



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Monday, June 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Official Trustee: Sherri Bell

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

Songhees Nation: Anevey Quocksister, Student Success Manager

Partners: Trina Legge, CUPE 382, Tricia Thexton, 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 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 June 16, 2025 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Approval of the May 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the May 26, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. District Celebrations

a. Elementary – City Track Record Breakers

Official Trustee Bell and Superintendent Whitten recognized the elementary students who were city track record breakers in 2024-2025.

b. Esquimalt High School – Schulich Scholarship Recipient

Teacher/Counsellor Ally Hoffman recognized Esquimalt graduate, Lotti Campbell, as the first ever Schulich Scholarship recipient at Esquimalt High School.

A.6. Community Presentations

a. BC Aviation Museum – Coco Cunningham

Coco Cunningham from the BC Aviation Museum presented on the educational opportunity the museum can offer to teachers and students.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT

C.1. Monthly Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Attended the Songhees graduation ceremony.
- Toured Victor school.
- Met with VCPAC's new President Saloumeh Pourmalek.
- Facilitated the first exploratory meeting to discuss trustee electoral areas with local mayors, members of council, and members of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
- Upcoming meeting with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to discuss trustee electoral areas.
- Convened a Partners of School District No. 61 meeting to discuss the budget development process for the 2026-2027 school year.

C.2. Ad Hoc Committees Annual Review

Official Trustee Bell provided rationale for the motion.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the dissolution of the Music Equity Ad Hoc Committee, the Equity Ad Hoc Committee, and the Climate Action Plan Implementation Ad Hoc Committee.

C.3. Extension of 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Until 2027-2028

Official Trustee Bell provided rationale for the motion.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the extension of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan until 2027-2028.

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

b. *Public Interest Disclosure Act*: Annual Report for the Greater Victoria School District (SD61) Fiscal Year 2025

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

c. Revised Policy 5147 Inclusive Education: Supporting Every Learner

Superintendent Whitten provided rationale for the motion.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves revised Policy 5147 Inclusive Education: Supporting Every Learner,

AND FURTHER,

that Policy 5148 – Alternatives to the Integrated Classroom is abandoned.

d. 2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Superintendent Whitten provided rationale for the motion.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the 2025-2026 Board of Education meeting dates.

e. School Calendar 2027-2028

Superintendent Whitten stated that the 2027-2028 school calendar was posted publicly for review for 30 days, as per the *School Act*.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the following 2027/2028 school calendar:

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

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an overview of the final 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan for Major and Minor Capital Programs to be submitted to the Ministry by June 30, 2025. It was noted that the Ministry will advise which projects are approved for funding in March 2026.

Official Trustee Bell and Partners had questions of clarification.

i. Major Capital Programs

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (Major Capital Programs) for 2026-2027, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2026-2027, for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

ii. Minor Capital Programs

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the proposed Five-Year Capital Plan (Minor Capital Programs) for 2026-2027, as provided on the Five-Year Capital Plan Summary for 2026-2027, for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

b. Spectrum Artificial Turf Field Update

Secretary-Treasurer Stride shared an update on the proposed Spectrum artificial turf field project. It was noted that, although a significant donation was received last year, the formal procurement process has revealed a funding shortfall of nearly \$1 million. Secretary-Treasurer Stride advised that the District is currently exploring alternative funding sources and potential changes to the scope of the project to address the funding gap.

c. Monthly Financial Report: May 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

d. Monthly Budget Change Report: May 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information.

e. Quarterly Facilities Operations and Capital Project Update: June 2025

Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided the report for information.

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of Special In-Camera of Education Meeting – May 20, 2025

G.2. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 26, 2025

G.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 26, 2025

G.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 26, 2025

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None.

H.3. District Celebrations

I. ADJOURNMENT

The Official Trustee adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Official Trustee

Secretary-Treasurer