



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting
REGULAR MINUTES
Monday, November 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

Trustees Present: **Education Policy and Directions members:** Emily Mahbobi (Chair), Natalie Baillaut, Mavis David, Nicole Duncan, Diane McNally

Operations Policy and Planning members: Rob Paynter

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael, Karin Kwan, Derek Gagnon

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Dr. Jeff Davis, Director of International Student Program, Tina Pierik, VPVPA

Partners: Jane Massy, CUPE 947, Lena Palermo, GVTA, Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Mahbobi 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 David

That the November 6, 2023 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

That the October 16, 2023 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes, be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Associate Superintendent Aerts provided the memo and introduced District Principal Sean Powell and Teacher (.7 District Language Coordinator) Rosie Geuer who presented on French Immersion oral language development in the district. French immersion program represents approximately 19% of our overall population. Central Middle School Principal, Gillian Braun presented the 2023-2024 school goal for Central which is to have “Students feel safe, seen and supported”. Central Middle school is proud to have a diverse learning community with 37 different home languages spoken by students.

Trustees provided thanks and questions of clarification were asked.

C.2. Draft Regulation XXXX International Student Enrollment

Trustee Duncan provided suggested amendments to the regulation.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Draft Regulation XXXX International Student Enrollment by removing “ ~~Students who are neither Canadian citizens nor have a permanent residence status are considered international students and may be enrolled in the District International Programs subject to the policies and regulations under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship~~”

~~Canada (IRCC).”~~ and replacing it with “The following regulation applies to International students who are students from outside Canada who does not meet the Ministry of Education’s funding eligibility requirements and/or has to obtain authorization from the Canadian government to enter Canada with the intention of pursuing studies.”

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve amended Draft Regulation XXXX International Student Enrollment as appended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C.3.** Superintendent Whitten presented a report on International Student Program.

Questions of clarification were asked.

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

REGULATION xxxx (New)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Adopted:
Revised:
Frequency of Review:

BACKGROUND

Students who are neither Canadian citizens nor have a permanent residence status are considered international students and may be enrolled in the District International Programs subject to the policies and regulations of the Board of Education and the rules established by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The British Columbia Ministry of Education does not provide funding for international students. Fees are charged to cover the costs of education.

PROCEDURES

Subject to applicable Board of Education policy and regulations, international students may be enrolled in the International Programs as full-time students at the elementary, middle and secondary levels for a fee if they are accepted following an application process and are prepared to meet the following conditions:

- 2.1 Demonstrations of functional literacy in English.
- 2.2 Indication of acceptable academic ability.
- 2.3 Live in an approved homestay, or with their parent(s) or legal custodian who will maintain adult (over twenty-five (25) years of age) supervision throughout the study period. Elementary school students will only be enrolled if they are living with a parent or have the approval of the Superintendent or designate.
- 2.4 Payment of the appropriate fees for the program which includes the application fee, medical insurance fees, program fees and homestay placement fees as required.
- 2.5 If they have been accepted to specialty programs within the District such as AP or Academies, and other specific school-based programs, payment of additional fees to cover the costs associated with these kinds of programs. These fees are determined by the Board.

3.0 Subject to applicable Board of Education policy and regulations, international students may be enrolled in the International Programs as short-term students at the elementary, middle and secondary levels for a fee if they are accepted following an application process and are prepared to meet the following conditions:

- 3.1 If they pay the appropriate fees for the program offered.

- 3.2 If they live in an approved homestay, or with their parent(s) or legal custodian who will maintain adult (over twenty-five (25) years of age) supervision throughout the study period.
- 3.3 If they have adequate medical insurance or pay for the coverage through a private insurer managed by the International Student Program staff.

4.0 Administration and Funding of the International Programs

- 4.1 The Director will submit a budget for review each year as part of the annual District budget process.
- 4.2 Sufficient funding as determined by the Superintendent or as directed by the Board of Education will be provided annually from the revenue generated from this program for the maintenance of the Victoria International Education (VIE) program infrastructure and ongoing marketing activities as well as for the development of new markets and programs.
- 4.3 The Director, in consultation with the Superintendent or designate, and the Secretary-Treasurer, or as directed by the Board of Education will determine the FTE of international students desired for each school year. The total number of international students enrolled in any given year will be reviewed and restricted in alignment with Board of Education's policy, and through the annual review process.
- 4.4 The Director will work closely with the Superintendent or designate, and the school-based administrators at elementary, middle, and secondary levels to facilitate the placement of appropriate students into the schools of the District in accordance with the Board of Education's student enrollment priorities.
- 4.5 The Victoria International Education staff will prepare all legal documentation required for the students to study in Canada.

The VIE staff will ensure adult supervision of each international student during their study program in the District is maintained through the student's parent(s) or homestay arrangements.
- 4.6 The VIE staff will maintain communications with school personnel and the families abroad.

REFERENCES

Board of Education Policy xxxx International Student Enrollment

School Act s.75 Provision of education program

School Act s.82 Fees and deposits

School Regulation s.16 Deemed Residence

Ministry of Education eligibility for operating grant funding

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/eligibility-of-students-for-operating-grant-funding> (2. Tuition fees exemption)

