



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

**MINUTES**

**Via Zoom**

**June 20, 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, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Associate Director, Facilities Services, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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 Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the June 20, 2022 agenda be approved with the following additions:

**A.7. Community Presentations**

c. Jesse Brown, Mason Street City Farm

**B.12. June 8, 2022, Karen Kirkpatrick, MLA to SD61 Trustees**

**B.13. June 20, 2022, Fernwood NRG to SD61 Trustees, Support for Vic High Gardens**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

Trustee Duncan requested that the May 30, 2022 minutes be amended under agenda item A.3. to add a second paragraph with the following “*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.*”

Trustees did not object to the addition.

**Moved by** Trustee Watters

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the May 30, 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. Sarah Rhude did not attend the meeting but a letter with her presentation was read out by Eden Murray on Sarah’s behalf. Sarah’s presentation was with respect to the Vic High indigenous plant garden and camas meadow and her involvement with the gardens.
- b. Eden Murray attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the Victoria High learning and indigenous plant garden and camas meadow and her involvement with the gardens.
- c. Jesse Brown attended the Board meeting to speak as the owner of the Mason Street City Farm located at Victoria High and how the temporary relocation of the gardens affects his business.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

**B.1. April 27, 2022, George Jay PAC to Trustees, CommunityLINK Funding**

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker

**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to respond to the April 27, 2022 letter received from George Jay Parent Advisory Council with respect to CommunityLINK Funding.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- B.2. May 26, 2022, SD69 to Minister of Education, Funding for Electric Buses**
- B.3. May 31, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Climate Action, Remove BC Hydro Metering Caps**
- B.4. May 31, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Transportation, Safe Passing Distance for Safer Routes to School**
- B.5. May 31, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Universal Food Programs**
- B.6. June 6, 2022, Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association to SD61, Final Notice of Service**

Trustee Duncan requested information on whether there was any plans to keep this service running when school is back in session in September. Superintendent Whitten advised that given the complexity of the service, information is being gathered and a solution is being developed with a goal of school start up as a time line.

- B.7. June 7, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Advocacy for Truth and Reconciliation**
- B.8. June 7, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Attributes of a BC Graduate Review Process**
- B.9. June 7, 2022, BCSTA to Minister of Education, Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
- B.10. June 8, 2022, South Jubilees Neighbourhood Association to SD61 Trustees, Future of Bank Street School**

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to respond to the June 8, 2022 letter received from South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association regarding the future of Bank Street School.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- B.11. June 15, 2022, SD61 to Minister of Education, Budget Constraints**
- B.12. June 8, 2022, MLA Kirkpatrick to SD61 Trustees, Delay of Provincial Funding**

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan  
**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to respond to the June 8, 2022 letter received from MLA, Karen

Kirkpatrick with regards to the delay of Provincial capital funding for local projects.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**B.13. June 20, 2022, Fernwood NRG to SD61 Trustees, Letter of Support for Vic High Farm Gardens**

**C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**C.1. Chair's Report – None**

**C.2. Trustees' Reports**

- a. Trustee Duncan presented for information her Budget Advisory Committee Report and School Police Liaison Officer Program Ad Hoc Committee Report.
- b. Trustee Whiteaker presented for information her Advocacy Committee Report.

**D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- a. The draft minutes from the June 6, 2022 meeting were presented for information.
- b. Recommended motions from the June 6, 2022 meeting.
  - i. New Policy 1330.1 *Child Care*

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve new Policy 1330.1 *Child Care*.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- ii. New Policy XXXX *Social Media Use*

Trustee Whiteaker referred to Section 1.3 of the new Policy and suggested striking the second word “*use*”. By consensus, Trustees agreed.

Trustee Whiteaker referred to Section 1.3 of the new Policy and suggested striking the word “*personal*.” By consensus, Trustees agreed.

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* be amended in Section 1.3 by striking “*role, reputation and.*”

**Motion Defeated**

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

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker

That new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* be amended in Section 1.4 to strike “*for the purpose of achieving the vision, goals and objectives prescribed by the Ministry of Education and the School District*” and add the following after the last sentence “ *while using School District 61 social media resources.*”

Approved by consensus.

Trustee Whiteaker referred to Section 3.2, first bullet, second point, of the new Policy and suggested striking “*remember that*” and “*supports*”. Approved by consensus.

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan  
**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* be amended in Section 3.3, to strike:

- ~~Staff endeavor to provide a timely response to social media enquiries, however~~
- Correspondence, general information requests, and concerns requiring a timely response or action should be submitted directly to the Board Office, respective school, or appropriate department, via phone, email, or in-person.

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

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* be amended in Section 3.3 to read as follows:

- Staff endeavor to provide a timely response to social media enquiries.
- Correspondence, general information requests, and concerns requiring a timely response or action should be submitted directly to the Board Office, respective school, or appropriate department, via phone, email, or in-person.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Chair Painter called for the vote on the amended amendment.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Whiteaker referred to Section 3.6. third bullet, and suggested striking the word “*will*” and replacing it with “*may*.” Approved by consensus.

Chair Painter suggested that Trustees reconsider the change made at 1.3 to strike “*personal*” and provided rationale.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Watters

That Trustees reconsider the change to new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* that struck “*personal*” in Section 1.3 by consensus.

**Motion Carried**

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

Against: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That new Policy XXXX *Social Media Use* be amended under Section 1.3 to strike “*personal and professional*.”

**Motion Defeated**

For: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

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

Chair Painter called for the vote on the main motion to replace “*personal*” back to Section 1.3.

**Motion Carried**

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

Against: Trustees Duncan, Whiteaker

Chair Painter called the vote on approving new Policy XXXX, *Social Media Use*, as amended.

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve new Policy XXXX, *Social Media Use*, as amended.

**Motion Carried**

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

## D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. The draft minutes from the June 13, 2022 meeting were presented for information.
- b. Recommended motions from the June 13, 2022 meeting.
  - i. 2023-2024 Annual Five Year Capital Plan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2023-2024 Annual Five Year Capital Plan.

**Motion Carried**

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

- ii. Revised Policy 3170, *Operating Surplus*

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revisions to Policy 3170, *Operating Surplus* (formerly *Reserves*) as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- iii. Revised Policy 8210, *Board Orientation*

Trustee Whiteaker referred to revised Policy 8210 *Board Orientation* and suggested an amendment.

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker  
**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That revised Policy 8210 *Board Orientation* be amended in Section 1.1 by striking "*before said Trustee takes office.*"

**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.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revisions to Policy 8210 *Board Orientation* (formerly *Orienting New Board Members*) as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Given the time, Trustee Leonard suggested moving the following agenda item to the end of the agenda for discussion.

- iv. New Policy XXXX, *Role of the Trustee*

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

Chair Painter recessed the meeting for a break at 9:35 p.m.

Chair Painter reconvened the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

### **D.3 Climate Action Committee Report**

Trustee Watters presented the Climate Action Report, on behalf of the Committee, which summarized the work done to date.

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

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

- a. Superintendent Whitten provided the report and highlighted with gratitude the 2022 graduates including the Indigenous Grad Ceremony, District retirees and Audrey Smith, retiring from the Greater Victoria Crossing Guard Association after many years of service. After a long year of many challenges and successes Superintendent Whitten extended summer break well wishes to students, staff, caregivers and the Board.

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

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Trustee Questions

Superintendent Whitten responded to questions from Trustees relative to Ad Hoc Committee reports.

Trustee Duncan requested information relative to rescinding two motions that passed in June 2021 for loans to purchase e-busses. Secretary-



Treasurer Morris advised that approval from the Ministry of Education is required first after which the motions to rescind will appear on a future agenda.

Trustee Duncan requested clarification on the seating capacity at Victoria High School once it has been seismically upgraded. Secretary-Treasurer Morris responded that the information will be provided during an update at the September 2022 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

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

- a. Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided the report and responded to Trustee questions.

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Major Capital Projects

**Moved by** Trustee Watters  
**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve for submission to the Ministry of Education, the 2023-2024 Capital Plan, as it relates to Major Capital Projects.

**Motion Carried**

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

- c. Minor Capital Projects

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve for submission to the Ministry of Education, the 2023-2024 Capital Plan, as it relates to Minor Capital Projects.

**Motion Carried**

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

d. Building Envelope Program

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve for submission to the Ministry of Education, the 2023-2024 Capital Plan, as it relates to the Building Envelope Program.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

e. Spectrum Turf Project

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Trustees with information relative to the proposed Spectrum Community School Turf project and responded to questions of clarification from Trustees.

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker  
**Seconded by** Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to work with District staff, and the Spectrum Turf stakeholder team including Spectrum Community School Principal, to negotiate a draft Joint Use Agreement between the Board and Vancouver Island Soccer League for the construction, use, maintenance and capital replacement of an artificial turf field at Spectrum Community School;  
AND FURTHER

That the agreement be presented for the Board's consideration no later than September 27, 2022.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

f. Victoria High School Storm Drain Construction

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Trustees with an overview of information pertaining to Victoria High School seismic construction as it relates to the installation of storm drainage and the temporary relocation of the Mason Street City garden and Indigenous garden. In addition, Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided further context and information that was received after the meeting agenda package was distributed and published.

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advance the Vic High storm connection project to commence July 2022;  
AND FURTHER

That the Superintendent negotiate with Mason Street City Farm to compensate Mason Street City Farm the equivalent of its lost revenue for the period of disruption to the Farm, up to a maximum of \$25,000.

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

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 10:19 p.m.

**Carried by Consensus**

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Associate Director of Facilities Vistisen-Harwood.

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Watters

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move out of a Committee of the Whole meeting and back into a formal Board of Education meeting at 10:31 p.m.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Chair Painter referred to the main motion as presented and opened the debate.

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advance the Vic High storm connection project to commence July 2022; AND FURTHER That the Superintendent negotiate with Mason Street City Farm to compensate Mason Street City Farm the equivalent of its lost revenue for the period of disruption to the Farm, up to a maximum of \$25,000*" be amended to strike "\$25,000" and replace with "\$30,197."

**Motion Carried**

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

Against: Trustee Ferris

Abstain: Trustee Leonard

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

Secretary-Treasurer Morris reminded the Board that the Indigenous Education Department had attended to the Indigenous garden transition.

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advance the Vic High storm connection project to commence July 2022; AND FURTHER That the Superintendent negotiate*"

*with Mason Street City Farm to compensate Mason Street City Farm the equivalent of its lost revenue for the period of disruption to the Farm, up to a maximum of \$25,000” be amended to add “in close consultation with Mason Street City Farm regarding the responsible relocation of plants and soil” in the first paragraph after “2022.”*

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Duncan, Hentze, Watters, Whiteaker

Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard, Painter

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

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) advance the Vic High storm connection project to commence July 2022 in close consultation with Mason Street City Farm regarding the responsible relocation of plants and soil;

AND FURTHER

That the Superintendent negotiate with Mason Street City Farm to compensate Mason Street City Farm the equivalent of its lost revenue for the period of disruption to the Farm, up to a maximum of \$30,197.

**Motion Carried**

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

Abstain: Trustee Leonard

#### **F. QUESTION PERIOD**

**Q:** Why have the basic, tangible, frequently enjoyed and costly to replace benefits for present and future Vic High classes – unlimited seasonal produce for class use, and the value of facilitated Learning Farm sessions, been left out of the accounting process for this report and recommended decision on this topic?

**A:** It is very difficult to put a cost on intangible items and the fact that the Board is supporting the temporary relocation of the garden by providing assistance in the way of lost revenue is the best possible solution for right now. In order to stay on within the timeline of this \$80 million seismic upgrade of Vic High, the storm drainage connection needs to be completed and the gardens temporarily moved in order to get staff and students back in the school in a timely manner.

**Q:** In the past two months, the district has spent close to \$200,000 on legal fees while the Supreme Court heard the recently concluded case involving two suspended trustees. In this case, does the board agree that the decision to pursue legal action against trustees was both optional and avoidable, and can the board explain why it opted to litigate this case at its students' expense instead of investing the district's resources into programs that benefit students more directly (such as music programming, custodial staffing, and so on)?

**A:** Question was ruled out of order by the Board Chair Ryan Painter.

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

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

**Motion Defeated**

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

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

**G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 30, 2022**

**G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meetings – June 13, 2022**

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

**H.1. New Business**

**a. Vic High Storm Drain Installation – Trustee Duncan**

Trustee Duncan withdrew the motion.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to schedule the planned storm drain installation for Vic High for a period after mid-September 2022 to allow the Vic High Learning Farm growing season (including planting and harvesting) to conclude without interruption and to provide support for the temporary move and preservation of the indigenous plan garden and Garry oak meadow.

**Moved from: D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee**

b. Recommended motions from the June 13, 2022 meeting.

iv. New Policy XXXX, *Role of the Trustee*

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Watters

That the motion “ *That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve new Policy XXXX Role of the Trustee*” to the September 26, 2022 Board of Education meeting agenda.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**H.2. Notice of Motions**

**a. Creation of VISTA Board Representative – September 26, 2022 Board of Education Meeting -Trustee Whiteaker**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

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

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer