

Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4117 Fax (250) 475-4112

Katrina Stride – Secretary-Treasurer

TO: The Board of Education
FROM: Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer
DATE: January 29, 2024
RE: **Partner and VPVPA Connections**

Background

Partner and VPVPA Connections meetings were scheduled as part of the 2024-2025 Budget Development Process.

Partner and VPVPA Connections Meetings

Trustees and members of Financial Services and the Senior Leadership Team met with representatives from each of the partner groups (CUPE 382, CUPE 947, GVTA, VCPAC) and VPVPA. The purpose of the meetings was to connect in-person with partner groups and VPVPA and engage in conversation around priorities for the 2024-2025 Budget.

Notes taken during these meetings were provided to Trustees. A summary of the themes emerging from these meetings are noted below.

Themes from Partner and VPVPA Connections Meetings

- Student Supports
 - Early intervention
 - Literacy plan, e.g. in-classroom supports for teacher and all students
 - Indigenous supports
 - Mental health supports, e.g. counselling, music
 - Restructure school day to maximize supports
- Employees
 - Doing more with less hours and fewer resources
 - High level of burnout and feeling ineffective
 - Emotional and mental health issues
 - Need to be valued for level of expertise
 - Need more employees to address shortages and workload
 - Maintain hours of existing employees
 - Recruitment and retention strategies
 - Implement orientation programs

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.

-
- Strategies to build team, familiarity, and belonging
 - Release time for collaboration and professional development/training, e.g. anti-racism, non-crisis intervention, ableism, reconciliation, etc.
 - Enhance mentor programs
 - Create communities of practice and support peer leadership
 - Provide behaviour intervention in classroom
 - Computer devices available to use
 - School Cleanliness
 - Daytime custodian in every school
 - Elementary schools higher need for daytime custodian
 - Ways to help make work more efficient for custodians
 - School Buildings
 - More funding to maintain older buildings
 - Create more spaces for students
 - Safe and secure classrooms
 - Resources for accessibility plan
 - Budget Reductions
 - Limit impact on jobs
 - Allow time to discuss and fully understand impact
 - Advocate for more funding