



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting**

AGENDA

Broadcasted via YouTube <https://bit.ly/3czx8bA>

Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Chair Mahbobi

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

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.

A.2. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

That the April 15, 2024 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Recommended Motion:

That the March 4, 2024 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes pertaining to the Education Policy and Directions meeting, be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR) – District Principal Charmaine Shortt (Memo)

Presentation – Welcoming Children & Families to School, Building Community.

District-Based: District Principal Charmain Shortt – All Levels

School-Based: McKenzie Elementary School, Principal Carmen Gauvreau and StrongStart Facilitator and Classroom Early Childhood Educator Donna-Lynn Thorp

- D. NOTICE OF MOTION**
- E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- F. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion:
That the meeting adjourn.

Note: This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Combined Education Policy and Directions and
Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

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

Operations Policy and Planning members: Rob Paynter (Chair), Derek Gagnon, Karin Kwan, Nicole Duncan (ex officio)

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael, Mavis David

Administration: Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Mike Knudson, Director of Human Resource Services, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Vicki Roberts, VPVPA

Partners: Lena Palermo, GVTA, Cindy Romphf, GVTA, Taily Wills, CUPE 947, 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 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the March 4, 2024 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B. EDUCATION POLICY AND DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

B.1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the February 5, 2024 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B.2. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C.1. District Principal David Hovis provided a memo and introduced District Counsellors Monique Moore and Maureen Von Tigerstrom who provided a presentation on supporting Mental Health and Wellness - K-12 Update.

Trustees provided thanks for the presentation and questions of clarification were asked from Partners and Trustees.

C.2. Associate Superintendent Tom Aerts provided a memo and introduced District Vice-Principal Pathways and Partnership Lindsay Johnson and school-based Vic High Career Centre Team – Career Coordinator Samantha Spetter and Career Centre Teacher Jessica McDiarmid. The presentation focused on:

- Pathways and Partnerships District perspective and K-12 career education.
- Victoria High School program highlighted the hairstyle program and provided a “Day in the Life of a Career Center Team”.
- Enhancing Student Learning Report Connection to Pathways and Partnerships.

Trustees and partners provided thanks for the presentation and questions of clarification were asked.

D. NEW BUSINESS

None.

E. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

F. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

G. OPERATIONS POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

G.1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan

That the February 12, 2024 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

G.2. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

H. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

H.1. Cindy Romphf, GVTA and Taily Wills, CUPE 947 presented on violence that is taking place in the classroom and affecting staff and students, specifically in elementary schools. Recommendations were proposed to the Committee.

Partners and Trustees had questions of clarification.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

J. PERSONNEL ITEMS

None.

K. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

K.1. Monthly Financial Report: February 2024

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.
Trustees had questions of clarification.

K.2. Budget Change Report: February 2024

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.
Trustees had questions of clarification.

L. FACILITIES PLANNING

L.1. Operations Update: March 2024

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update.
Trustees had questions of clarification.

L.2. Victoria High School Seismic Project Update

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update.
Trustees had questions of clarification.

L.3. Cedar Hill Middle School Seismic Project Update

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update.
Trustees had questions of clarification.

M. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

N. NEW BUSINESS

None.

O. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

P. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Kwan

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

DRAFT

TO: Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting
FROM: Charmaine Shortt
RE: Early Learning & Child Care in SD61: Welcoming children & families to school
DATE: April 15, 2024

Information:

The intent of this memo is to offer an overview of the Early Learning & Child Care presentation on April 15, 2024 and to familiarize Trustees with an important department focus; *Welcoming Children and Families to School*. The presentation will highlight the kindergarten *Welcome Process* as it connects to the Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR), the Greater Victoria School District's Strategic Plan, and Ministry of Education and Child Care accountabilities. School Principal, Carmen Gauvreau and Early Childhood Educator, Donna-Lynn Thorpe of McKenzie Elementary School will co-present with District Principal Charmaine Shortt.

Background:

In September and throughout the school year, the Greater Victoria School District welcomes close to 1500 children and their families to kindergarten.

No matter when a new family joins the community, the Greater Victoria School District aims to be ready and welcoming, with systems and supports in place for a warm first impression and a positive entry into school.

The Greater Victoria School District's *Welcome Process* was developed to ensure that entry into school is consistent and equitable across all 28 elementary schools. The *Welcome Process* endeavours to help foster inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments for ALL by enhancing and supporting student equity, learning, identities and well-being.

The addition of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) working alongside teachers in kindergarten classrooms in priority schools is another strategy that was implemented to increase play-based learning opportunities and nurture the social and emotional well-being of children in the early years.

For the 2023-24 school year, the Early Learning and Child Care department focused its resources and the MECC early years special purpose funds towards collaborating with district departments, school staff, StrongStart centres, community partners and Rightsholders to further strengthen and bring to life the *Welcome Process*.

