



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, January 29, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present:	Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, Karin Kwan, Vice-Chair, Natalie Baillaut, Derek Gagnon, Emily Mahbobi
Trustee Regrets:	Angela Carmichael, Mavis David, Diane McNally, Rob Paynter
Administration:	Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Deputy Superintendent, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Andy Canty, Director of Information Technology for Learning, Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA
Partners:	Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC, Jane Massy, 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 Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the January 29, 2024 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the December 11, 2023 Regular Board minutes be approved.

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 (5 minutes per presentation)

- a. Jean Morrison, a French Immersion teacher in School District No. 61, presented on the impact report that was brought forward when the International Student Enrollment Policy was approved.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. January 17, 2024, Colquitz Middle School Parent Advisory Council to the Board of Education, School Police Liaison Officer Program

Trustees asked a question of clarification.

B.2. January 18, 2024, Oak Bay High School PAC to the Board of Education, Gang Trend Seminar

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

- a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan provided the report for information.

- b. Section 72 Report

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to revert back to the usual Section 72 Report format and update the Section 72 Reports between March 2023 and January 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- c. District Annual Work Plan January and February 2024
District annual work plans were provided for information.

C.2. Trustees' Reports

None.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 15, 2024 meeting – information only
- b. Recommended motions from the January 15, 2024 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 6163.1 Learning Resources, as amended,

AND FURTHER,

direct the Superintendent to prepare the corresponding Learning Resources Administrative Regulation for review by the Board of Education in April 2024.

The Policy was further amended by Chair Duncan.

Amendment of Policy

Moved by Chair Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

- 3.9.5 Selection is an ongoing process which includes the removal of ~~materials~~ learning resources which are no longer appropriate according to the approved criteria for the selection of learning resources- , and other criteria specific to the ongoing reconsideration of learning resources currently in use such as age, damage or relevance.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Chair Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

- 4.1 The Board delegates the responsibility for ~~coordinating~~ the selection of ~~and making recommendations for the purchase of~~ learning resources to the district or school educational staff. The review of a requests for reconsideration of the use of a learning resource will be undertaken in accordance with the review process outlined in associated Regulation 6163.1.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 6163.1 Learning Resources, as amended,

AND FURTHER,

direct the Superintendent to prepare the corresponding Learning Resources Administrative Regulation for review by the Board of Education in April 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care with a request for additional funding for staff to complete DEI training in line with the K-12 Anti Racism action plan.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting – information only

D.3. 2024-2025 Budget

- a. Values and Guiding Principles

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Values and Guiding Principles for the 2024-2025 Budget.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. 2024-2025 Budget Development Process

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised 2024-2025 Budget Development Process.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- c. Student Connections
- d. Partner and VPVPA Connections
- e. Student Symposium – January 11, 2024
- f. Budget Working Groups

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

Moved by Trustee Kwan

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

Trustees had questions of clarification.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

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

F. QUESTION PERIOD

- Q: Due to parent outcry there has been multiple attempts from the Police Board to meet with the school board to discuss shared responsibility for student and staff safety. The first meeting was booked for November which was cancelled and rebooked for December by the school board the December meeting was cancelled and rebooked to January by the school board. The January meeting was also cancelled by the school board. When will the board prioritize student and staff safety and reschedule this very important meeting?
- A: Chair Duncan stated that this question is based on misinformation. The Board of Education wrote to police boards to invite them to engage in Board-to-Board dialogue related to the joint responsibility for student and staff safety. The Board of Education did not cancel any of those meetings but has been understanding and open to the requests of one Police Board to reschedule. Chair Duncan stated that when the Board of Education receives a confirmed meeting date from this Police Board, it will make itself available.
- Q: When will the board of education return to holding in-person meetings. SD61 is the only board on the island and lower mainland that will not hold in-person public meetings?
- A: Chair Duncan stated that the Board has received this question before, and is looking to get an estimate of the cost to upgrade the Boardroom so that people who are listening to in-person meetings can hear who is speaking and see who votes in what way. Once the Board has a sense of the cost of upgrading the Boardroom, it will look to make those adjustments and return to in-person meetings. In the meantime, the Board has found the online platform to be very accessible and has increased the number of people who can tune in without having to worry about childcare or travel to the Board Office. Chair Duncan reiterated that the Board will continue to look at this issue and, once it has an estimate of the cost to upgrade the Boardroom, it will revisit the question of returning to in-person meetings.
- Q: Did any member of this Board attend the Gang Education and Trends seminar held at Oak Bay High School on January 25, 2023?
- A: Chair Duncan stated that the Board kindly received an invitation from Oak Bay High School Parent Advisory Committee to attend. Chair Duncan advised that she replied on behalf of the Board by thanking them for the invitation and letting them know that Trustees already had budget-related meetings that they needed to attend that evening. Chair Duncan also let the PAC know that the Principal from Oak Bay High School would be in attendance.
- Q: Please provide us with the meeting dates and which police boards this school board has met with since the removal of the School Police Liaison officers. Has the meeting with the Victoria police board been rescheduled since the school board cancelled the last three meetings? When is the meeting rescheduled for?
- A: Chair Duncan stated that this question is based on misinformation that this individual has received. Chair Duncan confirmed that the Board has not cancelled meetings with

the Victoria Police Board. When the Board of Education hears back from the Victoria Police Board about when they would like to reschedule the meeting, the Board of Education will make itself available. The Board of Education's decision around the SPLO program did not impact what was happening in Victoria and Esquimalt schools, as SPLOs have not been in Esquimalt or Victoria schools since 2018. Chair Duncan suggested, if there is a lack of clarity or there are ongoing concerns, that the public reach out to the Board and it will be happy to provide further information.

Q: Why are facilities asking for more funds for SJ Burnside on top of the initial 6.5 million provided and then 8 million to address the upgrade and seismic refit?

A: Superintendent Whitten stated that the question will be reviewed by staff and staff will respond back to the individual who asked the question.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – December 11, 2023

G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – December 19, 2023

G.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – January 22, 2024

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer