

Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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Chair: Nicole Duncan Vice-Chair: Karin Kwan
Trustees: Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Mavis David,
Derek Gagnon, Emily Mahbobi,
Diane McNally, Rob Paynter

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Trustee Duncan
RE: Chair's Report
DATE: November 28, 2022

Activities on behalf of the Board:

1. Weekly Chair/Superintendent agenda planning meetings to set the agendas for our meetings. Bi-weekly check in/signing meeting with Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer. Elementary strings music review meeting with Superintendent and GVTA to discuss scope of review moving forward.
2. BCSTA New Board Chairs Call: Chairs were introduced to the new BCSTA Executive. Dr. Geoff McKee from the BCCDC was available to walk attendees through respiratory data by age available via the following links:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/respiratory-diseases>

For anyone interested in more information on influenza vaccinations, you may wish to review the following link: <https://immunizebc.ca/influenza>

3. The BC Human Rights Commissioner wrote to the BC School Trustees Association recommending that the use of School Liaison Officers (SLOs) in British Columbian schools be ended by all school districts, unless and until they can demonstrate an evidence-based need for them that cannot be met through other services. See the media release and letter received via the following links:

https://bchumanrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/Release_20221125_Letter-to-school-trustees-concerning-SLOs.pdf

<https://bchumanrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022.11.24-Letter-to-School-Trustees-on-human-rights-concerns-with-SLOs.pdf>

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.

- Trustee Assignments for 2022-23 have been made. Ad Hoc Committee scheduling has been prioritized for Ad Hoc Committees that have outstanding work to complete such as the George Jay Naming, School Police Liaison Program Review and Climate Action Plan Committees. Please let me know if there are any other Ad Hoc Committees that have outstanding work to complete. The Board will consider the work of the other Ad Hoc Committees and give Board direction as appropriate.

Highlights: Inaugural Board Meeting (9 November 2022)- Thank you to the George Jay Elementary Drum Circle and the musicians from Reynolds Secondary who played throughout the evening. The music and celebratory mood made for a very memorable evening. Thank you to the students and staff that organized and took part in the evening.

The Trustee working session on Saturday, 19 November 2022 was a wonderful opportunity for the new Board to gather and get to know each other while learning together over lunch. Thank you to my Trustee colleagues who were able to attend.

Events: I will be attending the Holocaust education play *Survivors*. Thank you to Frances Grunberg for the invitation. With the endorsement of the Minister of Education, this educational play will soon complete its pilot tour to Middle and Secondary schools on Vancouver Island. The play interweaves the true stories of ten Holocaust survivors, four of whom were still alive when the play premiered in New York in 2018. There are four performances starting on 6 December at the Black Box Theatre in Congregation Emanu-El Synagogue. Tickets are by donation.

Reminders: There is one Trustee assignment still available on the CRD Victoria Youth and Family Justice Committee.

Significant Dates: The BCSTA Trustee Academy will take place December 1-3, 2022 in Vancouver. This year's keynote speaker will be Chief Cadmus Delorme, the Chief of the Cowessess First Nation.

Combined Education Policy and Directions/Operations Policy and Planning, 7pm on 5 December 2022.

Winter break- December 17, 2022 to January 2, 2023

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One *Learning* Community

