



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Official Trustee: Sherri Bell

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, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Mike Knudson, Director of Human Resource Services, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA, Vicki Roberts, VPVPA, Josh Barks, Acting District Principal of Information Technology, David Hovis, District Principal of Multi-Language Learners, Mental Health and Multiculturalism, Sean McCartney, District Principal of Inclusion and Accessibility

Songhees Nation: Anevey Quocksister, Student Success Manager

Partners: Norman Isaac, CUPE 382, Natanis Christensen, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

This meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Official Trustee Bell welcomed everyone to the first in-person Board meeting held since 2020. Participants introduced themselves.

Official Trustee Bell 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

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the April 29, 2025 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Approval of the March 31, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the March 31, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

b. Approval of the April 2, 2025 Special Budget Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the April 2, 2025 Special Budget Meeting minutes be approved.

c. Approval of the April 8, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the April 8, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. District Celebrations

a. Spectrum Basketball Team

Spectrum Principal Aaron Norris introduced members of the basketball team, who recently took part in and won the BC Provincial Championships. Students shared their experiences. Official Trustee Bell thanked and congratulated the students and coaches on their achievement.

A.6. Community Presentations

None.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT

C.1. Official Trustee Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- On behalf of the Greater Victoria School District Community, Official Trustee Bell expressed collective sadness and condolences to the families affected by the tragedy at the April 26 Lapu Lapu Celebration in Vancouver.
- Official Trustee Bell advised that the 2025-2026 Budget process has been completed and expressed thanks to everyone for their participation. She also stated that the draft budget development process for 2026-2027, along with the

budget development process survey results from 2025-2026, will be reviewed at a future Partner Table meeting.

- Official Trustee Bell announced that Sean Powell was the successful candidate in the recent Associate Superintendent recruitment process.
- Official Trustee Bell highlighted some school visits, including Mt. Douglas High School where students learned to build fires and light Coleman stoves; Hillcrest Elementary's Secret Garden; and Lambrick Park Secondary's Battle of the Books Event.
- Official Trustee Bell recognized the National Day of Mourning on April 28.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Official Trustee Bell provided an update:

- Climate Action Ad-Hoc Committee: The focus of the next meeting will be looking at the District website and how to best promote Climate Action initiatives.
- Equity Ad-Hoc Committee: Reviewed an outdated policy regarding Inclusive Learning which will be brought to the June 16, 2025 Board meeting.
- Music Ad-Hoc Committee: Creating a process to look at the distribution of staffing at Elementary and Middle Schools.
- Partners' Table: Discussed the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and correspondence received from Esquimalt and Songhees Nations and multiple municipalities regarding trustee electoral areas.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

b. 2027-2028 School Calendar

Associate Superintendent Aerts provided a brief overview of the School Calendar process. He explained that the calendars are aligned as much as possible with Sooke and Saanich School Districts. Associate Superintendent Aerts advised that the calendar will be brought back to the Board for approval following the public consultation period

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the posting of the following 2027/2028 school calendar on the School District website for a period of one month:

2027/2028 School Calendar*

School Opening September 7, 2027
 First non-instructional day September 20, 2027
 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30, 2027
 Thanksgiving October 11, 2027
 Second non-instructional day October 22, 2027
 (Province wide)
 Remembrance Day November 11, 2027
 Third non-instructional day November 26, 2027
 Schools close for Winter vacation December 17, 2027
 Schools re-open after Winter vacation January 4, 2028
 Fourth non-instructional day February 18, 2028
 Family Day February 21, 2028
 Schools close for Spring vacation March 17, 2028
 Schools re-open after Spring vacation April 3, 2028
 Good Friday April 14, 2028
 Easter Monday April 17, 2028
 Fifth non-instructional day May 19, 2028
 Victoria Day May 22, 2028
 Administrative Day and School Closing June 30, 2028
 * Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school

c. 2025-2026 Specialty Academy Fees

Associate Superintendent Aerts highlighted the 2025-2026 Specialty Academy Fees. Official Trustee Bell and partners asked questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) make available to the public, via the District website, the schedules of fees that have been approved by the Parent Advisory Council for the school where the Official Trustee proposes to offer a specialty academy.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. 2025-2026 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Expenditure Plan Submission

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided a brief overview of AFG funding and eligible expenditures. Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update on the planned initiatives as outlined in the memo and supporting document.

b. 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan – DRAFT

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided a brief overview of Major and Minor Capital funding and indicated that the final version of the 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan will be brought forward to the May Board meeting. Director of

Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update on the proposed projects as outlined in the memo and supporting documents.

c. Tillicum Elementary – Green Infrastructure Project Update

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an update on the project.

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

d. Monthly Financial Report: March 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

e. Monthly Budget Change Report: March 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

f. 2025-2026 Budget Update

i. 2025-2026 Budget Development Process Survey Results

Secretary-Treasurer Stride highlighted the 2025-2026 Budget Development Survey results.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Question:

Why were my questions not read aloud, and why were my questions not included in the meeting package?

Answer:

Official Trustee Bell shared that a number of questions submitted for the special budget meetings were similar, so they were grouped together instead of being answered individually. As to why the questions were not included in the agenda package, Official Trustee Bell deferred to Secretary-Treasurer Stride who shared that special budget meetings do not have the same agendas as general meetings of the Board, and that the bylaw for Question Period applies only to general meetings of the Board. Secretary-Treasurer Stride explained that a different process for questions was put in place for the special budget meetings, e.g. online form, and that all questions, even those submitted through the Question Period email were answered. Official Trustee Bell suggested that the questions could be resubmitted, if desired.

Question:

When will the regular fee schedules required under Section 82(6) of the School Act be provided to PACs for feedback?

Answer:

Secretary-Treasurer Stride explained that schools have historically completed the schedules of fees in a variety of ways, and that there will be a standardized approach to completing the schedules of fees for 2025-2026. Given that the schedules of fees are to be completed prior to the start of the next school year, it is anticipated that consultation with PACs will occur prior to the end of the current school year.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 26, 2025

G.2. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 31, 2025

G.3. SJ Willis – License of Occupation – Garth Homer Society

The School District has entered into an agreement with Garth Homer Society to license a portion of SJ Willis Education Centre located on Topaz Avenue while the new Garth Homer Centre for Belonging is under development.

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The Official Trustee adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Official Trustee

Secretary-Treasurer