



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, September 23, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

- Trustees Present: Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, Karin Kwan, Vice-Chair, Mavis David, Derek Gagnon, Emily Mahbobi, Rob Paynter
- Trustee Regrets: Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Diane McNally
- Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Sean Powell, Acting Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Josh Barks, Acting District Principal, Information Technology, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA
- Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Education Team
- Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Carlene Nex, VCPAC
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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 Paynter

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

Amendment

Add B.3. Correspondence from VCPAC

That the September 23, 2024 agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the motion “*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 state 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.” be added to the agenda under New Business.

For (5): Trustees David, Duncan, Kwan, Mahbobi and Paynter
Against (1): Trustee Gagnon

Motion Carried (5 to 1)

That the September 23, 2024 agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the June 17, 2024 Regular Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the June 17, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. 2023-2024 Audit Findings Report, Lenora Lee, KPMG, Auditors Presentation

Lenora Lee from KPMG, the District's external auditor, presented the 2023-2024 Audit Findings Report for information and provided highlights. Lenora Lee reported a clean audit and unqualified opinion on the District's financial statements, and congratulated the Financial Services Team on having no adjustments required.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and thanked Lenora Lee for the report.

A.6. District Presentations

- a. Josh Barks, Acting District Principal, Information Technology for Learning presented on student devices.

Trustees and Partners had questions of clarification.

A.7. Community Presentations

None.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. June 21, 2024, Victoria High School Stadium Renewal to Katrina Stride

B.2. August 1, 2024, Town of View Royal to Katrina Stride

B.3. September 22, 2024, VCPAC letter to the Board of Education

Trustees, Partners and Staff discussed the letter.

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

- a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan presented her report for information.

- b. September 18, 2024, Additional Funding Letter

Chair Duncan outlined the letter sent to the Ministry from the Board of Education for additional funding.

- c. September 18, 2024, Board of Education Statement

Chair Duncan outlined the Board of Education statement made in response to the ministerial order.

C.2. Trustees' Reports

None.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting – information only

D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the September 16, 2024 meeting – information only
- b. Recommended motions from the September 16, 2024 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the Multi-Year Financial Plan 2024-2027.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustees discussed the motion.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District No. 61) direct the Superintendent to establish an advisory committee, including but not limited to Board, Finance Department member representation and education partners to evaluate how the Greater Victoria Foundation can be utilized moving forward.

AND FURTHER

Provide recommendations to the Board of Education.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.3. Audit Sub-Committee Report

- a. 2023-2024 Financial Year End

Secretary-Treasurer Stride thanked Associate Secretary-Treasurer Lutner and all finance staff for the clean audit and presented the motions to the Board.

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) approve the appropriation of \$9,060,318 of the operating surplus as follows: 1) internally restricted \$8,060,318, and 2) unrestricted (contingency) \$1,000,000.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Audited Financial Statements of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) for the year ended June 30, 2024; AND FURTHER that the Board Chair, the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to affix their signatures to the statements, where applicable, on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustees discussed the motion.

Moved by Trustee David
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the schedules as required by the Financial Information Act for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; AND FURTHER that the approved schedules be posted to the District website.

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 Mahbobi
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Enhancing Student Learning Annual Report 2024-2025

Superintendent Whitten provided an update on the report.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Enhancing Student Learning Annual Report 2024-2025, as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- c. Elementary Strings and Middle School Music Equity Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference

Superintendent Whitten provided the draft Terms of Reference for approval.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Terms of Reference for the Elementary and Middle Music Equity Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- d. Trustee Questions

Trustees had questions of clarification on the topics of Elementary Strings Hubs, Indigenous Education, and programs at Craigflower Elementary.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

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

- b. 2025-2026 Budget Development Process

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the 2025-2026 Budget Development Process for consideration and feedback.

Trustees and Partners had questions of clarification.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an outline of the Statutory Right-of-Way for FortisBC Energy.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

Chair Duncan reflected that the meeting was nearing 10:30 p.m. and recommended a motion to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend the meeting past 10:30p.m.

For (2): Trustees Duncan and Kwan
Against (4): Trustees David, Gagnon, Mahbobi, Paynter

Motion Failed (2 to 4)

Remaining items E.2.c. to H, were referred to a Special Board of Education meeting on a date to be determined by the Board of Education.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the meeting be adjourned.

For (5): Trustees David, Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi and Paynter
Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Motion Carried (5 to 1)

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer