



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

Monday, December 9, 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: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, 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, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA

Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, 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 Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the December 9, 2024 agenda be approved.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

Add a presentation at A.7.b. Police in Schools – Andrea Vasquez Jimenez

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the December 9, 2024 agenda be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the November 25, 2024 Regular Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Baillaut

That the November 25, 2024 Regular Board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. Student Achievement

None.

A.6. District Presentations

None.

A.7. Community Presentations (5 minutes per presentation)

a. Murray Gudmundson presented on behalf of the Bank Street School Preservation Taskforce.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

b. Andrea Vasquez Jimenez presented on Police in Schools.

Partners and Trustees had questions of clarification.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1. Chair's Report

a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan provided the report for information.

Moved by Trustee Kwan
Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to post the Safety Plan and cover letter on the school district website homepage tomorrow morning.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Trustee Assignments

Chair Duncan provided Trustee assignments for information.

c. Standing Committee Chair Elections

a. Education Policy and Directions Committee

Chair Duncan called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Education Policy and Directions Committee for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nomination was received for Trustee Mahbobi.

Trustee Mahbobi accepted the nomination.

Chair Duncan declared Trustee Mahbobi the Chair of Education Policy and Directions Committee by acclamation.

b. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

Chair Duncan called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Operations Policy and Planning Committee for a one-year term ending November 2025.

Nominations were received for Trustees Gagnon and Paynter. Trustee Gagnon declined the nomination and Trustee Paynter accepted.

Chair Duncan declared Trustee Paynter the Chair of Operations Policy and Planning Committee by acclamation.

d. Motion to Destroy Election Ballots/Text Messages

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the election ballots/text messages be destroyed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C.2. Trustees' Reports

None.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft combined minutes from the December 2, 2024 meeting – information only
- b. Recommended motions from the December 2, 2024 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Paynter
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten presented the report for information.

Moved by Trustee Paynter
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. Appeal Bylaw 9330.1 – Review Bylaw and Associated Feedback Forms

Superintendent Whitten provided the annual report of Appeal Bylaw 9330.1.

- c. Cost and Impact Analysis on Monthly Early School Closure for Collaboration at Elementary Schools

Superintendent Whitten provided the cost and impact analysis for information.

Partners and Trustees had questions of clarification.

- d. 2024-2025 Secondary School Plans

Superintendent Whitten presented the 2024-2025 Secondary School plans.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

Moved by Trustee Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2024-2025 Secondary School Plans as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- e. Trustee Questions

None.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

Moved by Trustee Kwan

Seconded by Trustee Gagnon

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 Update

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided information on the Initial 2025-2026 Budget Feedback Survey that was launched on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. It was noted that the survey would be open to anyone who would like to participate until 4pm on Friday, December 13, 2024. Secretary-Treasurer Stride confirmed that survey results will be shared at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for January 27, 2025.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride advised that the Student Connections meetings will include all Middle and Secondary Schools, including SJ Burnside, and that the key themes will be shared at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for January 27, 2025.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: Teachers are currently at the local bargaining table bargaining for our new contract, who are the Boards representatives at the table and what role do Trustees hold in the process?

A: Chair Duncan stated that the Board would be disclosing relevant information from an in-camera Board meeting at agenda item G. Public Disclosure of In-Camera Items and did not want to preempt that discussion. Chair Duncan clarified that Trustees can have a role as observers at the bargaining table.

Q: The Board is currently in local bargaining with your teachers, how is the Board represented at the table?

A: Chair Duncan replied that a Trustee's role is as an observer in the bargaining process.

Q: Given the statements made today by Minister of Education Lisa Beare including the appointment of a special advisor with a cost that will come at the expense of services to students of \$55,000 and given the budget constraints of this District will you consider reducing the Boards salary in the equivalent amount?

A: Chair Duncan responded that the costs associated with the Special Advisor appointed by the Ministry will be borne by the school district and that options for how to absorb those costs will be explored. Chair Duncan added that the school district, like many others, is operating with an extremely constrained and limited budget and it will be a challenge to find those funds. Chair Duncan stated that the school district will be looking for savings to avoid making any cuts to services to students.

Q: Has Trustee Carmichael been collecting pay while on leave, and when do you expect her to return?

A: Chair Duncan stated that Trustee Carmichael has been receiving her stipend while on leave, and that there is currently no expected return date.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

Chair Duncan disclosed the following motion from the Regular In-camera Board meeting held on December 9, 2024:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint Trustee Kwan and Trustee Paynter to attend bargaining and be observers on behalf of the Board of Education.

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – November 25, 2024

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Baillaut
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer