



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

**Regular Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

**Monday, May 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

Official Trustee: Sherri Bell

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Sean Powell, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Mike Knudson, Director of Human Resource Services, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA, Josh Barks, Acting District Principal of Information Technology

Songhees Nation: Anevay Quocksister, Student Success Manager

Partners: Trina Legge, CUPE 382, Natanis Christensen, CUPE 947, Ilana Hampton, GVTA

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

This meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

**A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

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 May 26, 2025 agenda be approved.

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

a. Approval of the April 29, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the April 29, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

**A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**A.5. District Celebrations**

a. Representative Advisory Council of Students

Official Trustee Bell introduced the Representative Advisory Council of Students.

Superintendent Whitten expressed appreciation to the students for their contributions throughout the 2024–2025 school year, which included participating in monthly meetings. Highlights of their efforts included organizing a student-led Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Forum, as well as hosting a student-led Wellness Fair. In recognition of their service, the District presented certificates to each of the students who held positions on the Council during the school year.

Students provided meaningful highlights from the past year.

**A.6. Community Presentations**

None.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT**

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Official Trustee Bell celebrated the signing of the Local Education Agreement (LEA) with the Songhees Nation. Gratitude was extended to Dr. Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, for her role in facilitating this significant milestone. Official Trustee Bell emphasized the importance of the LEA and its effective implementation and noted that its success will be vital for the District.
- Official Trustee Bell attended the recent VCPAC meeting, which included the election of the new Executive Committee. Appreciation was expressed for the service and contributions of the outgoing President, Braden Hutchinson. Official Trustee Bell also shared enthusiasm for working with the newly elected VCPAC Executive moving forward.
- Partners of School District No. 61 convened to discuss the topic of Trustee Electoral Areas. The District has received letters from local First Nations and municipalities expressing their interest in engaging in dialogue and exploring potential options for reform.
- Official Trustee Bell attended a celebration where ten District schools came together to showcase literacy initiatives. The event provided a platform for teachers to share success stories and engage in collaboration.

- Official Trustee Bell thanked all of those who organized and attended the Professional Development Day - Indigenous Story Telling.

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **D.1. Audit Sub-Committee**

- a. 2024-2025 Audit Planning Report

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the 2024-2025 Audit Planning Report as presented to the Audit Sub-Committee.

- b. March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accepts the March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report as presented to the Audit Sub-Committee.

## **E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

### **E.1. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

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

- a. Monthly Financial Report: April 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

- b. Monthly Budget Change Report: April 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

## **F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Question:

On behalf of players and parents of Spectrum Thunder Football: could an update please be provided on the turf project?

Answer:

Associate Superintendent Aerts provided an update on the project. The Spectrum Turf Committee continues to work on raising the necessary funds to complete the project. At this time, no work has been scheduled as the required funds have not been raised.

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

**G.1. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 24, 2025**

**G.2. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 29, 2025**

**G.3. Braefoot Elementary - Lease Agreement - Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF)**

The School District has extended and amended the lease agreement with Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF) for a portion of the land at Braefoot Elementary located on Harrop Road while the new École Beausoleil is under development.

**H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTION**

**H.1. New Business**

None.

**H.2. Notice of Motions**

None.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The Official Trustee adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

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Official Trustee

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Secretary-Treasurer