



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

Tuesday, October 1, 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, Sean Powell, Acting Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Braden Hutchins, VCPAC

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 Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the October 1, 2024 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Community Presentations

None.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

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

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

None.

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D.1. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

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

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided rationale for the Statutory Right-of-Way to FortisBC Energy.

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 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 EPP88

For (5): Trustees Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally and Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Motion Carried (5 to 1)

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

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

For (5): Trustees Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally and Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Motion Failed (5 to 1)

Motion had to be unanimously passed to be carried

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

Seconded by Trustee McNally

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;

For (5): Trustees Duncan, Gagnon, Mahbobi, McNally and Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Kwan

Motion Carried (5 to 1)

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

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 second time this 1st day of October, 2024;

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

Motion Carried (5 to 1)

E. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: Could you please outline how the District met the requirements under Section 82 of the School Act specifically with respect to 82(6) stating "*A board must publish a schedule of the fees to be charged and deposits required and must make the schedule available to students and to children registered under section 13 and to the parents of those students and children before the beginning of the school year*"?

A: Secretary-Treasurer Stride stated that the District meets the requirements under Section 82 of the School Act at the school level. For example, schools send summer mail outs to home, give handouts to students to take home, email newsletters to parents/caregivers, post on the school website or use school cash online. Given this is the first year of implementation of value-based pricing, the District has been receiving questions from parents/caregivers and is creating an FAQ for Principals and Vice-Principals to share with parents/caregivers.

Q: Why has this board not listened to principals, administrators, counsellors, teachers, students and parents for the past year about our concerns over students and their safety after this board removed the School Police Liaison Officers?

A: Chair Duncan stated that everyone is entitled to their view. Chair Duncan reminded folks that there were various perspectives and views on the matter. The Board reached its decision after a multi-year review. The individual partners around our table are empowered to speak on behalf of their members. Although the issue can be polarizing, at the same time, Chair Duncan asked that folks respect the representatives of each of our partners around our table, and their right to express their members position if any, and respect the Board's authority and our mandate to make these difficult decisions on important matters.

Q: Can the board elaborate on details regarding the "Worrisome Online Behaviour Reports" (WOB) program with the monthly reports it is receiving?

A: Acting Associate Superintendent Powell, the Safe Schools Coordinator, stated that the WOB reports come once a month. They are online reports that are received by the Safe Schools Coordinator for students in SD61. They are reviewed by the District Counsellor

who connects to the school where the students attend. More often than not, those students already have a wrap-around support team working with them.

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

Chair Duncan recommended to move into a Committee of the Whole to allow Trustees and Partners to have a more fulsome discussion and the opportunity to speak without restrictions.

Moved by Trustee McNally
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move from a Regular Board meeting into a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A lengthy discussion between Trustees, Partners, and Staff ensued pertaining to the equity and inclusion motion.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move out of Committee of the Whole and back into a Regular Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

Trustees and Partners discussed the motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Equity Ad Hoc Committee to review and make recommendations to the Board of Education with respect to: Policy 110, Policy 5147 and other relevant policies or initiatives; and provide recommendations about what qualitative and quantitative data could inform our work; with the objective of ensuring equitable and inclusive student supports, learning outcomes and experiences for all students; make recommendations regarding possible changes to the Equity Ad Hoc terms of reference;

AND FURTHER report back to the Education Policy and Directions Standing Committee on 2 December 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Freedom of Information Requests to Police Departments

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee McNally

Trustee Paynter provided rationale for the motion. Trustees discussed the motion.

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).

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

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~~ records pertaining to gang recruitment or other criminal activity involving youth, between 2015 to date
- B. any and all ~~data~~ records 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).

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee McNally

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 records pertaining to gang recruitment or other criminal activity involving youth, between 2015 to date
- B. any and all records 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).

Motion Carried Unanimously

G.2. Notice of Motions

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Moved by Trustee McNally
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer