



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 29, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

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

Trustee Regrets: Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Mavis David

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Sean Powell, Acting Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Josh Barks, Vice Principal Information Technology for Learning, Brenna O'Connor, VPVPA

Partners: Jane Massy, CUPE 947, Darren Reed, CUPE 382, Ilda Turcotte, GVTA, Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The 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 Mahbobi  
**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the April 29, 2024 agenda be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Approval of the March 11, 2024 Regular Board Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the March 11, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Approval of the April 9, 2024 Special Board Budget Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the April 9, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- c. Approval of the April 11, 2024 Special Board Budget Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the April 11, 2024 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**

- a. Mia Golden, a member of the Mobile Youth Services Team in Victoria, spoke to Trustees about the removal of the School Police Liaison Officer program.

Trustees thanked Mia Golden for the presentation and had questions of clarification.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

- B.1.** March 13, 2024, Stephen Harrison to SD61 Trustees, School Liaison Officer Program

- B.2.** April 16, 2024, Northridge PAC to SD61 Trustees, School Police Liaison Officer
- B.3.** April 15, 2024, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils to Premier Eby, Minister of Finance Katrine Conroy, Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, Minister of Children and Family Development Grace Lore, Urgent Appeal to Preserve StrongStart Programs Across British Columbia

Trustees had questions of clarification about the StrongStart Program.

## **C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **C.1. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan provided the report for information.

- b. District Annual Work Plan May 2024

District annual work plan was provided for information.

### **C.2. Trustees' Reports**

None.

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee**

- a. Draft minutes from the April 15, 2024 meeting – information only

### **D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee**

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

- b. Recommended motions from the April 22, 2024 meeting:

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan

**Seconded by** Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 8251, *Trustees' Code of Conduct*.

For (5): Trustees Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan, Mahbobi, McNally  
Abstain (1): Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the posting of the following 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 school calendars on the School District's website for a period of one month:

#### 2025/2026 School Calendar\*

School Opening	September 2, 2025
First non-instructional day	September 22, 2025
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving	October 13, 2025
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 24, 2025
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2025
Third non-instructional day	November 21, 2025
Schools close for Winter vacation	December 19, 2025
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 5, 2026
Fourth non-instructional day	February 13, 2026
Family Day	February 16, 2026
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 13, 2026
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	March 30, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	April 6, 2026
Fifth non-instructional day	May 15, 2026
Victoria Day	May 18, 2026
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 26, 2026
• Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school	

#### 2026/2027 School Calendar\*

School Opening	September 8, 2026
First non-instructional day	September 21, 2026
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving	October 12, 2026
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 23, 2026
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2026
Third non-instructional day	November 27, 2026
Schools close for Winter vacation	December 18, 2026
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 4, 2027

Fourth non-instructional day	February 12, 2027
Family Day	February 15, 2027
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 12, 2027
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	March 31, 2027
Good Friday	March 26, 2027
Easter Monday	March 29, 2027
Fifth non-instructional day	May 21, 2027
Victoria Day	May 24, 2027
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 25, 2027
• Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school	

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **E.1. Superintendent's Report**

#### **a. Monthly Report**

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **b. International Student Program Bi-Annual Report**

Director of International Education Davis provided the report for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

#### **c. 2024-2025 Special Academy Fees**

Associate Superintendent Aerts provided the 2024-2025 Special Academy Fees for approval.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan

**Seconded by** Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) makes available to the public, via the District website, the schedules of fees that have been approved by the Parents' Advisory Council for the school where the Board proposes to offer a specialty academy.

For (5): Trustees Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan, Mahbobi, Paynter

Abstain (1): Trustee McNally

**Motion Carried**

d. Regulation 6163.1, *Learning Resources*

Associate Superintendent Aerts provided the Regulation for information.

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) refer draft Regulation 6163.1, *Learning Resources* to the May 6, 2024 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

e. Trustee Questions

None.

**E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan

**Seconded by** Trustee Mahbobi

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b. 2024-2025 Capital Plan Bylaw

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the 2024-2025 Capital Plan Bylaw.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**Moved by** Trustee Mahbobi

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01 Capital Plan 2024/25.

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 142 of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) (hereinafter called the "Board") has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with Section 143 of the *School Act*, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:

- (a) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;
- (b) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the capital project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each capital project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (c) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,
- (d) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

- 1. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2024/25 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 15, 2024, is hereby adopted.
- 2. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01.

Read a first time this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon  
**Seconded by** Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01 Capital Plan 2024/25.

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 142 of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) (hereinafter called the "Board") has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with Section 143 of the *School Act*, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:

- (e) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;
- (f) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the capital project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each capital project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (g) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,
- (h) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

- 3. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2024/25 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 15, 2024, is hereby adopted.
- 4. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01.

Read a second time this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by** Trustee McNally  
**Seconded by** Trustee Mahbobi

Trustees had questions of clarification.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01 at the April 29, 2024 Board meeting.



**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by** Trustee McNally  
**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01 Capital Plan 2024/25.

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 142 of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) (hereinafter called the "Board") has submitted a capital plan to the Minister of Education (hereinafter called the "Minister") and the Minister has approved the capital plan or has approved a capital plan with modifications,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with Section 143 of the *School Act*, the Board has prepared this Capital Bylaw and agrees to do the following:

- (i) Authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to execute a capital project funding agreement(s) related to the capital project(s) contemplated by the capital plan or the capital plan with modifications;
- (j) Upon ministerial approval to proceed, commence the capital project(s) and proceed diligently and use its best efforts to complete each capital project substantially as directed by the Minister;
- (k) Observe and comply with any order, regulation, or policy of the Minister as may be applicable to the Board or the capital project(s); and,
- (l) Maintain proper books of account, and other information and documents with respect to the affairs of the capital project(s), as may be prescribed by the Minister.

NOW THEREFORE the Board enacts as follows:

- 5. The Capital Bylaw of the Board for the 2024/25 Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 15, 2024, is hereby adopted.
- 6. This Capital Bylaw may be cited as School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2024/25-CPSD61-01.

Read a third time this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, and finally passed and adopted the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- c. 2024-2025 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Expenditure Plan Submission

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the submission for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

d. 2024-2025 Budget Development Process Survey Results

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the survey results for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Q1: Was there a newsletter sent to teachers to communicate the stance of the GVTA before a letter was written to the School Board to end the SPLO program?

A1: Chair Duncan replied that the question was not for them as the question pertains to a letter from a partner group.

Q2: "Police are allowed in the Board of Education's decision does not limit police access to schools. The ending of the SPLO program does not prohibit police from entering schools or grounds." Can police assist in such things as crossing guard duties or is this statement about implying when it is only a policing matter?

A2: Chair Duncan replied that the District's crossing guard services are provided by CUPE 947 employees.

Q3: Before the Board made its decision to remove the SPLO program did any of the Trustees spend a day with one of the officers?

A3: Chair Duncan replied that Police representatives were members of the review committee. Submissions from those Police representatives were considered by the Board in addition to other written submissions received from Police, including Police Chiefs and a Constable.

Q4: Does the school Board owe their position on the SPLO program to the GVTA, as they endorsed the entire Board? Does this equate to a conflict of interest?

A4: Chair Duncan replied that there has been confusion around the basis for the decision of the Board. Each of the nine Board members came to the decision on their own, with their own unique perspective and consideration of the facts before them. It was a unanimous decision. As Board members, we represent the entire learning community. As a Board, we consider the feedback from all our partners. We considered all the feedback we received from the GVTA. When someone endorses candidates, they are endorsing individual candidates, they are not endorsing a slate. Each candidate ran as an individual. However, each of our partners who are involved in the election process are well within their rights to vet and endorse candidates. That is part of the electoral process and something that is to be expected and does not represent any kind of conflict of interest.

Q5: I would like to hear comments from the Board surrounding the removal of the only indigenous SPLO officer from SD61 schools when they made the decision to take away the program.

A5: Chair Duncan replied that when the Board was reviewing and considering their decision around ending the program the Board and review committee did not consider individual officers or their roles within police services. That was not part of the review and is not part of the mandate of the Board of Education. Each police service has the mandate and autonomy to decide what officers they want to utilize and the service provision they want to provide. The Board's decision did not consider individual staffing considerations within police services, as it is simply not within the Board's mandate.

Q6: As continued support builds for placing police back in schools why do Trustees feel that they are in a position to ignore the voice of the public?

A6: Chair Duncan replied that Trustees are considering all views and sometimes when they make decisions it can be difficult for people to understand the perspectives behind the decision. Trustees did their best to take account of some of the different perspectives and feedback and to provide several statements. Hopefully the FAQ posted on the District website will help to clarify the rationale and some of the basis for the decision. When a subject matter is polarizing it is difficult. We have tried to approach things in a balanced way and to clarify the role of police in our schools. The Board continues to have dialogue with Police Boards and will continue to move forward. The conversation is not over, it is in the implementation stage, and that requires open dialogue with our partners and policing services.

Q7: How does the Board verify submissions to the Board? For example, a letter was submitted by Steven Harrison that refers to a report that he created.

A7: Chair Duncan stated that the Board does not verify submissions. The Board receives all submissions, and it is up to individual Board members to determine what weight to give certain information that is included in submissions.

Q8: Why won't the Board even consider bringing back the SPLO program in a modified way?

A8: Chair Duncan encouraged the individual who asked the question to review the FAQ that the Board provided on the District website. Police continue to be a resource for the learning community. The Board has reiterated several times that our existing protocols around emergencies, lockdowns, hold and secure and violent threat risk assessments continue to be a core part of what police do and that hasn't changed following the Board's decision. The Board is directing that services should be provided to students by trained, certified, and regulated professionals within our school communities rather than police. The Board is engaged in ongoing dialogue with policing staff, and is hoping to agree to a communication protocol with policing services moving forward.

## **G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

**G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 11, 2024**

**G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 12, 2024**

**G.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 12, 2024**

**G.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 16, 2024**

**G.5. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 22, 2024**

**H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**H.1. New Business**

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to establish a Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee that will review the implementation of the District's Climate Action Plan and report its' findings and recommendations at the Regular Board of Education Meeting in October each year; AND FURTHER That a budget of \$5,000 be established to support the Ad Hoc Committee's work.

**Amendment**

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan

**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to establish a Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee that will review the implementation of the District's Climate Action Plan and report its' findings and recommendations at the Regular Board of Education Meeting in October each year; AND FURTHER That a budget of \$5,000 be established to support the Ad Hoc Committee's work.

**AND FURTHER**

Bring a draft Terms of Reference to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting on June 10, 2024.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to establish a Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee that will review the implementation of the District's Climate Action Plan and report its' findings and recommendations at the Regular Board of Education Meeting in October each year; AND FURTHER That a budget of \$5,000 be established to support the Ad Hoc Committee's work.

**AND FURTHER**

Bring a draft Terms of Reference to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting on June 10, 2024.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**H.2. Notice of Motions**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to work with the District's Manager of Energy to provide the Board of Education with a report detailing the cost/benefit and feasibility of investing in solar panels at Mount Douglas Secondary and Victoria High School.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

**Moved by** Trustee Mahbobi

**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer