



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

Monday, November 25, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael

Administration: 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, Dr. Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Dr. Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, Vicki Roberts, VPVPA

Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Braden Hutchins, VCPAC, Darren Reed, CUPE 382

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 Kwan

That the November 25, 2024 agenda be approved.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee McNally
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

Move New Business Presentation to follow the approval of the agenda.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the November 25, 2024 agenda be approved, as amended.

For (6): Trustees David, Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan, McNally and Paynter
Abstain (1): Trustee Mahbobi

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee Baillaut joined the meeting.

A.3. New Business

Human Rights Commissioner Kasari Govender presented on School Liaison Officers (SLOs).

Trustees had questions of clarification.

A.4. Trustee Elections

a. Election of Chair

Secretary-Treasurer Stride called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board of Education for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nominations were received for Trustee Duncan.

Trustee Duncan accepted the nomination.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride declared Trustee Duncan the Chair of the Board of Education by acclamation.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride passed the gavel to Chair Duncan.

b. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Duncan called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board of Education for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nominations were received for Trustees Kwan and Paynter.

Trustee Paynter declined the nomination and Trustee Kwan accepted.

Chair Duncan declared Trustee Kwan the Vice-Chair of the Board of Education by acclamation.

c. Election of British Columbia Public School Employers' Association Representative

Chair Duncan called for nominations for the position of British Columbia School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Representative for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nominations were received for Trustees Gagnon, Kwan, Mahbobi and Paynter.

Trustees Gagnon, Mahbobi, and Paynter declined the nomination and Trustee Kwan accepted.

Chair Duncan declared Trustee Kwan the representative to BCPSEA by acclamation.

- d. Election of British Columbia Trustees' Association Provincial Councilor
Chair Duncan called for nominations for the position of British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) representative for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nominations were received for Trustees Baillaut, Duncan, Gagnon and Mahbobi.

Trustees Baillaut, Duncan, and Gagnon declined the nomination and Trustee Mahbobi accepted.

Chair Duncan declared Trustee Mahbobi the representative to BCSTA by acclamation.

- e. Motion to Destroy Election Ballots/Text Messages

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the election ballots/text messages be destroyed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.5. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the October 28, 2024 Regular Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the October 28, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Paynter

Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

F. Question Period

Q: Will the Board continue to make the Annual Strategic Working Plan available on the website?

A: Chair Duncan stated that the Board will continue to make the work plan available to the public. It was noted that there has been a delay in providing the work plan as the Board is working through some revisions **with staff**.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the October 28, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Approval of the November 14, 2024 Special Open Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the November 14, 2024 Special Open Board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Trustee Duncan asked if there were any updates on the Elementary School Plans being presented to the Parent Advisory Committees at each school.

Associate Superintendent Aerts stated that all Administrators were directed to ensure all school plans were brought their school Parent Advisory Committees.

A.7. Student Achievement

None.

A.8. District Presentations

None.

A.9. Community Presentations

Dr. Rebeccah Nelems presented on Youth Gang Prevention in Greater Victoria. Trustees had questions of clarification.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1. September 27, 2024, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association to Minister Singh, Ministerial Directive on Safety in School District No. 61

Trustee Kwan discussed the letter that the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association sent to Minister Singh.

B.2. October 9, 2024, Township of Esquimalt to Greater Victoria School District No. 61 Board of Education, Consideration of a Trustee Electoral Area election Model

Trustee Kwan referenced the School Act and stated that the letters should be addressed to the Minister's office.

B.3. October 22, 2024, District of Highlands to Greater Victoria School District No. 61 Board of Education, Consideration of a Trustee Electoral Area Election Model

B.4. November 8, 2024, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association to Premier Eby, Advocacy for Adequate Funding for Public Education

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan presented her report for information.

b. 2024-25 District Annual Work Plan

Chair Duncan presented the Annual Work Plan for information.

Partners had questions about the Annual Work Plan.

C.2. Trustees' Reports

None.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

a. Draft minutes from the November 4, 2024 meeting – information only

D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

a. Draft minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting - Information only

b. Recommended motions from the November 18, 2024 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept revised Administrative Regulation 1161.4 *Critical Incident and Privacy Breach*.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the September 2024 Quarterly Financial Report as presented to the Audit Sub-Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to update Regulation 1330 Community Use of Schools and Grounds and Regulation 1325 Partnership to require that a business case is prepared and presented to the Board of Education for consideration and approval prior to the school district entering into negotiations regarding potential joint use agreements or other partnerships with external parties regarding the use of schools and grounds;

AND FURTHER

provide the Board of Education any additional recommendations regarding updates needed to Regulations 1330 and 1325.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D.3. Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee

a. Recommended Motions

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write to the Provincial Government advocating for increased funding for climate action initiatives, facilities develop through capital funding, nutrition programming and other initiatives in need of advocacy.

Trustees and Partners discussed an amendment to the motion.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write to the Provincial Government advocating for increased funding for climate action initiatives, **including funding for facilities upgrades to adapt to a changing climate**, ~~develop through capital funding~~, nutrition programming and other initiatives. ~~in need of advocacy.~~

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write to the Provincial Government advocating for increased funding for climate action initiatives, including funding for facilities upgrades to adapt to a changing climate, nutrition programming and other initiatives.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the amended Climate Action Plan Implementation Review Ad Hoc Committee terms of reference.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Report

The report was provided for information.

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) receive the Superintendent's report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. International Education Bi-Annual Report

Director of International Education Davis presented the International Education Bi-Annual Report.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

c. 2024-2025 Middle School Plans

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 2024-2025 Middle School Plans as presented.

For (7): Trustees David, Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan, Mahbobi, McNally and Paynter

Abstain (1): Trustee Baillaut

Motion Carried Unanimously

d. 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 Baillaut

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Sundance-Bank Elementary School Engagement Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

Trustees and Partners had questions of clarification.

c. 2025-2026 Budget Update

i. Values and Guiding Principles

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the revised Values and Guiding Principles for review. Discussion ensued with a recommendation to refer the motion to a future meeting.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approved the revised Values and Guiding Principles.*" be referred to the Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting on December 2, 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

ii. Budget Development Process

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the revised 2025-2026 Budget Development Process.

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 updated 2025-2026 Budget Development Process.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: Why did it take the Minister of Education to direct this board to update the school safety plan and work with the local police departments?

A: Chair Duncan explained that the Board engaged with Police first during the review process when Police were invited to take part in the review committee work. Following the decision, the Board invited all Police Boards to meet to discuss student safety. Police Boards were then invited to work with the school district to develop a communication protocol. One Police Board accepted the invitation, and, prior to the Minister's Order, the other Police Boards were still undecided about whether they wanted to participate in the development of a communication protocol. Delegations from both the police service and the school district progressed the communication protocol development work over the summer. We were looking to continue that work when the Minister's Order came out. To clarify, the safety plan highlights what safety looks like in our school district and includes new items that have been implemented. Our safety related work in the school district is continuous and ongoing. The submission to the Minister will be reviewed. Chair Duncan invited staff to speak to ongoing operational safety planning. Staff had nothing further to add.

Q: Regarding the Worrisome Online Behaviour program. What is the annual cost to the district for funding the program?

A: Acting Associate Superintendent Powell stated that the cost is approximately \$900 per month.

Q: Why is this board using stats and experiences from the United States and Toronto to make decisions about removing services such as School Police Liaison Officers from our children, while not listening to our regional professionals and parents of these students.

A: Chair Duncan stated that the Board did not only look at the United States and Toronto. The previous Board passed a motion directing that a review of how the District was using SPLOs be undertaken. That review happened over a number of years and included thousands of pages of information, data, and research from multiple jurisdictions including Canada. It also included feedback received from partner representatives around the Committee table, feedback from a speaker series that allowed folks to share their personal lived experiences in person and in writing. As well, the Board considered the District survey results and the recommendations from the Human Rights Commissioner. As part of considering the Human Rights Commissioner's recommendations the Board committed to and carried out further advocacy by writing to the Province in August 2023 asking that it commission research into the impacts of SPLOs on K-12 students, with a particular emphasis on minoritized students, and students with diverse abilities and disabilities. There is a recognition that more research needs to be undertaken and that we need to have access to disaggregated data. The Board also asked police services to provide us with information and disaggregated data.

Q: Did the HRC (Human Rights Commissioner) consult with the Four Houses before she made her recommendation about removing the SPLOs (Saanich Police Liaison Officers)?

A: Chair Duncan stated that the question is not for the Board and should be directed to the Human Rights Commissioner.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

E.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – October 28, 2024

E.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – October 28, 2024

E.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – November 4, 2024

- E.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – November 4, 2024
- E.5. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – November 14, 2024

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

E.1. New Business

None.

E.2. Notice of Motions

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Gagnon
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer