



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

MINUTES

Via Zoom

May 30, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

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

Trustees Sanctioned: Diane McNally, Rob Painter

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

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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 May 30, 2022 agenda be approved with the following addition:

C.2. Trustees' Reports

a. Trustee Whiteaker

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Duncan requested that the April 25, 2022 minutes be amended under item C.1.c. Annual Workplan: May 2022. In the second paragraph remove “*all other changes were made in December*” and replace with “*Trustee membership is usually rotated on an annual basis and the current Trustees assigned are going into their third year on the Committee.*”

Trustee Whiteaker sought clarification on whether Mr. Faerber’s question was answered under the Q&A portion of the April 25, 2022 Board meeting minutes and Chair Painter responded that he would follow up with Mr. Faerber.

Moved by Trustee Watters

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the April 25 2022 Regular Board minutes be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

A.5. Student Achievement

None

A.6. District Presentations

None

A.7. Community Presentations

- a. Bruce Bidney, Principal of Spectrum Community School, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the Spectrum Turf Project and provide an overview of the project.
- b. Ian Sander, attended the Board meeting as a representative of the Spectrum Turf Project Committee, to provide an overview of the project, stakeholders, legal structure, Joint Use Agreement draft and a conceptual drawing.
- c. Audrey Smith, attended the Board meeting as a representative of the Spectrum Turf Project Committee, to provide further context of the project as it relates to the financial plan.
- d. Karin Kwan, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the funds that has been raised in order to donate and keep the elementary strings program running for the 2022-2023 school year.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. April 29, 2022, SD23 to Minister of Education, Additional Funding

B.2. May 2, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirements Survey

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

None

b. Annual Workplan: June 2022

The Board work plan for June 2022 was presented for information.

C.2. Trustees' Reports

a. Trustee Whiteaker provided a verbal report relative to an Indigenous Community Education Series that she attended at Rogers Elementary School, which concluded with a salmon barbecue, drum making and student drumming.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

a. The draft minutes from the May 2, 2022 meeting were presented for information.

b. Recommended motion from the May 2, 2022 meeting.

i. Revised Policy 4304, *Bullying and Harassment*

By consensus, Trustees agreed to add the *School Act* under Section 5.0 References.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the policy under section 4.1.

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That Policy 4304, *Bullying and Harassment* be amended under Section 4.1 to read "*The Board of Education delegates responsibility for the day to day compliance with the School Act and WorkSafe legislation to the Superintendent.*"

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker
Against: Trustees Ferris, Hentze, Leonard, Painter, Watters

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the Policy under Section 3.3.

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That Policy 4304, *Bullying and Harassment* be amended to strike Section 3.3.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker
Against: Trustees Ferris, Hentze, Leonard, Painter, Watters

Chair Painter called for the vote on the main motion, as presented.

Moved by Trustee Ferris
Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approved revised Policy 4304 *Bullying and Harassment*, as amended.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Ferris, Hentze, Leonard, Painter, Watters
Against: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. The draft minutes from the May 9, 2022 meeting were presented for information.
- b. Recommended motions from the May 9, 2022 meeting.
 - i. New Policy XXXX, *Whistleblower*

Moved by Trustee Leonard
Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve new Policy XXXX, *Whistleblower*.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- ii. Revised Policy 8251, *Trustees' Code of Conduct*

By consensus, Trustees agreed to strike the word “*public*” in the second to last sentence of Section 3.20.

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

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That Policy 8251, *Trustees’ Code of Conduct* being amended by striking all references to Trustees seeking direction from staff members other than the Superintendent; such as the Secretary-Treasurer and/or Leadership Team in Sections 3.7, 3.9 and 3.15.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

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

Chair Painter called for the vote on the recommended motion, as presented.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 8251, *Trustees’ Code of Conduct*, as amended.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

iii. Carbon Neutral Action Report

The Carbon Neutral Action Report was presented for information and Trustees asked questions of clarification of Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Associate Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood.

Moved by Trustee Hentze

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the Carbon Neutral Action Report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.3 Audit Committee Report

a. 2021-2022 Audit Planning Report

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2021-2022 Audit Planning Report as presented to the Audit Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. Audit Committee Report – May 9, 2022 Meeting

Moved by Trustee Ferris
Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the march 2022 Quarterly Financial Report as presented to the Audit Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) take a recess break at 9:12 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair Painter called the meeting back to order at 9:18 p.m.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Interim Superintendent's Report

- a. Interim Superintendent Whitten provided the report and highlighted the May 2, 2022 Representative Advisory Council of Students' dinner, a meeting with music students at Reynolds High School and the first District Indigenous Film Festival on May 20th hosted by the Indigenous Education Department.

