



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

REGULAR MINUTES

Via Zoom

Monday, February 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, Karin Kwan, Vice-Chair, Angela Carmichael, Natalie Baillaut, Derek Gagnon, Rob Paynter, Emily Mahbobi

Trustee Regrets: Diane McNally, Mavis David

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Deputy Superintendent, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa McPhail, Manager of Communications, Andy Canty, Director of Information Technology

Partners: Ilda Turcotte, GVTA, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA, Jane Massy, CUPE 947, Jeanette Alexander, ASA, Tracy Humphreys, VCPAC

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

This meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Duncan 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 Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Carmichael

That the February 27, 2023 agenda be approved, with the following addition:

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

b. June 20, 2022 Regular Board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. January 30, 2023 Regular Board minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the January 30, 2023 Regular Board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. June 20, 2022 Regular Board minutes

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the June 22, 2022 Regular Board minutes be approved with the following amendment.

Under F. Question Period add the following question from the public:

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)?

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Trustee Duncan requested an update on a motion from the Board of Education meeting on January 30, 2023.

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Budget Advisory Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference, as presented,” be tabled until the Superintendent reports back on the Budget Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Superintendent Whitten stated that three of the four houses have been contacted.

A.5. Student Achievement

None.

A.6. District Presentations

None.

A.7. Community Presentations

None.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. February 7, 2023, GVTA, Sanctuary Schools Policy

Trustee Kwan thanked GVTA for the letter and stated that she will be addressing it at H.2. Notice of Motion.

B.2. February 8, 2023, Oak Bay Police Department, School Liaison Officer Program

Trustee Kwan asked if the School Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc committee has met with any of the policing members of the surrounding municipalities or if they have plans to do so.

Trustee Duncan provided an update.

B.3. February 16, 2023, G VAT, Rogers Society

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan presented the report and provided highlights.

b. March Board Work Plan

The plan was provided.

C.2. Trustees' Reports

None.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

a. Draft minutes from the February 6, 2023 meeting – information only

b. Recommended motions from the February 6, 2023 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the International student fees for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Carmichael

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and childcare advocating for the funding to allow teachers time to plan, collaborate and learn together, as well as provide the resources, to deliver the new Indigenous Grad requirements (courses) successfully.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting – information only
- b. Recommended motions from the February 13, 2023 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the posting of the following 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school calendars on the School District’s website for a period of one month:

2023/2024 School Calendar*	
School Opening	September 5, 2023
First non-instructional day	September 22, 2023
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	October 2, 2023
Thanksgiving	October 9, 2023
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 20, 2023
Remembrance Day	November 13, 2023
Third non-instructional day	November 20, 2023
Schools close for Winter vacation	December 22, 2023
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 8, 2024
Fourth non-instructional day	February 16, 2024
Family Day	February 19, 2024
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 15, 2024
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	April 3, 2024
Good Friday	March 29, 2024
Easter Monday	April 1, 2024
Fifth non-instructional day	May 17, 2024
Victoria Day	May 20, 2024
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 28, 2024
• Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school	
2024/2025 School Calendar*	
School Opening	September 3, 2024
First non-instructional day	September 23, 2024

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30, 2024
Thanksgiving	October 14, 2024
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 25, 2024
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2024
Third non-instructional day	November 22, 2024
Schools close for Winter vacation	December 20, 2024
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 6, 2025
Fourth non-instructional day	February 14, 2025
Family Day	February 17, 2025
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 14, 2025
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	March 31, 2025
Good Friday	April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	April 21, 2025
Fifth non-instructional day	May 16, 2025
Victoria Day	May 19, 2025
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 27, 2025
• Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school	

For: Trustees Paynter, Duncan, Carmichael, Kwan, Baillaut, Mahbobi
 Abstain: Trustee Gagnon

Motion Carried

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.3. Budget Advisory Committee

- a. Representative Advisory Council of Students Meeting – January 9, 2023
- b. Student Symposium Report – January 13, 2023
- c. Budget Advisory Committee February 9, 2023 Minutes

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

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
None.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Moved by Trustee Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw Readings

Secretary-Treasurer Stride thanked Associate Secretary-Treasurer Lutner for her tireless work to provide the report for the Board.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

Trustees and partners discussed the 2022-2023 amended annual budget.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$289,487,489 be:

Read a first time the 27th day of February, 2023.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$289,487,489 be:

Read a second time the 27th day of February, 2023.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the Regular Board meeting on February 27, 2023.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$289,487,489 be:

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 27th day of February, 2023;

And that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair be authorized be authorized to sign, seal and execute this Bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F. QUESTION PERIOD

- Q. I had a look at the Budget materials online and I think the district has a 4.m+ deficit next year and tonight I'm hearing in the new -revised budget has 10 new custodians in it. How can the Board afford to add back when facing a deficit next year?
- A. Secretary-Treasurer Stride stated that the \$200,000 for custodial was added into the 2022-2023 budget. The remainder of the motion is for the budget committee to review the custodial service plan for the 2023-2024 school year and make recommendations to the Board.
- Q. What is the impact of hiring delays on student learning? When my child didn't have a permanent teacher to start the year, it was awful for her.
- A. Superintendent Whitten replied that staff try to avoid hiring delays although illnesses and leaves do occur. Hiring for permanent positions takes place in the spring before the start of the following school year.
- Q. Why is the Board adding custodial time this year when you are facing a \$4 M budget deficit next year? is the plan to reinstate daytime custodians next year too, and if so what will you cut?
- A. Secretary-Treasurer Stride stated that the \$200,000 for custodial was added into the 2022-2023 budget. The remainder of the motion is for the budget committee to review the custodial service plan for the 2023-2024 school year and make recommendations to the Board.
- Q. How do exempt staff pay increases get approved? I have not seen them come to the board, but also there is very little discussion by this board so I may have missed it.
- A. Secretary-Treasurer Stride explained that pay increases for exempt staff are governed by British Columbia Public School Employers Association, BCPSEA. They provide direction on what is an acceptable increase. This information is provided to the Board during in-camera Board meetings.

- Q. When will the board implement a trustee attendance record as per Trustee McNally's motion carried by the last board? I notice some trustees attend only rarely.
- A. Staff will report back at a future Board meeting.
- Q. How much will a byelection cost and when/how will it be budgeted for? Will it be more or less than the costs incurred by Trustees McNally and Paynter's litigation costs?
- A. Chair Duncan stated that the Board currently does not have a pending byelection.
- Q. What is the status of the music review? The last trustee discussion I saw on line was in January 2023.
- A. Superintendent Whitten stated that the music review was provided in January 2023. Staff are moving forward with providing options to the budget advisory committee.
- Q. What is the process to file a complaint of misconduct by a school district board member? Regulation 1155 is not clear whether this applies to board members as well as educational staff.
- A. Chair Duncan stated that Trustees have responsibilities that are set in the School Act. School District 61, Greater Victoria has Policy 8251, Trustee Code of Conduct. Regulation 1155 is to do with employees of the school district.

Chair Duncan ruled one question out of order that was submitted therefore it was not provided to the Board.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

- G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – January 30, 2023
- G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – February 6, 2023
- G.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – February 15, 2023

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

a. Trustee Kwan

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Policy Sub Committee to research and explore Sanctuary School policies implemented

by other School Districts in BC and provide recommendations to the Board through the Education Policy and Directions Committee about implementing a Sanctuary School policy in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) by the May 2023 meeting.

b. Trustee Kwan

Recommendation:
That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Policy Sub-committee to examine and review the process and guidelines in place for Program Accreditation and Evaluation (reviews) relating to provisions made in Policy and Regulations 6162.8 and provide recommendations to the Board through the Education Policy and Directions Committee for any necessary additions or changes.

c. Trustee Kwan

Recommendation:
That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Policy Sub Committee to examine and review the process and guidelines in place for Consultation relating to provisions made in Policy and Regulation 1163 and provide recommendations to the Board through the Education Policy and Directions Committee for any necessary additions or changes.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously