



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Combined Education Policy and Directions and
Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, Dec 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Trustees Present: **Education Policy and Directions members:** Emily Mahbobi (Chair), Natalie Baillaut, Mavis David

Operations Policy and Planning members: Derek Gagnon (Chair), Karin Kwan, Rob Paynter, Nicole Duncan (ex officio)

Trustee Regrets: 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, Dr. Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Brenna O'Connor, VPVPA

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Ilana Hampton, GVTA, Cindy Romphf, GVTA, Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Mahbobi 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 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda

Moved by Trustee David

That the Dec 2, 2024 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B. EDUCATION POLICY AND DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

B.1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the November 4, 2024 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B.2. Business Arising from Minutes

At the November 4, 2024 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting, the annual anaphylaxis quality review was provided. Trustees had a follow up question for staff concerning what happens when students are on a school field trip.

Superintendent Whitten replied that teachers carry an extra epi pen with them when on a field trip.

C. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

Staff

C.1. Principal James Hansen, Margaret Jenkins Elementary School, presented on Numeracy in the District.

Trustees and Partners had questions of clarification.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1. Equity Ad Hoc Committee

Associate Superintendent Aerts presented two recommended motions from the Equity Ad Hoc Committee.

Trustees and partners reviewed the proposed equity audit recommended by the committee and raised questions for clarification. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Operations Policy and Planning Committee would not endorse the equity audit. Trustees suggested that the Equity Ad Hoc Committee continue its work on the motion

carried by the Board during the Special Open Board of Education Meeting on October 1, 2024.

Additionally, Trustees and partners discussed a motion recommending that the Board write to the Ministry of Education and Childcare to advocate for increased funding for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) initiatives. Trustees requested more specific details from the Equity Ad Hoc Committee regarding the content of the letter to be sent to the Ministry.

E. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

F. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Chair Mahbobi passed the gavel to Chair Gagnon.

G. OPERATIONS POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

G.1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That the November 18, 2024 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

G.2. Business Arising from Minutes

Trustee Duncan inquired with Secretary-Treasurer Stride whether staff had received a reply from the District of Saanich regarding the Board's request for crossing guard funding.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride responded that staff had not yet received a response.

H. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

None.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

J. PERSONNEL ITEMS

None.

K. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

K.1. 2025-2026 Budget Update – Values and Guiding Principles

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the revised Values and Guiding Principles for review.

Trustees, Partners and Staff discussed the Values and Guiding Principles and suggested amendments.

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Values and Guiding Principles.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Paynter

Indigenous

The budget process will be culturally respectful and responsive to the needs of Indigenous peoples and will include the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), and representatives of the Four Houses. ~~through the processes that have been established with the Indigenous Education Department.~~

For (1): Paynter

Against (3): Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan

Motion Failed (1 to 3)

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Alignment

Budget decisions will align to the District's Strategic Plan's goals and strategies and the District Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. Priority will be given to Strategic Plan and Framework for Enhancing Student Learning initiatives and will make financial connections to complete the annual **multiyear** financial report. As a result, the organization recognizes constraint and the ability to do many things, but not all things.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Alignment

Budget decisions will align to the District's Strategic Plan's goals and strategies and the District Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. Priority will be given to Strategic Plan and Framework for Enhancing Student Combined Education Policy and Directions & Operations Policy and Planning Committees

Learning initiatives and will make financial connections to complete the annual ~~multiyear~~ financial reports, such as the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis Report and the Multi-Year Financial Plan. As a result, the organization recognizes constraint and the ability to do many things, but not all things.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Values and Guiding Principles, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

K.2. Monthly Financial Report: November 2024

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

K.3. Budget Change Report: November 2024

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

L. FACILITIES PLANNING

L.1. Operations Update: November 2024

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

L.2. Cedar Hill School Seismic Project Update

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

M. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

N. NEW BUSINESS

None.

O. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

P. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Kwan

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.