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Ferris

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. Fossil Fuels Industry-Sponsored Educational Materials

Interim Superintendent Whitten provided an update to Trustees with respect to a meeting that Associate Superintendent Caldwell attended with members off the Joint Committee on Curriculum Implementation. The topic of fossil fuels industry-sponsored education materials was part of

their discussion as it relates to the motion passed by the Board and the GVTA confirmed their motion to discontinue the use of the resources was carried. Interim Superintendent Whitten expressed the need to review and update Policy 6161.1, *Learning Resources for Classroom Use*.

- c. 2022-2023 Board of Education and Standing Committee Meeting Dates

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2022-2023 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- d. Elementary Strings Report

Interim Superintendent Whitten presented the report and highlighted specific areas of information.

Recommended Motion:

Moved by Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the one-time funding of \$208,817 from Advocacy for Music in Schools (AMIS) to provide a barrier-free opportunity to the estimated 1,503 grade five students in the 28 elementary schools to participate in a strings or alternative music program to be offered outside of the school day, as determined by each Principal in consultation with their respective Staff Committee and the School's parent Advisory Council.

AND FURTHER;

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to complete a review of the Elementary Strings Program during the 2022-2023 school year.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to move into a Committee of the Whole meeting for a more fulsome discussion.

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move out of the formal Board of Education meeting and into a Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the one-time funding of \$208,817 from Advocacy for Music in Schools (AMIS) to provide a barrier-free opportunity to the estimated 1,503 grade five students in the 28 elementary schools to participate in a strings or alternative music program to be offered outside of the school day, as determined by each Principal in consultation with their respective Staff Committee and the School's parent Advisory Council. AND FURTHER; That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to complete a review of the Elementary Strings Program during the 2022-2023 school year" be amended to strike the words "or alternative music."

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Duncan, Hentze, Painter, Watters, Whiteaker
Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard

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

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the one-time funding of \$208,817 from Advocacy for Music in Schools (AMIS) to provide a barrier-free opportunity to the estimated 1,503 grade five students in the 28 elementary schools to participate in a strings or alternative music program to be offered outside of the school day, as determined by each Principal in consultation with their respective Staff Committee and the School's parent Advisory Council. AND FURTHER; That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to complete a review of the Elementary Strings Program during the 2022-2023 school year" be amended to add the words "inside or" before the word "outside."

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Duncan, Hentze, Painter, Watters, Whiteaker
Against: Trustee Ferris
Abstain: Trustee Leonard

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

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the one-time funding of \$208,817 from Advocacy for Music in Schools (AMIS) to provide a barrier-free opportunity to the estimated 1,503 grade five students in the 28 elementary schools to participate in a strings or alternative music program to be offered outside of

the school day, as determined by each Principal in consultation with their respective Staff Committee and the School's parent Advisory Council. AND FURTHER; That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to complete a review of the Elementary Strings Program during the 2022-2023 school year" be amended to add "and to complete a report with recommendations to present to the Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting in January 2023."

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) accept the one-time funding of \$208,817 from Advocacy for Music in Schools (AMIS) to provide a barrier-free opportunity to the estimated 1,503 grade five students in the 28 elementary schools to participate in a strings program to be offered inside or outside of the school day, as determined by each Principal in consultation with their respective Staff Committee and the School's parent Advisory Council.

AND FURTHER;

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to complete a review of the Elementary Strings Program during the 2022-2023 school year and to complete a report with recommendations to present to the Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting in January 2023.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Duncan, Hentze, Painter, Watters, Whiteaker

Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move out of the Committee of the Whole meeting and back into the formal Board of Education meeting at 10:39 p.m.

AND FURTHER,

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the recommended motion from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Duncan, Hentze, Painter, Watters, Whiteaker

Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard

e. Trustee Questions

Interim Superintendent Whitten responded to a question with regards to the lack of lawn maintenance in the District and advised Trustees that the District is experiencing staff shortages, as many organizations are.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

- a. Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided the report.

Moved by Trustee Watters

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. Shoreline Middle School: Local Capital Appropriation

Secretary-Treasurer Morris explained the need for additional classroom space at Shoreline Middle School and the options that had been discussed. Treasurer Morris responded to a question of clarification.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the expenditure of up to \$250,000 from Local Capital Reserve to create classroom space for a new 2022-2023 division at Shoreline Middle School.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: In the April financial monthly report, the Secretary-Treasurer disclosed that the school district has accumulated \$470,424 in legal costs since the start of this year. Were any of these costs related to legal action taken against the district, and if so, what process under Policy 3546 was used to approve the decision to defend the district in court (at the expense of the district’s learning community)? What percentage of the costs to the Greater Victoria School District (of the \$470,424 accumulated so far) are due to expenses or payments made to Harris & Company LLP between January 1, 2022 and May 30, 2022?

A: Legal discussions and costs are reported during In-Camera meetings on a monthly basis and are not disclosed publicly.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 25, 2022

G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 24, 2022

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

- a. Elementary Strings Programming for 2022/23 - Trustee Whiteaker

Trustee Whiteaker withdrew the motion.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the donation in the amount of XXXX dollars from AMIS to support elementary strings programming for 2022/23.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Leonard
Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer