Elizabeth Rose

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 3:02 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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Thank you,

Elizabeth Rose

Resident and parent of a one year old.



**From:** Sheri Andersen

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:27 PM

**To:** Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School

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I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

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Thank you,

Sheri Andersen

**From:** Pamela Woodland

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:15 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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Hello

My heart and mind are utterly aligned with the words below:

I write today to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society.

Victoria Hospice is a worthy organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will increase impermeability immediately adjacent to the Creek, risking even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

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The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth.

Please say no to the sale!

And please step forward in time — say yes to regenerating the viability of the creek. For its own sake as well as for our children's.

Best regards,  
Pam Woodland

From: Willow & Denis Smith

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 3:05 PM

To: Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

Subject: Sale of SD 61 property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South

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Dear Board of Trustees,

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the Bowker Creek Blueprint and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

Thankyou for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

Willow and Denis Smith

**From:** Russ Reynolds <[russreynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:russreynolds@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 6:37 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: School District 61 - Sale of Old Richmond School Lands

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Dear School District 61,

It is never in the best interests of the government or its citizens to sell government land off. Regardless of the debate that will ensue about potential uses, at a very minimum, the only way these lands should be disposed is by way of a pre-paid 99-year lease.

It won't affect the selling price and in 99 years the lands will return to the citizens.

By the way, I was a student there in grades 5-7, about 50 years ago, 😊

Sincerely,

**Russ Reynolds**

**From:** RAYMOND ST ARNAUD

**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 8:55 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** selling land to hospice

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This is reminiscent of a former elected official who wanted to sell parts or the whole of this property for residential use. The obvious objection was, why build residences on a flood plain?

The premise was, Richmond was of no use to the school district. Subsequent use over the years has

proven the premise wrong, and Richmond school now survives as Lansdowne South Middle School.

In the intervening years a lot of study and work has occurred, with more to come, on making Bowker Creek ,

less flood prone, fish friendly and an additional recreational resource for the surrounding communities.

The idea of building anything substantial on a floodplain strikes me as just stupid.

And where is the ministerial permission, the public consultation?

Raymond St Arnaud

**From:** [Sarah Holmes de Castro](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Cc:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Land sale at Lansdowne - opposition  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:41:42 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property

damage downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups

With thanks for your consideration of these vital issues. Whilst I understand the dire need for funding SD61 finds itself in I believe it's also critical at this time to support the health of our dwindling ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Sarah Holmes de Castro

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Teresa Anne Carriere](#)  
**To:** [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#); [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Sale of Lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:21:12 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;
- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;

- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups

Thank you for taking the time to read about my concerns.

Teressa Carriere

**From:** [Karen Wallace-Prince](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#)  
**Subject:** Bowker Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:23:53 PM

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Dear School District 61 Trustees,

Once again I write to you with the hope that you will **not** sell 1.9 acres of the district's publicly owned property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. No one faults Hospice to look for a newer and larger facility but this tract of land is not the right place. They will have other options. Bowker Creek does not.

Now is the time to bring Chum back to the stream. This would certainly be a teachable moment!

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,  
Karen Wallace-Prince

**From:** [Merrie-Ellen Wilcox](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:44:42 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
- precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

**Please say no to the sale of public lands and creeks!**

Thank you.

Merrie-Ellen Wilcox

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**From:** Melissa Tupper  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:05 AM  
**To:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Lansdowne South - opposition to proposed land sale

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Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed sale of 1.9 acres of publicly owned land and a critical section of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South school.

While I fully support the important work of Victoria Hospice, I believe other options should be considered for their proposed development. The land adjacent to Bowker Creek is a floodplain and building on it will impact the creek and downstream areas.

I understand that School District 61 as well as the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for widening the creek on this parcel of land. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which cannot be realized if the sale of the land and creek go ahead. Restoration of the creek provides community green space and an essential educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

I believe the sale of publicly-owned land for capital funding for school upgrades is shortsighted as land and natural systems are amongst our most precious resources. Once these properties are sold, they will never again be available for public use nor for the ecosystem services they provide.

I urge the trustees to please protect this land and say no to the proposed sale of the property.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Tupper

**From:** [J C Price](#)  
**To:** [Trustees](#); [Ryan Painter](#); [Diane McNally](#); [Nicole Duncan](#); [Tom Ferris](#); [Angie Hentze](#); [Elaine Leonard](#); [Rob Paynter](#); [Jordan Watters](#); [Ann Whiteaker](#); [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** : Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:04:02 PM

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Dear SD61 Board of Trustees,

**re: Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South Middle School**

I write to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a wonderful organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will preclude the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and risk even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the *Bowker Creek Blueprint* and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this site. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of wholesaling SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust – should they be needed in the future. Please say no to the sale of our public lands and creeks!

I do not support the proposed sale of 1.9 acres and Bowker Creek (also known as Thaywun) at Lansdowne South Middle School. SD61 has not consulted with residents, local government or community groups on alternative uses of this exceptional publicly-owned asset.

In addition, disposal of this publicly-owned property:

- erodes and disrespects the long-standing collaborative vision developed in the community over the past 20 years;
- eliminates rare open space that will be increasing valuable as the immediate area rapidly densifies;
-

precludes opportunities for managing increased flooding and mitigating property damage downstream;

- compromises the ability to adapt to climate change – particularly in the face of more intense rain storm events like the one that occurred last November;
- diminishes the opportunity to establish an incredible teaching and experiential resource to enrich the education of Lansdowne Middle School students and other area schools;
- conflicts with the recommendations of the *Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year Action Plan*—a comprehensive plan that has been endorsed by SD61 as well as Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, UVic and numerous community groups.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Cornelia Price



**From:** Mark Higginbottom

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:49 PM

**To:** Ryan Painter <[rpainter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpainter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Diane McNally <[dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dmcnally@sd61.bc.ca)>; Nicole Duncan <[nduncan@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:nduncan@sd61.bc.ca)>; Tom Ferris <[tferris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tferris@sd61.bc.ca)>; Angie Hentze <[ahentze@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ahentze@sd61.bc.ca)>; Elaine Leonard <[eleonard@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:eleonard@sd61.bc.ca)>; Rob Paynter <[rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:rpaynter@sd61.bc.ca)>; Jordan Watters <[jwatters@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jwatters@sd61.bc.ca)>; Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>; Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Opposition to the sale of 1.9 Acres of SD61 land to Victoria Hospice

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Dear SD61 Trustee's

I write today to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society.

The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth.

Perhaps consider what my old high school (North Toronto Collegiate Institute) decided to do: demolish the old structure and build a new school on the first 2 floors and condo's on the other floors or in this case, the hospice. If the hospice has money to buy land, they have the money to build a new facility (which they would be doing anyway).

SAVE YOUR ASSETS.

Please say no to the sale! Say YES to a win-win for both Lansdowne Middle School AND Victoria Hospice. Whatever you build will last another 100 years. Perfect. Keep the beautiful green space GREEN for another 100 years while you're at it.

Thanks / Regards,

Mark Higginbottom

**From:** janine varney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:21 PM  
**To:** Ann Whiteaker <[awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awhiteaker@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Community Engagement <[Community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:Community@sd61.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Protection of Bowker Creek

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Dear A Witeaker and Community,

**Proposed sale of lands and Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South**

I write today to express my opposition to the sale of 1.9 acres of School District 61 (publicly owned) property and 180 metres of Bowker Creek at Lansdowne South to Victoria Hospice Society. Victoria Hospice is a worthy organization doing important work but there are other options for their proposed development. Bowker Creek, on the other hand, has no other home. The land in question is a floodplain and building on it will increase impermeability immediately adjacent to the Creek, risking even greater downstream flooding than was experienced in November.

School District 61 along with the Capital Regional District, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, UVIC and Island Health have all signed on to the Bowker Creek Blueprint and its proposed vision for meandering and widening the Creek on this parcel of land. Decades of investment and effort have gone into this vision, which will be impossible to realize should the sale of the land and Creek go ahead. The collaborative efforts of these organizations and community members show what is possible when people pull together to create resilient landscapes. Restoration of this section of the Creek would provide not only community green space but an unparalleled educational resource for the children of Victoria for generations to come.

The idea of providing capital funding for school upgrades from the wholesaling of SD61 properties is shortsighted: once these properties are sold, they will never again be held in trust should they be needed in the future for school enrolment growth. Please say no to the sale!

Sincerely,

Janine Varney

# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

January 19, 2022

Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

BY E-MAIL: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

BY E-MAIL: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**ATTENTION:** Honourable Jennifer Whiteside and Honourable Selina Robinson

Dear Ministers Whiteside and Robinson:

**RE: Capital Funding for Electric Buses**

At its Regular Board meeting of December 13, 2021, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) carried the following resolution:

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Finance to request that, going forward, the level of funding for bus replacement be set at the cost of the purchase price for electric buses; AND FURTHER that the Board understands that the current schedule of bus replacement is based on age and mileage of the vehicle and that the funding standard is applied against the cost of a diesel or gas-driven vehicle rather than an electric vehicle.*

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community

School Districts are in a unique position to show leadership in mitigating and adapting to address the impacts of climate change. We are a member of the public sector, with a unique and special responsibility to not only manage our resources, such as our buildings and infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable manner, but to also support an environmental ethic. This includes the importance of sustainability in our educational programs.

This runs up against a challenging reality; the current provincial approach to school district capital funding limits school district's ability to address joint provincial and local obligations to reduce emissions. This results in districts being unable to take more meaningful and effective steps to address the climate emergency through environmentally sustainable investments in our capital assets.

In its 2021-2022 Annual Five Year Capital Plan, the Board applied for four electric buses. The Board was subsequently successful in receiving \$883,792 Ministry of Education funding and a further \$474,540 Clean BC funding for buses valued at \$1,503,040. The funding shortfall of \$194,708 was left to the Board to finance.

Funding the shortfall from operating or local capital funds comes at the cost of direct service to our students, staff and families that would otherwise be spent on instruction, health and safety, and learning and work environments. The funding shortfall disincentivizes school districts from electrification of its transportation fleets and in districts with no ability to fund the shortfall, eliminates the electric bus option altogether.

Students in School District No. 61, and around the world, are calling on leadership to do something to secure their access to a safe and livable planet for their futures. The Board of School District No. 61 is committed to doing its part in reducing emissions and creating the very future our students are calling for. Therefore, the Board requests the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance to do their parts and fully fund electrification of busses in the 2022-2023 school year and subsequent capital planning years.

Sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community



Cc: Board of Education, SD61  
Deb Whitten, Superintendent, SD61  
Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, SD61  
Chuck Morris, Director of Facilities  
Chris Brown, Deputy Minister, Education  
Heather Wood, Deputy Minister, Finance  
BC School Boards

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community





# Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

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

January 19, 2022

BC Hydro President & CEO  
BC Utilities Commission CEO & Chair  
Premiere John Horgan  
Minister of Education Whiteside  
Minister of Finance Robinson  
Minister of Environment Heyman

BY E-MAIL: [chris.oriley@bchydro.com](mailto:chris.oriley@bchydro.com)  
BY E-MAIL: [commission.secretary@bcuc.com](mailto:commission.secretary@bcuc.com)  
BY E-MAIL: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)  
BY E-MAIL: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
BY E-MAIL: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
BY E-MAIL: [ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Climate Action Partners:

RE: **BC Hydro Net Metering Cap**

At its Regular Board meeting of December 13, 2021, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) carried the following resolution:

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advocate to lift BC Hydro's 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly with BC Hydro and the BC Securities Commission, and through BCSTA, to BC Hydro, BC Securities Commission, the Premier of British Columbia, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.*

School Districts are in a unique position to show leadership in mitigating and adapting to address the impacts of climate change. We are a member of the public sector, with a unique and special responsibility to not only manage our resources, such as our buildings and infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable manner, but to also support an environmental ethic. This includes the importance of sustainability in our educational programs.

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

One *Learning* Community

This runs up against a challenging reality; the current provincial approach to school district capital funding limits school district's ability to address joint provincial and local obligations to reduce emissions. This results in districts being unable to take more meaningful and effective steps to address the climate emergency through environmentally sustainable investments in our capital assets.

In July 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the replacement of Cedar Hill Middle School in School District No. 61. The Board committed to contributing \$3.6 million to the project to bridge the cost of a replacement school, opposed to renovating the existing school. The Board also pursued a further investment to build an energy efficient school, utilizing ground source and air source heat pumps and to generate as much renewable energy on site as it consumed in a typical year using photovoltaic solar panel technology. During the information gathering stage prior to the Board motion to commit funds to eliminate the need for natural gas for the new build, the Board was advised that even should it wish to invest in this infrastructure, the option was unavailable due to the 100kW net metering cap set in place by BC Hydro and BC Utilities Commission.

Had the net metering cap not been restricted, the replacement Cedar Hill Middle School could have been built with 100% renewable energy infrastructure. As it stands now with the metering cap, the new building that will serve the community for the next 60-100 years will rely on natural gas as an energy backup.

BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission need to recognize that municipalities and school districts build larger institutional buildings, such as schools, that necessarily exceed the 100kW net metering cap due to size and program requirements and should not be treated as if they are operating a solar farm. Regulations need to be adapted to allow school districts and municipalities to build their facilities as fully Net Zero.

Students in School District No. 61, and around the world, are calling on leadership to do something to secure their access to a safe and livable planet for their futures. The Board of School District No. 61 is committed to doing its part in reducing emissions and creating the very future our students are calling for. Therefore, the Board requests provincial climate action partners show leadership and do their parts to remove the BC Hydro net metering cap and allow school districts to use whatever energy means possible to create sustainable buildings for students today and the future, and to help fulfill the provincial government's climate action objectives.

Sincerely,



Ryan Painter  
Chair, Board of Education

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

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Cc: Board of Education, SD61  
Deb Whitten, Superintendent, SD61  
Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, SD61  
Chuck Morris, Director of Facilities  
Chris Brown, Deputy Minister, Education  
Heather Wood, Deputy Minister, Finance  
Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Environment  
BC School Boards

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

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# Office of the Chair of the Board

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

*Ryan Painter – Chair of the Board of Education*

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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Ryan Painter, Chair of the Board of Education  
RE: Chair's Report  
DATE: January 24, 2022

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Please see below a summary of events and meetings attended by the Chair for the previous month:

- December 14 – Chair signing
- December 20 – Chair/Secretary-Treasurer meeting
- December 21 – Call with Peninsula Streams to discuss rain-garden program/proposal
- December 29 – Board Chair call with the Minister of Education
- January 4 – Chair signing
- January 6 – Trustee COVID Update Meeting
- January 7 – Board Chair call with the Minister of Education
- January 7 – Chair/Superintendent meeting
- January 10 – In-Camera Meeting
- January 10 – Education Policy and Directions meeting
- January 11 – Chair/Superintendent planning meeting
- January 11 – Community Conversation on Anti-Racism Data Legislation
- January 12 – Chair/Superintendent meeting
- January 13 – BCSTA Legislative Committee Meeting
- January 13 – Meeting with disability advocates
- January 17 – Operations Policy and Planning meeting
- January 17 – Meeting and walk-about at Margaret Jenkins with parents regarding road safety and other concerns
- January 18 – Board Chairs call with Minister of Education
- January 18 – Meeting with VPVPA Leadership
- January 18 – Chair signing
- January 18 – Budget Advisory Committee
- January 19 – Chair/Superintendent Planning meeting
- January 19 – Meeting with Kerry Cavers from Mothers Against Racism
- January 20 – Meeting with Sundance Elementary School Principal Lindsay Swan

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

- January 21 – Meeting with MLA Murray Rankin
- January 21 – Chair/Superintendent meeting
- January 24 – Board of Education meeting

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

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## February

February 11-12: BCSTA Provincial Council

February 18: Non-Instructional Day

### **Strategic Direction and Context**

- Propose the 2022/23 School Calendar
- 2022-2023 Budget Update
- Pink Shirt Day – Anti-bullying

### **System Planning and Performance Monitoring**

- FESL
- Approve international student fees (every two years) for 2022-2023
- Monthly Financial Summary

### **External Compliance and Accountability**

- Approve the amended annual budget and bylaw for submission to the Ministry of Education
- Student Enrolment Report

### **Advocacy for Public Education and Provincial Liaison**

- Represent Board at BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

### **Trustee Professional Development In-Service**

- BCSTA Motions to Propose – Provincial Direction
- Review BCSTA Provincial Council



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting  
REGULAR MINUTES**

Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Trustees Present: Tom Ferris (Chair), Elaine Leonard, Angie Hentze, Nicole Duncan, Jordan Watters, Ryan Painter

Trustees Regrets: Diane McNally, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker

Administration: Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Colin Roberts, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Kelly Gorman, Recorder

Stakeholders: Angela Carmichael, President, VCPAC, Lena Palermo, Pro-D Chair, GVTA, Jane Massy, President, CUPE 947

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

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

**A.2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved By** Trustee Duncan

That the January 10, 2022 agenda be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**



### **A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

**Moved By** Trustee Leonard

That the December 6, 2021 Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes as they pertain to Education Policy and Directions Committee, be approved, as amended.

Trustee Duncan requested wording for item **I.2** be changed from net zero emissions to net zero ready.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

None.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE**

### **B.1. Teacher-Librarian**

School District No. 61 Teacher Librarian Travis Richey presented to the Committee. Trustees provided thanks for the presentation, questions of clarification were asked.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **C.1. Introduction of Student Representative**

None.

### **C.2. District Team Update**

District Principals Powell, Hovis and Renyard presented on connection, engagement and achievement, as it relates to supporting the student learning experience. District Principal Hovis provided information on the virtual Welcome to Kindergarten that will take place in February 2022. District Principal Renyard provided an update on assessment and reporting. District Principal Powell explained that mental health continues to be a priority. Trustees gave thanks for the presentation, questions of clarification were asked.

### **C.3. Board Authority Authorized Courses**

District Principal Renyard introduced a new Board Authority Authorized course: Sport Psychology 12. Principal of Oak Bay Secondary Tom Aerts and Teacher Will Moore

presented the course to the Committee. Trustees gave thanks for the presentation, questions of clarification were asked.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the new Board/Authority Authorized course: Sports Psychology 12.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**C.4. School Police Liaison Officer Survey Results**

Trustee Duncan presented the survey results.

**C.5. Parent Education Fund 2021-2022 Update**

Interim Superintendent Whitten provided an update on the Parent Education Fund.

**D. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

**E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer



# Office of the Associate Superintendent

*Colin Roberts – Associate Superintendent*

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**To: Board of Education**  
**From: Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent**  
**Date: January 24, 2022**  
**RE: Board/Authority Authorized Course**

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At the Education and Policy Planning Committee of the Whole on January 10, 2022, Will Moore and Tom Aerts of Oak Bay Secondary School and District Principal Tammy Renyard presented the proposed Board/Authority Authorized Course Sports Psychology 12. The proposed course is a classroom based elective which will provide students with another option for completing the 80 credits required for their graduation. If approved, Sports Psychology 12 can be offered across all secondary schools in the Greater Victoria School District.

Sport Psychology 12 is primarily focused on personal growth through sport. The structure of the course allows for students to gain insights into their performance in both sport and life through the use of specific tools. In addition, students will explore vulnerability and the importance of being present with one's self, to better cope with challenge and adversity. The course will empower students to recognize the transferable nature of sport to their everyday lives for overall positive growth in sport and life.

Although the primary audience for Sport Psychology 12 is student athletes, the course is open to any interested students. Many of the big ideas and curricular competencies could be related to other performers beyond athletes, such as musicians, dancers, singers. There are no prerequisites for this course, though having taken Physical Health Education 10 and English 11 would be of benefit to the students.

First Peoples Principles of Learning are woven throughout the course. There are also many opportunities to include Indigenous content through resources such as Dr. Martin Brokenleg's "Circle of Courage". Guest speakers and additional resources by Indigenous athletes, authors and researchers would enhance the learning experience.

Sports Psychology 12 would align well with the following programs at Camosun and UVic: Sport and Fitness Leadership; Athletic and Exercise Therapy; Counselling; Recreation and Health Education; and Psychology.

Attached is a draft of the proposed new Grade 12 Board/Authority Authorized course, Sports Psychology 12, which requires Board approval.

**Recommended Motion:**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the new Board/Authority Authorized course: Sports Psychology 12.



## Board/Authority Authorized Course Framework Template

School District/Independent School Authority Name: Greater Victoria School District	School District/Independent School Authority Number (e.g. SD43, Authority #432): SD61
Developed by: Will Moore	Date Developed: June 2021
School Name: Oak Bay High School	Principal's Name: Tom Aerts
Superintendent Approval Date (for School Districts only):	Superintendent Signature (for School Districts only):
Board/Authority Approval Date:	Board/Authority Chair Signature:
Course Name: Sport Psychology 12	Grade Level of Course: 12
Number of Course Credits: 4	Number of Hours of Instruction: 120

**Board/Authority Prerequisite(s):** Taking Physical Education 10 and English 11 would be beneficial for students to take prior to Sport Psychology 12.

**Special Training, Facilities or Equipment Required:** N/A

**This has been approved by the facilities department: (yes, no, or n/a):** N/A

**Course Synopsis:** Sport Psychology 12 is primarily focused on personal growth through sport. The course strives to equip students with specific tools to enhance their performance in both sport and life. In addition, students will explore vulnerability and the importance of being present with one's self, to better cope with challenge and adversity. The course will empower students to recognize the transferable nature of sport to their everyday lives for overall positive growth in sport and life.



**Goals and Rationale:** Sport Psychology 12 seeks to support student growth through the examination of one's self through the lens of sport. Students will explore the depth of one's mental capacity in competition. Mental strength development through the use of specific techniques, skills, and self-discovery, will further enhance one's ability to compete under pressure or duress to increase success. Whether it's competing in an individual or team sport, students will carry knowledge and experiences forward that are transferable to other aspects of life.

**Goals:**

1. Develop an understanding of the central tenets of Sport Psychology and their transferable nature to everyday life
2. Engage in activities that build capacity to overcome life/sport challenges
3. Understand specific language associated with mental skills for the enhancement of competition preparedness and life
4. Acknowledge and track specific growth areas over the time of the course and beyond

Sport Psychology 12 is an elective course that allows for the exploration of self in competitive environments. Throughout the course students will experiment with different mental skills. Furthermore, students will engage in cooperative learning, inquiry-driven activities, team-problem solving activities, and team projects, all while implementing skills learned in the classroom, and also in competitive and non-competitive environments.

**Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives:**

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships and a sense of place). A positive learner-centred approach is central to the success of students in this course. Due to the highly personalized nature of this course, students will endeavour to observe, implement, and reflect on particular skills throughout the course; finding relevance is imperative to personal and athletic development. Students will discover the importance of relationships, acknowledging roles and their contributions within a team or group.
- Learning involves patience and time. Students will learn that focus, commitment, and ownership enhance the opportunity to grow through challenging experiences.
- Learning requires exploration of one's identity. Through multiple experiences, time, and practice, students will understand the connection between understanding one's self and the benefits to sport and competition.
- Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story. Story-telling is critical for the evolution of one's self and building connections.

**Course Name: Sport Psychology 12**

**Grade: 12**

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**BIG IDEAS**

Understand self to promote healthy personal growth through sport

Motivation enhances a pathway to setting, monitoring, and achieving successful goals

Goal setting can elevate the opportunity for greater success

Mental health awareness and sport offer opportunities to grow, learn, and appreciate self

Mental skills practice is interchangeable in life and in sport

## Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore the depths of personality, value systems, and different learning styles</li> <li>● Critique and reflect on behaviours associated with personal performance</li> <li>● Demonstrate an understanding of adolescent brain development</li> <li>● Draw connections between brain development and specific behaviours, both personally and athletically</li> <li>● Identify and reflect on leadership qualities evident in team and individual sports</li> <li>● Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge including the understanding that learning requires exploration of one's identity</li> <li>● Recognize that learning takes patience and time</li> <li>● Consider motivational factors before, during, and after competition</li> <li>● Analyze personal and athletic needs to enhance training and performance outcomes</li> <li>● Investigate the construct of failure and its role in personal and athletic development</li> <li>● Explore and become familiar with goal setting language as it pertains to personal and athletic achievement</li> <li>● Assess the efficacy of <b>goal setting modalities</b> and apply them to determine best fit for personality type</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Growth Mindset</b></li> <li>● Big 5 Personality traits</li> <li>● Individual/team value systems</li> <li>● Visual, audio, and kinesthetic styles of learning</li> <li>● Relationship between cognitive factors/environment and its impact on learning and behaviour</li> <li>● Development of specific parts of the brain during adolescence</li> <li>● Prefrontal cortex development and its link to decision making, problem solving, and impulsivity</li> <li>● Self-reflection</li> <li>● Leadership qualities</li> <li>● Team-building processes</li> <li>● <b>Motivation</b></li> <li>● Sources of motivation</li> <li>● Difference between task/ego driven person/athlete</li> <li>● Intrinsic versus extrinsic motivation</li> <li>● Needs-based assessment strategies</li> <li>● <b>Goal setting</b></li> <li>● Goal setting language</li> <li>● Goal setting strategies</li> <li>● Outcome vs performance-related goals</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examine and monitor the relationship between resilience and goal achievement</li> <li>● Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge, including that learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions as related to goal setting and outcomes</li> <li>● Explore the construct of anxiety and fear and its relationship with vulnerability and courage</li> <li>● Explore biological, psychological, and social functioning as it relates to the self and competition</li> <li>● Assess strategies to cope and manage the grief associated with significant injuries</li> <li>● Challenge sport pressures and norms to maintain a healthy life balance</li> <li>● Understand and apply various methods of intense focus, imagery, and visualization</li> <li>● Analyze the Wheel of Excellence to recognize the relevance of particular facets for review, interpretation, and application</li> <li>● Analyze the various factors of competition <b>anxiety/emotional states</b> during competition</li> <li>● Utilize and track various calming and reflective techniques to enhance a specific area of growth-opportunity</li> <li>● Identify and reflect on specific instances during practice or game(s) where optimal performance occurred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Goal achievement processes- motivation, commitment, ownership</li> <li>● Resilience-based strategies</li> <li>● <b>Mental health awareness and growth</b></li> <li>● Triggers for stress/anxiety</li> <li>● Self-confidence boosting strategies</li> <li>● Specific influence on growth, ie: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ family dynamics</li> <li>○ education</li> <li>○ neurochemistry</li> <li>○ emotions</li> <li>○ coping skills</li> <li>○ genetics</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Injury and stages of grief</li> <li>● Coping mechanisms</li> <li>● Communication strategies</li> <li>● Strategies to prevent burnout</li> <li>● <b>Mental skills practice</b></li> <li>● Disruption of negative thought pattern strategies</li> <li>● Positive self-talk techniques</li> <li>● Intense (re)/focus strategies</li> <li>● Imagery exercises/practices</li> <li>● Anxiety vs competition anxiety</li> <li>● Arousal state of mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest levels, height of optimum performance, anxious state</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Curricular Competencies – Elaborations

- **Demonstrate an understanding of adolescent brain development**  
*Sample inquiry questions could include:*
  - How does substance use affect brain development?



- How do 'growth' spurts affect brain development?
- What is the impact of gaming on brain development?

- **Consider motivational factors before, during, and after competition**

*Sample inquiry questions could include:*

- How do professional athletes motivate themselves?
- Which methods do professional athletes use to manufacture motivation?
- Interview fellow athletes to broaden one's understanding of motivation.

## Content – Elaborations

**Goal setting language ideas**-short/mid/long term goals; achievable and fair;

**Elements of brain function**-prefrontal cortex, amygdala, grey matter, pathways, synaptic pruning

**Cognitive Behavioural Therapy**-challenging negative thought processes and behaviours, and disrupting these patterns

## Recommended Instructional Components:

- Direct instruction-growth mindset- biological components and terminology, motivational techniques, theory exploration
- Discussion/Seminar groups-discuss experience(s) with a specific goal setting modality to share findings, wonders, and thoughts for further exploration
- Literature Review-research a particular question by accessing various mediums and sources to highlight specific issues/obstacles to broaden general understanding
- Interviews-conduct one-to-one interviews with students, elite athletes, or performers to gently scrutinize particular curiosities and seek to apply these ideas to the self
- Inquiry skills building-develop an essential question, conduct research, present, and then reflect (focus is on the process and tailoring the learning in more personalized fashion)
- Podcast analysis-listen to draw connections between areas of growth such as growth mindset or mental health awareness and competition burnout
- Video analysis-initially an individual activity, supplemented with guiding questions, but findings presented to each other to communicate relevance, curiosities, and questions for further exploration
- Speaker reflection-guest speaker(s) who has implemented mental skills training at an elite level; speakers who have overcome significant adversity (the power of resilient behaviours)
- Reflection and self-assessment with regard to longitudinal (seasonal) implementation of specific methods. Ie. positive self-talk methods, imagery techniques, or arousal state awareness

**Recommended Assessment Components: Ensure alignment with the Principles of Quality Assessment**

- is fair, transparent, meaningful and responsive to all learners
- focuses on all three components of the curriculum model – knowing, doing, understanding
- provides ongoing descriptive feedback to students
- is ongoing, timely, specific, and embedded in day to day instruction
- provides varied and multiple opportunities for learners to demonstrate their learning
- involves student in their learning
- promotes development of student self-assessment and goal setting for next steps in learning
- allows for a collection of student work to be gathered over time to provide a full profile of the learner and learning
- communicates clearly to the learner and parents where the student is, what they are working towards and the ways that learning can be supported

Throughout the learning process, teachers and students intentionally gather evidence to inform teaching and learning. The teacher creates rich tasks, engages with the students in setting criteria, establishes exemplars, and leverages the power of questioning to allow for ongoing, timely, descriptive feedback to the student. This process assists students in moving forward toward their learning targets and goals. Students are encouraged to reflect and self-assess to build important meta-cognitive skills. Personalization lends itself to assessment as learning, where students participate in the setting of criteria and the design of inquiries, and self- and peer-assessment.

Teachers document student learning over time using collections of student work and demonstrations to create a profile of their strengths, areas of growth, and areas for further development. Students and teachers use criteria and rubrics to determine the standards met and the level of performance attained. Through multiple means and varied strategies, the students' learning is made visible, and their successes celebrated. In this process, new learning goals and targets are established and ways to support the students' learning are described.

**Learning Resources:** While there is no textbook for the course, material will be accessed through a myriad of resources, such as: student research, videos, podcasts, book excerpts, websites, in-class speakers and other mediums. Google classroom will be the vehicle to which the course is accessed and delivered.

Resources that could be used are:

- *Handbook of Sport Psychology* by Gershon Tenenbaum and Robert C. Eklund, 3rd Edition, 2007
- *The Rise of Superman* by Steven Kotler, 2014
- *In Pursuit of Excellence* by Terry Orlick, 1980
- *The Psychology of Flow* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, 1990
- *Flow in Sports* by Susan Jackson and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, 1999
- trainugly.com

- athletesassessment.com
- People + Sport Magazine
- The Psychology of a Winner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TupaYScUUHM>
- How To Get Into the Flow State by Steven Kotler: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG\\_hNZ5T4nY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG_hNZ5T4nY)



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)**  
**Operations Policy and Planning Committee of the Whole**  
**REGULAR MINUTES**

Monday, January 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Broadcasted via YouTube <https://bit.ly/3czx8bA>

Trustees Present: Elaine Leonard (Chair), Angie Hentze, Nicole Duncan, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker, Ryan Painter, Jordan Watters, Tom Ferris

Trustee Regrets: Diane McNally

Administration: Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Colin Roberts, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Morris, Director of Facilities Services, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Associate Director Facilities Services, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Kelly Gorman, Recorder

Stakeholders: Angela Carmichael, President, VCPAC, Connor McCoy, President, VPVPA, Chris Clarke, GVTA, Mark Morrison GVTA, Brian Whin-Yates Vice-President CUPE 382, Jane Massy President CUPE 947

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

Chair Leonard recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and



we do our work.

**A.2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved By** Trustee Hentze

That the January 17, 2022 agenda be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

**Moved By** Trustee Duncan

That the November 8, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved By** Trustee Duncan

That the December 6, 2021 Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes as they pertain to Operations Policy and Planning Committee, be approved, as amended.

Trustee Duncan requested additional wording for item F.1. Bylaw 9330.1, *Appeals Process*: after sample forms "and right of appeal to ombudsperson and Superintendent of Appeals".

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

Trustee Duncan thanked Trustee Leonard and Secretary-Treasurer for updating the November 8, 2021 meeting minutes.

**B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE**

- B.1.** Ian Graeme presented on the proposed SD61 Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus land disposal. Trustees provided thanks for the presentation, questions of clarification were asked.

**C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**



### **C.1. Climate Action Plan**

Interim Superintendent Whitten provided background for the memo and introduced the presentation.

Energy Manager Leslie presented on the Strategic Energy Management Plan, the Climate Change Accountability Report and highlighted the need for a Climate Action Plan. District Principal Powell reflected that an integral part of the Climate Action Plan should be provision of sustainability education, training and leadership opportunities for students, staff, and educators.

Interim Superintendent Whitten provided context with regards to the recommended motion.

Trustees provided thanks for the presentation, questions of clarification were asked.

**Moved By** Trustee Watters

Trustees discussed the motion and suggested revisions to the Terms of Reference. Questions of clarification were asked.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Interim Superintendent to establish an Ad Hoc Climate Action Committee to assist with the further development and implementation of a District Climate Action Plan as per Bylaw 9140;

AND FURTHER

That the Committee report its recommendations to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee by May 2023.

AND FURTHER

That a budget of \$15,000 be established to support the committee's work.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **C.2. Administrative Regulations Manual**

Interim Superintendent Whitten and District Principal McCartney provided an update on the current process to update the Administrative Regulations manual.

Questions of clarification were asked.

**D. PERSONNEL ITEMS**

None

**E. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**E.1. Monthly Financial Report: November 2021**

By consensus the Committee moved to the December monthly financial report.

**E.2. Budget Change Report: November 2021**

By consensus the Committee moved to the December budget change report.

**E.3. Monthly Financial Report: December 2021**

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the report and highlighted that the District is ahead of where they were last year in both revenue collection and spending, the 2021-2022 Amended Budget would be presented at February's meeting, and that COVID may impact overall replacements and overtime budgets, especially in custodial staffing. Questions of clarification were asked.

**E.4. 2021-2022 Budget Change Report: December 2021**

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided highlights. The District has added \$100,000 to the expense side of the Amended Budget for heat detector recall. Under Special Purpose funds, the restart funds have been fully allocated due to the purchase of masks.

**E.5. 2022-2023 Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided an update. The student symposium had to be cancelled due to COVID and it will be replaced with a ThoughtExchange in order to add student voice to the budget. Infrastructure departments are presenting to the Budget Advisory Committee this week and the Learning Team on February 8, 2022. Over the next six weeks the Committee will discuss options on how to balance the budget.

**F. FACILITIES PLANNING**



**F.1. SJ Burnside Upgrade Project: Phase 2 Report**

Secretary-Treasurer Morris thanked Associate Secretary-Treasurer Stride and Director of Facilities Services Morris for all of their work on the report. No misspending was found. The main issue with SJ Burnside was the escalation and misunderstood scope with an old building under renovation. There was a lack of regular reporting to the Board as well as weak archiving of documentation at Facilities. Budget monitoring and accountability appear to have gaps. The results are two new recommendations number 9 and 10 that are in the Report. Questions of clarification were asked.

**F.2. Operations Update: December 2021**

By consensus the Committee moved to the January operations update.

**F.3. Victoria High School Seismic Project Update 12**

By consensus the Committee moved to the Victoria High School seismic project update #13.

**F.4. Operations Update: January 2022**

Director of Facilities Services Morris presented the report. Inclement weather lead to frozen pipes and a great deal of work for the Facilities Department. Omnicron has been challenging for the custodial department due to sick time required for staff. The heat detector recall was a life safety concern and needed to be handled quickly. Replacing the detectors takes two staff members. 80% of them have been replaced. Questions of clarification were asked.

**F.5. Victoria High School Seismic Project Update 13**

Associate Director Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood presented the report highlighting \$31 million has been spent to date and the project is on budget. Staff are working on the tender plans for the exterior site plan, including the artificial turf field, track and volleyball courts. An application for further risk reserve funding is being developed. Questions of clarification were asked.

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

None

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **H.1. BCSTA - BC Hydro - Trustee Watters**

Trustee Watters presented the motion. Questions of clarification were asked.

**Moved By** Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) bring forward a motion to the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting asking the BCSTA to advocate for the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly to BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission, the Premier of British Columbia, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **H.2. BCSTA – Motor Vehicle Act - Trustee Watters**

Trustee Watters presented the motion. Questions of clarification were asked.

**Moved By** Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) bring forward a motion to the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) annual general meeting asking that the BCSTA request the Province of British Columbia amend the Motor Vehicle Act to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide 1 metre of space on roads with posted speeds of 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space on roads with posted speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking; and clarify the obligation of all motorists to establish reasonable distance when passing a cyclist or a pedestrian, as well as definitive guidance on an appropriate minimum distance when doing so.

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

**Abstain (1):** Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried**

#### **I. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

#### **J. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**Move By** Trustee Painter

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer



# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Interim Superintendent*

**To: Board of Education**

**From: Deb Whitten, Brian Leslie, Sean Powell and Andy Canty**

**Date: January 24, 2022**

**Background:**

On June 24, 2019 the Board of Education declared a Climate Emergency and through a motion directed the Superintendent to develop a Climate Change Action Plan with specific objectives and measurements that align with the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

During the 2020/21 school year the emergence of the global pandemic COVID19 dominated the news throughout the world. As a result of the pandemic the health and safety of staff and students dominated conversations and plans. The airborne nature of the virus and its relative uncertainty in how it is transmitted required immediate action including examining ventilation in buildings. Some actions contradicted our energy management goals by continuously discarding conditioned air through vents, open windows, and doors beyond typical requirements.

In November 2020 the District hired Brian Leslie as Energy Manager. As the Energy Manager, Brian is responsible for all aspects of energy conservation initiatives across the Greater Victoria School District. Brian provides leadership and coordination in the effective identification, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of energy conservation programs.

On June 21, 2021 the Board of Education approved the following motion.

*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to prepare a Climate Action Plan as directed by the Board in its motion of 24 June 2019, by September 2021 for consideration by the Board and our stakeholders. Further the plan should establish measurable targets and strategies to reduce GHGs by 2030 commensurate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. The plan should also include funding options to support targets and strategies such as available rebates and government funding to meet sectoral targets set by the provincial government.*

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Interim Superintendent*

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## **Rationale:**

Before work on the plan continues it is crucial that the voices of the Rightsholders and Indigenous Communities are heard. In addition, involvement from stakeholders, community members, the Energy Manager, Trustees and District Team should be included in the development of a Climate Action Plan. The Ad Hoc committee will support the Board's Environment Policy 3324 which includes a commitment to environmental management through considering the environmental impact in the planning of all operational and educational programs and to working with community and government agencies to support good environmental practices.

The Ad Hoc committee will support the Board's Energy, Environment and Climate Change Policy 4216.22 which states, "The Board of Education takes it as its responsibility to ensure that every effort is made to conserve energy and resources in order to reduce the District's carbon footprint. This requires an ongoing, integrated and systematic approach to energy management, including assessing performance, setting goals, creating an action plan, and tracking and communicating results. Greenhouse emission reduction is the joint responsibility of the trustees, administrators, staff, and students. Every employee is expected to be cognizant of their energy use and contribute to energy efficiencies."

## **Alignment to Strategic Plan:**

At the core of the Climate Action Plan will be a clear commitment to our District's Strategic Plan's commitment of being culturally responsive and the District's core values of engagement, equity, sustainability, transparency, respect, innovation, partnership, and social responsibility are upheld.

## **Recommended motion:**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Interim Superintendent to establish an Ad Hoc Climate Action Committee to assist with the further development and implementation of a District Climate Action Plan as per Bylaw 9140;

AND FURTHER

That the Committee report its recommendations to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee by May 2023.

AND FURTHER

That a budget of \$15,000 be established to support the committee's work.

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Ad Hoc Climate Action Committee**

#### **Purpose:**

Prepare a Climate Action Plan which includes measurable targets and strategies to reduce Green House Gasses (GHGs) by 2030 commensurate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's call to limit warming to 1.5 degrees and the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. Included in the plan will be funding options to support targets and strategies such as available rebates and government funding to meet sectoral targets set by the provincial government.

#### **Deliverables:**

1. Complete a Climate Action Plan
2. TBD

#### **Membership:**

- 2 Trustees
- 2 Indigenous Representatives (Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, Metis and/or Urban Peoples House Indigenous Advisory)
- 1 Elder Advisory member
- 1 Energy Manager
- 1 Facilities Department member
- 1 GVTA member
- 1 CUPE 382 member
- 1 CUPE 947 member
- 1 ASA member
- 1 VCPAC member
- 1 VPVPA member
- 2 Senior Leadership Team members
- 2 Students
- 1 Community member (Municipal staff or Post-Secondary staff with expertise in Climate change)
- 1 Open membership (Community guest with an expertise in Climate change)

#### **Timeline:**

The Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee. The draft Climate Action Plan will be presented to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee in May 2023.

#### **Voting:**

Recommendations to be made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, multiple options will be reported to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee.



**Procedural notes:**

The final Terms of Reference, meeting dates, locations, agendas and minutes to be posted on the District website.

DRAFT



## Title

*Climate Action – Remove BC Hydro Metering Caps*

## Sponsor

Board of Education of SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)

## BCSTA Bylaws, Policies and Foundational Statements

Please indicate if the proposed motion relates to an existing Foundational Statement or Policy Statement in [BCSTA's Policies](#). You must check one or more boxes.

- ☐ Relates to Foundational Statement No.
- ☐ Relates to Policy Statement No.
- ☐ Propose to make this motion a new policy statement.
- ☒ This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational Statement or Policy Statement.

## Motion

Please clarify who the recipient of the motion is/who should do the work associated with the motion. (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, etc.)

the BCSTA to advocate for the removal of BC Hydro's 100kW net metering cap by advocating directly to BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission, the Premier of British Columbia, Minister of Education, Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Clean BC.

## Rationale

Provide a succinct description of why this motion is needed, plus any relevant background information.

As School Districts work to build net zero buildings, which only use as much energy as it can produce from on-site renewable energy on an annual basis, a key design strategy is to produce remaining energy needs through on-site renewable energy and/or efficient sources. Solar, including photo-voltaic (PV) systems, is the primary viable means of doing this.

Adding enough rooftop PV to offset a building's equivalent annual energy requirements is only achievable with larger PV systems, however currently BC Hydro's net metering program only allows for 100kW systems. This creates a major barrier to building net zero schools and buildings and is in direct opposition to the province's CleanBC initiative.

BC Hydro's Net Metering Service constraints limit the ability of school district's to take important steps towards addressing the climate emergency, and as such the net metering cap should be removed.

## Optional References

Provide links to additional background material (e.g., legislation, websites, etc.)

Motor Vehicle Act:

[https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96318\\_00](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96318_00)

UBCM: <https://www.ubcm.ca/convention-resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-database/safe-passing-distance-all-road-users-0>

The BC Cycling Coalition: <https://www.bccc.bc.ca/blog/why-bc-needs-to-replace-the-motor-vehicle-act-with-a-road-safety-act>

### REMINDERS:

**\*PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE ENTIRE FORM**

\*Please send a **Word version** of the completed motion submission form to [motions@bcsta.org](mailto:motions@bcsta.org).

\*Visit the [BCSTA HUB](#) to see the [BCSTA Motion Checklist](#) and other resources regarding preparing motions for BCSTA's AGM and Provincial Council..



## Title

*Safe Passing Distance for Safer Routes to School*

## Sponsor

Board of Education of SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)

## BCSTA Bylaws, Policies and Foundational Statements

Please indicate if the proposed motion relates to an existing Foundational Statement or Policy Statement in [BCSTA's Policies](#). You must check one or more boxes.

- ☐ Relates to Foundational Statement No. [#]
- ☐ Relates to Policy Statement No. [#]
- ☐ Propose to make this motion a new policy statement.
- ☒ This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational Statement or Policy Statement.

## Motion

Please clarify who the recipient of the motion is/who should do the work associated with the motion. (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, etc.)

That the BCSTA request that the Province of British Columbia amend the Motor Vehicle Act to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide 1 metre of space on roads with posted speeds of 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space on roads with posted speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking; and clarify the obligation of all motorists to establish reasonable distance when passing a cyclist or a pedestrian, as well as definitive guidance on an appropriate minimum distance when doing so.

## Rationale

Provide a **succinct** description of why this motion is needed, plus any relevant background information.

The death of young people travelling to and from school brings to stark relief our need to update our antiquated road safety laws. Road safety is governed in BC by The Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), which was adopted in 1957, and as the name suggests, its focus is on motorists. In the 60 years since the MVA was adopted, we have come a

long way in recognizing the danger faced by vulnerable road users who include pedestrians, cyclists, people using mobility devices.

Recent data from ICBC clearly shows that cyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists face greater risk of death or injury in a collision with a motor vehicle relative to the motor vehicles' occupants. While motor vehicle injuries have seen a significant drop in the past decade, pedestrian injuries and fatalities have remained constant. Between 2010 and 2019, an average of 47 children under 18 years old were killed walking down the street.

Currently the Motor Vehicle Act of British Columbia mandates that cyclists must ride on the right hand side of the road, and not on sidewalks unless expressly permitted by local by-law. Faster motor vehicles sharing roads with inherently slower cyclists often result in close passes, accounting for almost one third of the threatening encounters experienced by people on bicycle and almost fifty per cent of incidents in rural areas. Because relatively few roads in B.C. have bike lanes or shoulders, and many do not even have sidewalks, directing cyclists and pedestrians to share the road with high speed motor vehicle traffic poses a potentially fatal risk and a resulting disincentive for active transportation

In 2016, the BC Government adopted "Vision Zero", a plan to eliminate road-related injuries and deaths, by 2020. In 2019, the government adopted an Active Transportation Strategy that calls for doubling all active transportation (walking, cycling, transit) trips by 2030. However, no commitment has been made to bring the MVA into the 21st century here in BC.

Five other provinces, including Ontario and Quebec, have updated their traffic safety laws, moving away from the old paradigm of "same road, same rules" to acknowledge that motor vehicles, due to their size and speed, have additional obligations to ensure the safety of vulnerable road users. These provinces have all enacted "safe passing distance" legislation designed to protect vulnerable road users by educating and requiring motor vehicle operators to maintain a minimum safe distance when passing more vulnerable road users. Establishing a clear and reasonable distance for safe passing has created a better understanding and expectation around safely sharing roads, in particular in areas that do not have dedicated or separated cycling infrastructure

The need for safe passing distances between vehicles and those families walking and cycling to school is evident. Most families who walk or cycle to school do not have access to adequate infrastructure like sidewalks, trails and protected bike lanes to get to school, requiring them to travel on the side of the road and share space with much larger and faster vehicles. Many families would like to walk or cycle more, but simply don't feel it is safe to do so. Others don't have a choice.

The BCSTA should resolve to ask the Province of British Columbia amends the Motor Vehicle Act to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide

1 metre of space on roads with posted speeds of 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space on roads with posted speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking; and clarify the obligation of all motorists to establish reasonable distance when passing a cyclist or a pedestrian, as well as definitive guidance on an appropriate minimum distance when doing so.

Updating our road safety laws to reflect modern best practices is a critical step in creating safer roads for all road users.

## Optional References

Provide links to additional background material (e.g., legislation, websites, etc.)

Motor Vehicle Act:

[https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96318\\_00](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96318_00)

UBCM: <https://www.ubcm.ca/convention-resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-database/safe-passing-distance-all-road-users-0>

The BC Cycling Coalition: <https://www.bccc.bc.ca/blog/why-bc-needs-to-replace-the-motor-vehicle-act-with-a-road-safety-act>

### REMINDERS:

**\*PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE ENTIRE FORM**

\*Please send a **Word version** of the completed motion submission form to [motions@bcsta.org](mailto:motions@bcsta.org).

\*Visit the [BCSTA HUB](#) to see the [BCSTA Motion Checklist](#) and other resources regarding preparing motions for BCSTA's AGM and Provincial Council..

# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Interim Superintendent*

TO: The Board of Education  
FROM: Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
RE: Superintendent's Report  
DATE: January 24, 2022

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Please see below the opportunities the Interim Superintendent has been involved with during the month of January aligned to the Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support and improve all learners' personal and academic success.

- Climate Action Planning meeting (ongoing).
- Representative Advisory Committee of Students' Meeting – January 10, 2022.

Goal 2: Create a culturally responsive learning environment that will support Indigenous learners' personal and academic success.

- Meet bi-weekly with Métis Nations Greater Victoria.
- Meet bi-weekly with the Director of Indigenous Education.
- Regular meetings with the Four Houses.

Goal 3: Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support learners' physical and mental well-being.

- Zoom meetings with the Ministry of Education.
- Monthly meetings with VPVPA President and Vice President.
- Welcome Back to School Letter – January 7, 2022

Gratitude: The Interim Superintendent would like to thank the following:

- The Greater Victoria School District Staff for their incredible work on the Continuity of Learning Plans and the Functional Closure plan
- The Rightsholders, Partners, and the Board for their work, collaboration and support to ensure a safe and successful return to school in January as we continue to navigate the pandemic.
- The Snow Alert Team for being out on the roads at 5:00am assessing and communicating the road conditions
- The Facilities Department for the work in plowing, shoveling and de-icing walkways, entrances and parking lots

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

- Representative Advisory Council of Students member, Isabella for working on Regulation 5131.4 and bringing student voice to the proposed changes
- Purchasing Department member, Cathy, for sourcing, securing and purchasing N95 masks for all staff

***Recommended Motion:*** *That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the Superintendent's Report, as presented.*

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*



# Office of the Superintendent

*Deb Whitten – Interim Superintendent*

TO: The Board of Education

FROM: Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools

RE: Superintendent Report

DATE: January 24, 2022

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During this portion of the Board Meeting, Trustees will have the opportunity to raise questions. Where possible, an immediate response will be provided. In the event that research is necessary before a response is provided, the matter will be postponed until a researched response can be provided.

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# Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

*Kim Morris - Secretary Treasurer*

**TO: Board of Education**  
**FROM: Kim Morris**  
**RE: Monthly Report**  
**DATE: January 24, 2022**

The purpose of this memo is to update the Board on some of the activities of the Secretary-Treasurer's office since December's report.

➤ **Budget 2022-2023:**

The Budget Advisory Committee met January 18, 2022 by zoom. The Committee attended to its workplan by receiving an infrastructure presentation from Operations, Maintenance, Capital, Network Infrastructure and Security, Energy Management, Human Resources, Information Technology for Learning and Financial Services departments, along with data related to music in SD61. Thank you to the 23 members who attended and special thank you to the presenters. Information provided was thorough, compelling and will provide the committee with a good foundation of knowledge about infrastructure as it moves through the budget process. Agendas, minutes and supporting documentation relative to the meeting can be found here: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/financial/>. The Committee next meets February 8, 2022 where it will focus on Learning initiatives in alignment with the Committee's workplan.

The Student Symposium has been cancelled due to Covid. The Budget Advisory Committee is formulating a ThoughtExchange question for student participation to garner student voice for the budget.

➤ **Cedar Hill Middle School Seismic Replacement Project:**

The architect has begun to formulate the function and layout of the building, including potential floorplans. Staff and steering and core committees will be reviewing as the design process moves forward.

To see the overall site plan please go to: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/seismic-projects/>

➤ **Childcare BC Information Session Follow-Up:** As a follow up to the December 1<sup>st</sup> information meeting, a self-paced feedback session is now open that the Board may wish to participate in to provide feedback on the following:

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

- What impacts should government consider as responsibility for child care moves to the Ministry of Education?
- What opportunities should be pursued as responsibility for child care moves to the Ministry of Education?
- Thinking about families, what local or regional services and supports are needed in a cohesive and inclusive child care system?
- Thinking about operators, what local or regional services and supports do they need in a cohesive and inclusive child care system?
- Thinking about educators, what local or regional services and supports do they need in a cohesive and inclusive child care system?
- Thinking about school districts, what local or regional services and supports would they need in a cohesive and inclusive child care system?

Other topics in the feedback form include Inclusion, Diversity and Cultural Safety, Funding, Supporting Professionals and Creating New Spaces

The feedback period closes February 15, 2022.

Follow here for the feedback form: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/childcarebc-engagement>

➤ Ministry Supply of Rapid Antigen Test Kits

200,000 rapid antigen test kits are being shipped to the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 (K-12) sector for use by staff, teachers and administrators with symptoms of COVID-19. The number of teaching and non-teaching staff will determine the number of tests received by each school district and the District does not yet know how many tests it will receive. Delivery of tests is expected in the next week. For more information please visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022EDUC0002-000085>

➤ DRAFT Surplus Policy

The Operations Policy and Planning Committee is considering a revision to Policy 3170: Board Reserves before it makes a recommendation to the Board. The policy is in response to Ministerial direction and expands engagement, reasons surplus may be held, and alignment to District Strategic plans and goals.

The Ministry's policy can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/operating-surplus>

To read SD61's draft policy revision please visit: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/board-of-education/policiesregulations/draft-policies-for-feedback/>

In addition to the initiatives above:

- Continue to serve as BCASBO representative on provincial Ministry Funding Equity Committee and K-12 SOGI Collaborative Committees
- Monthly Budget Advisory Committee meetings
- Bi-weekly Vic High construction project meetings with Facilities staff and the Principal
- Bi-weekly Vic High construction budget meetings with Capital Staff

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

- Bi-weekly Facilities and Superintendent meetings
- Weekly Finance Team budget meetings
- Weekly Senior Leadership Team meetings
- Monthly Student Representative Council meetings
- Ministry meetings as requested
- Weekly Chair Superintendent meetings for agenda setting

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

## **Budget Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference**

November 15, 2021 Draft 4

December 7, 2021 Draft 5

January 24, 2022 FINAL

### **PURPOSE**

The Budget Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) is a committee of the whole of the Board of Education. The purpose of the Budget Committee is to oversee the School District’s budget process, make recommendations and deliver reports to the Board of Education with a focus on provision of service for every student to succeed, recognizing that all learners are unique and have differing needs.

### **COMPOSITION & OPERATIONS**

The Committee shall be composed of:

- All Trustees of the Board
- Superintendent
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Deputy Superintendent
- Associate Superintendents
- Associate Secretary-Treasurer
- Director of Finance
- Director of Facilities
- Director of Indigenous Education as the conduit to and from the Four Houses
- Two Principals/Vice-Principals
- Two representatives from each of the GVTA, CUPE Local 947, CUPE Local 382, Allied Specialists Association, and VCPAC
- One representative from each of the Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, Urban Peoples’ House Indigenous Advisory (UPHIA) and the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

All committee members shall commit to: ethical conduct, decorum, and professional conduct.

All committee members will promote and uphold cultural safety as set out the Board’s Values/Guiding principles where the budget will be culturally respectful and responsive to the needs of Indigenous peoples and will include the Four Houses and the Indigenous Education Department within the Budget process. Trustees, the Board and Staff will utilize the Indigenous Education Department’s regularly scheduled meetings with the Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, Urban Peoples’ House Indigenous Advisory (UPHIA) and the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria as the conduits to share information, consult, seek input and direction. The Board and Staff will attend meetings with Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, UPHIA, the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and the Indigenous Education Department when

invited and/or when any concerns and/or clarity is required. The Committee's working definition of cultural safety as provided by SD61's Indigenous Education Department is attached as Appendix A.

Trustees will elect a Chair at the first meeting of the Committee and select a note taker at each meeting.

The Committee quorum will consist of the Committee Chair or designate plus four Trustees, the Secretary-Treasurer or designate, and one member from any two of the partner groups.

The Committee is advisory in nature and reports to the Board.

The Committee does not make decisions. The Committee will strive to make recommendations by consensus; failing consensus, committee discussions, with opposing views, will be communicated to the Board.

Agendas and minutes will be posted on the District website.

The Committee will meet monthly between November and April each year.

Confidential matters, such as property, personnel, litigation, will not be discussed by the Committee.

## **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Make recommendations for Board approval and/or deliver reports relative to the annual operating, special purpose and capital budgets no later than March 10, 2022.

Make recommendations that have clear linkages to:

1. the District's Strategic Plan's goals and strategies and the District Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for inclusion in the Financial Statement Discussion & Analysis Report; and
2. the Board's Values and Guiding Principles set out in the fiscal year's budget process
3. sustainability:
  - commit to administrative and operational efficiencies, and appropriate management of risk including the provision of safe and healthy learning environments and sustainable environmental practices
  - move toward matching revenues to expenses so the organization does not rely on surplus to balance on-going costs from year to year
  - spend surplus on one-time initiatives and priorities, and not on-going expenses
  - recognize that the needs of students change from year to year and so will the budget allocations
  - protect reserves and contingency even when there is pressure to spend in times of constraint
  - consider long term financial planning and three year budget forecasts

Oversee the annual budget process.

Receive budget input from education partners and the public.

Make recommendations for Board approval relative to improvements to annual budgeting process.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Meetings will not be open to the public. The Committee shall report its discussions to the Board by maintaining minutes of its meetings.

All approved minutes will be posted to the District's website in a timely manner.

## Cultural Safety in Public Education

The concept of Cultural Safety originated in New Zealand about 30 years ago by a Maori nursing scholar, Dr. Irahapeti Ramsden. Ramsden's research was responding to an over-representation of Maori people in the country's negative health statistics. Its application is most commonly seen in the health care field relating to the relationship between health care providers and Indigenous people. "The BC Provincial Health Services Authority defines culturally safe care as *an outcome* based on respectful engagement that recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in the healthcare system. It results in an environment free of racism and discrimination, where people feel safe". They define *Indigenous cultural safety* as "the process of making spaces, services and organizations safer and more equitable for Indigenous people by considering current and historical colonial impact and by actively seeking to eliminate structural racism and discrimination".

Culturally unsafe practice is defined by the Nursing Council of New Zealand as: "any actions that diminish, demean or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual" (NAHO Fact Sheet), therefore, we could define cultural safety as any actions that acknowledge, respect and empower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual. While the concept was developed by an Indigenous woman, to apply to relationships between dominant and Indigenous cultures, it may also be applied to relationships between dominant cultural norms, and marginalized groups.

SD61 seeks to apply the theory of cultural safety to public education. Instead of the relationship between patient and health care provider; it applies to the relationship between Indigenous and marginalized students, families and communities and public education staff, teachers and administrators. As an educational framework, cultural safety is an outcome. When steps are taken by public educators to understand dominant worldviews, and can consider the perspective of those impacted by those dominant worldviews, then students, families and communities might feel that effect, and hence, feel culturally safer in those classrooms and schools. The steps towards cultural safety include: cultural awareness; cultural sensitivity and cultural competency. Cultural humility is needed to engage in this process because it needs to start with a core understanding that everyone has a culture, with powerful structures that can marginalize those outside of the dominant culture. The end result of moving through these stages, hopefully results in cultural safety – as defined by the recipients of service.

There are many resources and a free online course in Cultural Safety offered by the University of Victoria.

### Resources:

[BC Public Health Services Authority - Maintaining a Safe and Inclusive Culture](#)

[What is Indigenous Cultural Safety and Why Should I Care About It?](#)



[BC Centre for Disease Control Culturally Safe Care](#)

[National Aboriginal Health Organization Cultural Safety Fact Sheet](#)

[The University of Victoria Online Course in Cultural Safety Module 1](#)

[The University of Victoria Online Course in Cultural Safety Module 2](#)

[The University of Victoria Online Course in Cultural Safety Module 3](#)

[Healing Hearts and Fostering Alliances: Towards a Cultural Safety Framework for SD61](#)

# Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8  
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

*Kim Morris - Secretary Treasurer*

**TO: Board of Education**  
**FROM: Kim Morris**  
**RE: Appointment of Chief Election Officer**  
**DATE: January 24, 2022**

## Background

In British Columbia, general local elections, which include the election of school trustees, are held every four years on the third Saturday in October. This year's election will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Pursuant to Section 58(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act, the Board of Education must appoint a Chief Election Officer to conduct the school trustee election. Once appointed, the Chief Election Officer is given the power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the election.

## Recommendation

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint Joan Axford as Chief Election Officer to administer and conduct the school trustee election on October 15, 2022.

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)**

**LANSDOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOUTH CAMPUS (FORMERLY RICHMOND  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL) SITE PARTIAL DISPOSAL BYLAW 2022**

WHEREAS a board of education may dispose of land or improvements owned or administered by the board under the authority of Section 96(3) of the School Act, subject to the Orders of the Minister of Education (the “**Minister**”);

AND WHEREAS the Minister issued Order M193/08 effective September 3, 2008 (the “**Order**”) requiring fee simple sales and leases of land or improvements for a term of ten years or more to be specifically approved by the Minister, unless the transferee is an independent school or another school board;

AND WHEREAS Section 65(5) of the *School Act* requires a board of education to exercise a power with respect to the acquisition or disposal of property only by bylaw;

AND WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) (the “**Board**”) owns lands and improvements at 2780 Richmond Road, Victoria, B.C. known as Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus (formerly Richmond Elementary School) site (the “**Property**”);
- B. The Facility Number of the Property is: 105629.
- C. The legal description of the Property is:  
Parcel Identifier: 005-170-222  
Lot 3, Section 26, Victoria District, Plan 10792;
- D. The Board proposes to subdivide and sell to the Victoria Hospice Society (the “**VHS**”) the portion of the Property lying to the west and south of Bowker Creek and measuring approximately 1.9 acres in area as shown on Schedule A attached hereto (the “**Lands**”), pursuant to the terms of a conditional agreement of purchase and sale (the “**Sale Agreement**”) for a price of \$2,500,000, adjusted as provided in the Sale Agreement (the “**Price**”);
- E. The Board is satisfied that it would be in the best interests of the Board to enter into the Sale Agreement and pursuant to its obligations thereunder subdivide the Property and sell the Lands to the VHS for the Price (the “**Subdivision and Sale**”);
- F. The Board is satisfied that the Subdivision and Sale will not interfere with the use by the Board of the remainder of the Property for educational purposes.

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted as a Bylaw of the Board that the Sale Agreement and the Subdivision and Sale be and are hereby authorized, ratified and approved, subject to the Minister of Education providing a written Certificate of Disposal approving the sale of the Lands.

BE IT FURTHER enacted that the Secretary-Treasurer be and is hereby authorized on behalf of the Board to execute and deliver the Sale Agreement and, subject to the Minister’s Approval, all documents required to complete the Subdivision and Sale, and all related and ancillary

documents, with all such amendments thereto as the Secretary-Treasurer may, in her discretion, consider advisable.

This Bylaw may be cited as "School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus (formerly Richmond Elementary School) Site Partial Disposal Bylaw 2022".

Read a first time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Read a second time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Read a third time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and finally passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

Corporate Seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true original of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus(formerly Richmond Elementary School) Site Partial Disposal Bylaw, adopted by the Board the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer

## An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. The image is oriented with North at the top. A large, dark, irregularly shaped area, possibly a park or undeveloped land, is located in the center-left. To the right of this area, a street runs vertically, labeled 'RICHMOND RD.' in large, bold, capital letters. To the left of the dark area, a street runs horizontally, labeled 'LEWIS ST.' in large, bold, capital letters. At the bottom of the image, a street runs horizontally, labeled 'NEWTON ST.' in large, bold, capital letters. Numerous house numbers are visible on the buildings, including 2835, 2830, 2829, 2836, 2840, 2850, 2856, 2875, 2887, 2891, 2893, 2890, 2892, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000. The image is a high-contrast, black and white aerial photograph.

## SECTION 72 REPORT

**Present:**

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

**Administration:**

Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

**Guest:**

Legal Counsel, Harris & Company

The Board of Education discussed the following matter:

- Personnel

## SECTION 72 REPORT

**Present:**

Trustees Ryan Painter, Chair, Tom Ferris, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, and Ann Whiteaker

**Regrets:**

Trustee Diane McNally

**Administration:**

Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

The Board of Education discussed the following matter:

- Personnel

## SECTION 72 REPORT

**Present:**

Trustees Ryan Painter, Chair, Tom Ferris, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters and Ann Whiteaker

**Regrets:**

Trustee Diane McNally

**Administration:**

Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Colin Roberts, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Associate Director, Facilities Services, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

The Board of Education discussed the following matters:

- Property
- Legal
- Personnel



## SECTION 72 REPORT

**Present:**

Trustees Ryan Painter, Chair, Tom Ferris, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

**Regrets:**

Trustees Diane McNally, Rob Paynter

**Administration:**

Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

The Board of Education discussed the following matter:

- Personnel