



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Special Public Board Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

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

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael, Mavis David

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Deputy Superintendent, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Josh Barks, District Vice-Principal of Information Technology, Dr. Shelly Niemi, Director of Indigenous Education, Brenna O'Connor, VPVPA, Tina Pierik, VPVPA

Partners: Ilda Turcotte, GVTA, Jane Massy, CUPE 947, Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947

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 Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the November 14, 2023 Special Public Board meeting agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B. 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET

B.1. Budget Process

Secretary-Treasurer Stride reviewed the Budget Process memo.

Trustees and partners had questions of clarification and discussed the possible process for the 2024-2025 budget.

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move into Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The following budget process items were discussed during Committee of the Whole:

- Create working groups with Trustees and partner groups with a focus on specific aspects of the budget
- Inclusion of Rightsholders in the budget process. Dr. Shelly Niemi shared information about Bill 40 and the implications for the budget process.
- District departments to make presentations earlier in the process if possible.
- The possibility of holding more than one Student Symposium
- Positive impact of Talking Tables event on partner groups; however, there was a disconnect between what was discussed during the event and what was approved in the budget process.
- Trustees meeting with family of schools in person to discuss the budget with students
- Consideration of workload and further discussion between the Board and the Senior Leadership Team

Secretary-Treasurer Stride reviewed the timeline from the 2023-2024 budget process.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided some suggestions for the Board's consideration, including having shorter duration budget meetings, obtaining student feedback up front to provide budget direction (Student Symposium in early January), and holding the Talking Tables event in early March and the public meeting in early April to allow for the potential to discuss actual budget decisions, instead of only hypothetical ones.

B.2. Budget Information

The following budget information items were discussed during Committee of the Whole:

- Timing of budget information and when it is needed
- Transition away from department presentations towards including department budgets/proposals in information packages for independent review by Trustees
- Working groups with specific topics where more detailed information, such as budget allocations/formulas, could be shared
- What level of service is being delivered to schools with the budget allocation
- Other information or recommendations not presented at a working group will be presented for consideration at a regular Board meeting.

Moved by Trustee Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move out of Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to work with the Superintendent to prepare 2024-2025 budget information for the Board.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to work with the Superintendent **and the Vice-Chair** to prepare 2024-2025 budget information **and process timeline** for the Board by the November 27, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to work with the Superintendent and the Vice-Chair to prepare 2024-2025 budget information and process timeline for the Board by the November 27, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C. 1211 Gladstone – Statutory Right-of-Way for BC Hydro and TELUS

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided information pertaining to the Statutory Right-of-Way for BC Hydro and TELUS at 1211 Gladstone.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve granting a Statutory Right-of-Way to BC Hydro and TELUS in respect of civil infrastructure associated with the underground distribution of electricity by BC Hydro and telecommunications and data transmission by TELUS and related works on the Caledonia Redevelopment property beside Victoria High School legally described as PID: 031-731-848, Lot A, Sections 50 and 53 Spring Ridge, Victoria City, District Plan EPP88786.

Motion Carried

For (5): Trustees Baillaut, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally, Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Abstain (1): Trustee Duncan

Moved by Trustee Paynter

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of the Caledonia Electrical Distribution and Telecommunication Transmission Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw 24-01.

Motion Defeated

Against (4): Trustees Baillaut, Duncan, Kwan, McNally

Abstain (2): Trustees Gagnon, Paynter

Moved by Trustee Paynter

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Caledonia Electrical Distribution and Telecommunication Transmission Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw 24-01, being a bylaw to grant a Statutory Right-of-Way to BC Hydro and TELUS on the Caledonia Redevelopment property beside Victoria High School legally described as PID: 031-731-848, Lot A, Sections 50 and 53 Spring Ridge, Victoria City, District Plan EPP88786 in respect of civil infrastructure associated with the underground distribution of electricity by BC Hydro and telecommunications and data transmission by TELUS and related works:

Read a first time this 14th day of November, 2023;

and that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair be authorized to execute and seal this bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried

For (6): Trustees Baillaut, Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally, Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Caledonia Electrical Distribution and Telecommunication Transmission Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw 24-01, being a bylaw to grant a Statutory Right-of-Way to BC Hydro and TELUS on the Caledonia Redevelopment property beside Victoria High School legally described as PID: 031-731-848, Lot A, Sections 50 and 53 Spring Ridge, Victoria City, District Plan EPP88786 in respect of civil infrastructure associated with the underground distribution of electricity by BC Hydro and telecommunications and data transmission by TELUS and related works:

Read a second time this 14th day of November, 2023;

and that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair be authorized to execute and seal this bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried

For (6): Trustees Baillaut, Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally, Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

D. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: I'm hoping the board can answer a question in relation to Amy Read's presentation in April relating to the education challenges at Quadra Elementary, the need for more support, and her offer for the board to attend her classroom.

Has anyone from the board visited an elementary school classroom at Quadra or another inner city catchment school as Ms. Read offered in her presentation?

If not, would you be willing to commit to spending a morning or afternoon in a classroom to experience Ms. Read's concerns and gain a better understanding of the state of the public education offered at schools in lower income areas?

A: Chair Duncan did not recall a formal invitation to attend Ms. Reads classroom. Superintendent Whitten replied that the District has identified 10 elementary schools that are prioritized and within the prioritization the district provides Kindergarten teacher collaboration cohorts which helps strengthening early years transition to Kindergarten. The District has also provided schools with Reframing Behaviour professional learning opportunities. reframing behaviorist communication workshops. Non-violent crisis intervention has been provided for many of the priority schools. The district has 30-hour EA positions in the identified schools and has provided additional school based inclusive learning funds and/or staffing. When the district is looking at the 10 priority schools they are intentional when providing additional supports and services.

Q: Since Ms. Amy Read's presentation in April, in what ways does the board feel there has been action taken this year towards equitable division of resources between affluent and vulnerable schools to support students' safety and learning environments?

A: Trustee Duncan replied that it is ongoing work and that Superintendent Whitten provided an answer to this question when answering the first question. Trustee Duncan mentioned that they are about to begin the budget process for the 2024-2025 school year where equity and resource allocation will be at the heart of the Boards consideration.

Q: You did not answer my question will you commit to attending a classroom?

A: Trustees welcome an invitation to attend classrooms.

E. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer