



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

**Monday, January 27, 2025, 7:30 p.m.**

Trustees Present: Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, Karin Kwan, Vice-Chair, Natalie Baillaut, Derek Gagnon, Rob Paynter

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael, Mavis David, Emily Mahbobi, Diane McNally

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA

Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Jane Massy, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Carlene Nex, VCPAC

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The 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 Baillaut  
**Seconded by** Trustee Kwan

That the January 27, 2025 agenda be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the December 9, 2024 Regular Board Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan  
**Seconded by** Trustee Gagnon

That the December 9, 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**

None.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

**B.1. December 24, 2024, City of Victoria to Board of Education, Advocacy on Unregulated Substances**

Trustees discussed a response to the letter.

**Moved by** Trustee Kwan  
**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to draft a response to the letter from the City of Victoria dated December 24, 2024 for the Boards consideration.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**C.1. Chair's Report**

a. Chair's Report

Chair Duncan provided the report for information.

b. District Annual Work Plan January and February 2025

The District Annual Work Plan was provided for information.

**C.2. Trustees' Reports**

None.

## D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting – information only

### D.2. Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the January 20, 2025 meeting – information only

### D.3. Greater Victoria Foundation for Learning Advisory Committee

- a. Recommended motion from the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Trustee Baillaut provided rationale for the motion.

Trustees, partners and staff discussed the motion.

**Moved by** Trustee Baillaut  
**Seconded by** Trustee Kwan

That the motion “*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) ask the Greater Victoria Foundation for Learning to request voluntary revocation of its charitable registration.*” be referred to the March 3, 2025 combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### D.4. Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee

- a. Recommended motion from the January 15, 2025 meeting:

Trustee Duncan provided rationale for the motion.

Trustees, partners and staff discussed the motion.

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon  
**Seconded by** Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) annually allocate funds (as a stand-alone budget line item) to implement the District’s Climate Action Plan.

**For:** Baillaut, Duncan, Gagnon, Kwan  
**Abstain:** Paynter

**Motion Carried**

## E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### E.1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten presented the report for information.

**Moved by** Trustee Baillaut  
**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. ESLR Feedback

Superintendent Whitten presented ESLR feedback for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

c. Freedom of Information General (Non-Personal) Responses to Post on District Website

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon  
**Seconded by** Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve posting the general (non-personal) Freedom of Information responses, with redactions as required, on the school district website.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

d. Trustee Questions

Chair Duncan asked what the internal process is for identifying students with IEPs who have technology needs, and how the District approaches that from a pedagogical perspective. Chair Duncan also asked, once it has been determined that a student requires technology through an IEP, how the District builds this into the school-based and district budget.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride responded that the IT Department is seeking feedback from schools as to how the District can best serve students with IEPs who require technology. Secretary-Treasurer Stride added that the IT Department will be able to answer these questions more clearly and make appropriate recommendations once this information has been collected from schools.

## **E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

**Moved by** Trustee Baillaut  
**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 Update

i. Initial 2025-2026 Budget Feedback Survey Results

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the initial 2025-2026 Budget Feedback survey results.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

ii. Student Connections

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided a summary of the themes that emerged from the meetings held at each of the middle schools and secondary schools, including SJ Burnside Education Centre.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

iii. Staff Options – Expenditures and Reductions

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided staff recommendations for expenditures and reductions as part of the 2025-2026 Budget Development Process.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

iv. 2025-2026 Budget Development Process

The 2025-2026 Budget Development Process was provided for information.

Trustees had questions of clarification.

**F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Q: Am I correct to understand that the reason you, the board, submitted two other safety plan drafts was because the board was concerned that Draft A would not be approved by the Education Minister?

A: Chair Duncan referred to the memorandum posted on the District website which explains the reasoning for submitting multiple draft safety plans. She clarified that the referenced memorandum, as well as all of the draft safety plans, are posted in the Board of Education Safety Plan Update on January 6, 2025.

Q: In the January 13 Ed Policy meeting Nicole Duncan said they had had help writing the draft update to Policy 5145. Who was it that helped?

A: Chair Duncan responded that the draft was developed in-house with advice from BC Civil Liberties and legal counsel.

Q: Where were the fee schedules for the current year published for elementary and middle schools in SD61?

A: Chair Duncan referred the question to staff. Secretary-Treasurer Stride responded that it is at the discretion of each school as to how it publishes and communicates fees to parents and students. She provided a list of the various methods that were used by schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Secretary-Treasurer Stride also added that an FAQ was recently distributed to schools to help support parents/caregivers with questions regarding school fees and the new value based-pricing model implemented in KEV SchoolCash Online.

Q: When will the Board meetings be in person, so viewers can be participants and Trustees can be present, instead of messaging on their secondary devices?

A: Chair Duncan responded that the Boardroom needs to be upgraded prior to moving to in-person meetings, and that the process is currently underway. She noted that the public still has the same ability to interact with Trustees during virtual meetings as they would in person.

Q: When can the public expect to see the special advisor's report who was brought in to guide the trustees on revising the safety plan?

A: Chair Duncan responded that the Board has not seen the Special Advisor's report and does not know if the Board will receive it.

## **G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

**G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – December 9, 2024**

## **H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **H.1. New Business**

None.

### **H.2. Notice of Motions**

None.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

**Moved by** Trustee Gagnon  
**Seconded by** Trustee Baillaut

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Official Trustee

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Secretary-Treasurer