



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Special Open Board Meeting
AGENDA**

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

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

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 October 1, 2024 agenda be approved.

A.3. Community Presentations (5 minutes per presentation)

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. September 22, 2024 VCPAC Letter to the Board

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

- a. Chair's Report

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D.1. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. 1211 Gladstone – Statutory Right-of-Way for FortisBC Energy

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve granting a Statutory Right-of-Way to FortisBC Energy in respect of civil infrastructure associated with the distribution of gas by FortisBC Energy and related works on such portion of the Property shown in bold outline on Explanatory Plan EPP140972 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.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of the Caledonia Gas Distribution Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw 25-01.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Caledonia Gas Distribution Disposal (Right-of-Way) of Real Property Bylaw 25-01, being a bylaw to grant a Statutory Right-of-Way to FortisBC Energy on such portion of the Property shown in bold outline on Explanatory Plan EPP140972 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 distribution of gas by FortisBC Energy and related works:

Read a first time this 1st day of October, 2024;

Read a second time this 1st day of October, 2024;

Read a third time, passed and adopted this 1st day of October, 2024;

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

E. QUESTION PERIOD (15 minutes total)

F. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

F.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – June 17, 2024

F.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - June 17, 2024

F.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - June 25, 2024

F.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – July 3, 2024

F.5. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – August 12, 2024

F.6. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – August 14, 2024

F.7. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – September 16, 2024

F.8. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – September 19, 2024

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee David

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to work with the Board Chair to respond to the 19 August 2024 letter from Minister Singh; AND FURTHER to send a written invitation to the Victoria & Esquimalt Police, Oak Bay Police, Saanich Police, and the RCMP (and their respective Boards) to meet with the Greater Victoria School District to discuss the safety plan as outlined in the Ministerial Order M339.

Motion Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

G.1. New Business

a. Equity and Inclusion Policies

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent:

1. To propose amendments to Policy 110 (Equity), Policy 5147 (Inclusion of Students with Special Needs) and any other relevant policy to ensure that each states that the educational opportunities, student experiences and student supports across schools and programs of choice will not be substantially different, as demonstrated by both key performance indicators and the direct experiences of those within schools, including students, parents, teachers and support staff; and
2. To establish a Working Committee prior to the end of November 2024 of Rightsholders and educational partners, pursuant to Policy 9210 (The Development of Policy), with the mandate to review and make recommendations regarding the proposed amendments, which will be then forwarded to the Education Policy and Directions Committee on December 2, 2024; and
3. To report to the Working Committee and the Education Policy and Directions Committee on December 2, 2024 via a written report, which relevant data are currently tracked within the school district's systems, and which data should be tracked with policy and/or regulation changes by the Board of Education of School District No. 61; and
4. To work with School District Rightsholders and educational partners to draft and bring forward amendments to the Equity Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference to ensure the successful implementation of School District No. 61 policies as they relate to equity and inclusion;

AND FURTHER

That the Board continues to advocate to the Province for additional resources and supports to ensure the successful implementation of the Equity and Inclusion Policies.

b. Freedom of Information Requests to Police Departments

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to submit formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to Police Departments and Police Boards serving the SD61 school community that have not yet responded to requests for the following information:

- A. any and all data pertaining to gang recruitment or other criminal activity involving youth, between 2015 to date
- B. any and all data pertaining to police call outs to each SD61 school (broken down by each school) within each Police Department's jurisdiction, between 2015 to date
- C. a copy of any and all Police policies and procedures related to vulnerable populations (including Youth).

G.2. Notice of Motions

H. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

That the meeting be adjourned.

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September 22, 2024

RE: Ensuring Equitable And Inclusive Learning Environments

Dear School District 61 Trustees,

On behalf of the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) Executive, I am writing with significant concerns about the disparities that exist between schools and within schools in providing access to learning environments that are both inclusive and equitable. Further, I am writing to request that the Board take immediate action to improve the tracking of key performance indicators in order to improve educational opportunities, student experiences and student outcomes.

VCPAC is in the final stages of reviewing an engagement opportunity sent out to all parents, teachers and support staff within the district in June of this year. While we will provide a fulsome update in the near future, common themes emerging include concerns about student-to-student and student-to-teacher incidents in the classroom, lack of resources to support the school district's inclusion policy (such as EAs and counselling staff), and unequal student experiences and access to quality education across schools and programs of choice.

To better understand these themes, VCPAC is also in receipt of a partial Freedom of Information response regarding the district's tracking of student-to-student incidents in elementary schools across the district. The little data that have been received indicates that "**there is no consistency of how each school tracks [student-to-student incidents] (some schools do not track at all); nor are there specific criteria in place on how to track this information...**" Further, of the actual data regarding student-to-student incidents in 2023/2024, George Jay Elementary School, a priority school with both English and French streams, **had 634 student-to-student incidents**. This means that George Jay Elementary last year averaged over three incidents daily, worthy of documenting.

Further to the engagement opportunity and the response to the Freedom of Information request, we also understand from talking with numerous teachers that the impact of student-to-student and student-to-teacher incidents in the classroom can be significantly disruptive (sometimes resulting in classroom evacuations that impact students' learning and sense of wellbeing at school), and are incredibly stressful on teachers and support staff. Unsurprisingly, we are aware of staff on leave as a result of unmet needs in their classrooms.

VCPAC believes that the responses to its June survey and the spirit behind the Freedom of Information request closely align with the questions asked by trustees during last Monday's Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting regarding the tracking of meaningful data on student-to-student incidents. Moreover, VCPAC believes that parent input and better tracking of student-to-student incidents, among other things, will support a better understanding of 'holistic' safety as outlined in the Board's open letter to the Province published last week.

VCPAC urges the School Board to take the steps necessary to better understand and address the disparities that may exist between schools and within schools, particularly in dual stream priority schools, to ensure all students and families can expect equitable and inclusive learning environments regardless of catchment or program of choice in which they enrol.

This could include, but is not limited to, (1) creating an ad hoc committee made up school district partners and those with lived experience to examine issues related to ensuring both equitable and inclusive learning environments (and in particular to review and update outdated district policies, programs and resource allocations that may hinder these efforts), (2) directing staff to bring forward updated policies for approval before the end of the calendar year to ensure that all student-to-student incidents, and other key performance indicators, are consistently documented across all schools (and



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programs of choice) and regularly reported to the Board, and (3) continuing to advocate for additional resources from external sources to support advancement of meaningful solutions to these issues.

Doing so would help the Board, administration and district partners better understand trends from year to year, across schools and across programs of choice, and allocate limited resources to ensure both equitable and inclusive access to quality educational opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,

Braden Hutchins
President
Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC)
president@vcpac.ca