Also this year, the pedagogy and practice of the SD61 *Welcome Process* was extended to include the child care providers who operate child care centres on school grounds. Being that the integration of child care on school grounds is an essential component of the department's work, the collaboration and coordination of creating a seamless transition into school from early care to kindergarten remains a focus.

Overview of the presentation:

- Early Learning & Child Care - Department Context
- A review of the the *Welcome Process*
- McKenzie Elementary School - Stories of Welcome, Community & Connection

Welcoming children & families to school: Building Community

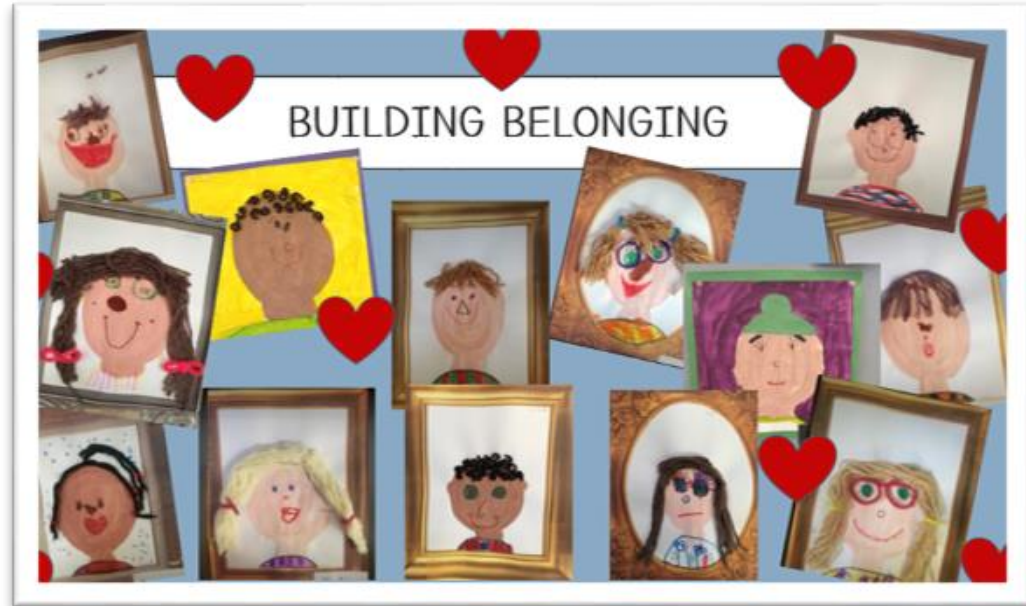
McKenzie Elementary School & Early Learning & Child Care Department

Principal:

Carmen Gauvreau

Early Childhood Educator:

Donna-Lynn Thorpe



ESLR & Strategic Plan

ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING REPORT 2023

In review of the Greater Victoria School District five-year strategic plan that was renewed in 2020 (Year 4 of 5).

Approved by the Board on September 25, 2023

Greater VICTORIA School District

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Mission
We ensure each student is inspired and well-being in a safe, respectful and inclusive learning community.

Vision
Each student will be our world-class learning community has an opportunity to fulfill their potential and pursue their aspirations.

Goal 1
Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support and improve all learners' personal and academic success.

Goal 2
Create a culturally responsive learning environment that will support Indigenous learners' personal and academic success.

Goal 3
Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support all learners' physical and mental well-being.

Core Values

- Engagement**: We seek to create engaging activities in their education and make them feel connected to their learning.
- Equity**: We respect and value the diversity of our learners.
- Inclusion**: We are inclusive and respectful to all learners.
- Integrity**: We are honest and transparent in our actions.
- Transparency**: We are open and honest in our actions.
- Partnerships**: We work together and make decisions as a team.
- Respect**: We respect ourselves, others and the environment.
- Social Responsibility**: We are committed to making a positive impact on our community.
- Sustainability**: We are committed to making decisions that are sustainable for the future.

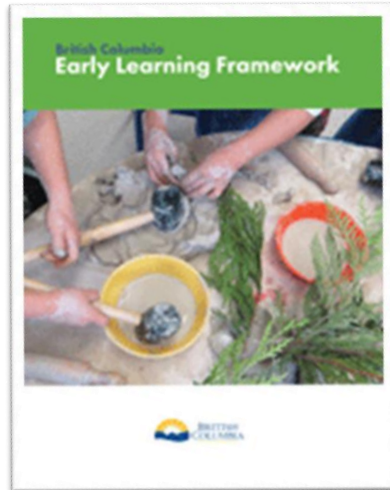
One Learning Community

www.sd61.bc.ca

Ministry Vision for Early Years



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



Early Childhood Educators, teachers, child care providers and families work alongside each other to support the creation of rich and joyful early childhood spaces where children, adults, ideas and materials come together.

Early Learning & Child Care: Department Context





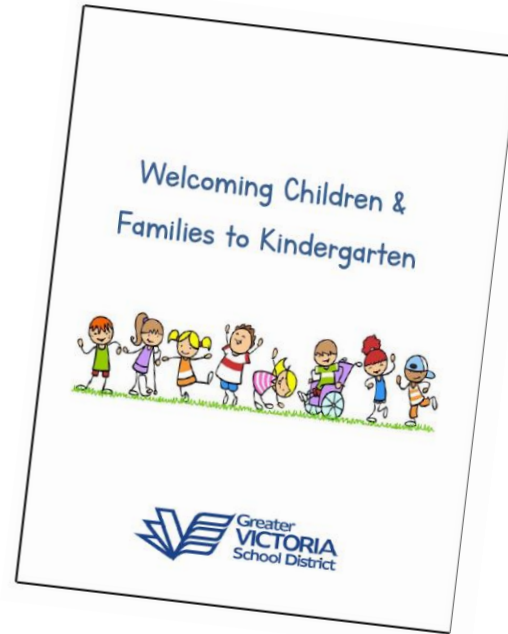
Attuned connections and feelings of belonging in early childhood are fundamental determinants of lifelong health and well-being.

Welcome to Kindergarten



Welcoming Children & Families to School

- Child Care Providers on school grounds
- StrongStart Centres
- Early Childhood Educators
- Kindergarten teachers
- School-based Teams
- Principals & Vice-Principals
- School office staff
- Community Partners
- Inclusive Education, Indigenous Education, Communications, Finance and Facilities Department
- Office of the Superintendent



Registration

Family Connection Calls

Welcome to Kindergarten Event

Videos and slideshows from schools

Welcoming Conversations

Gradual Entry



Integration Continuum: Child Care on School Grounds

Co-Existence

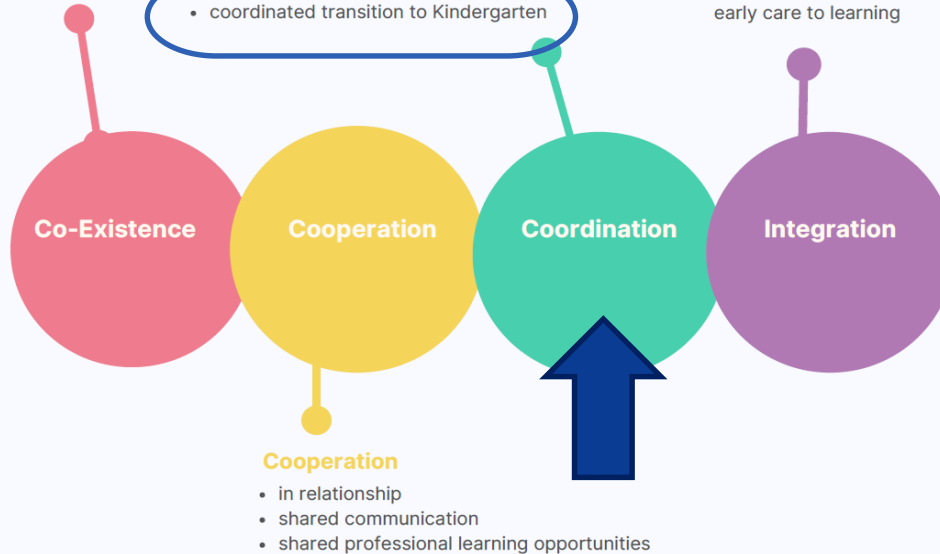
- sharing geography
- limited engagement

Coordination

- coordinated process for adding service
- early years community of practice
- coordinated communication
- coordinated transition to Kindergarten

Integration

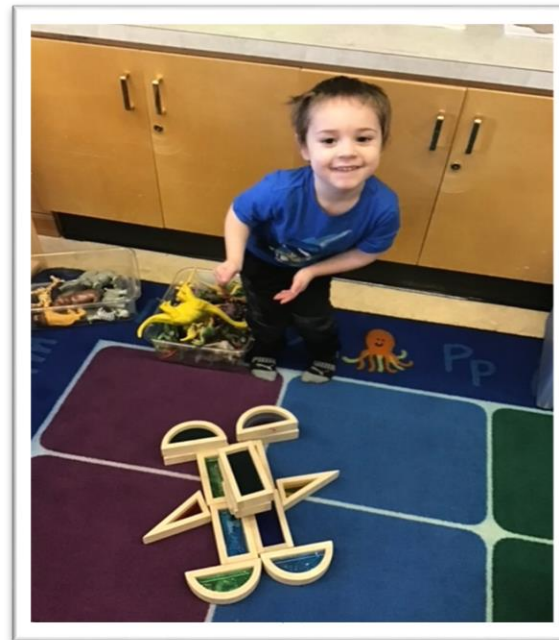
- shared governance & resourcing
- universal access to child care
- seamless student transition from early care to learning



McKenzie Elementary School

Stories of Welcome, Connection & Community





Building community one
child at a time...





Investing in:
PLAY
TALK
CONNECTION
COMMUNITY





Investing in quality early learning and child care benefits our entire learning community.

