



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Monday, October 6, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Official Trustee:	Sherri Bell
Administration:	Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Deputy Superintendent, Sean Powell, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Person, Director of Information Technology, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Mike Knudson, Director of Human Resource Services, Josh Barks, District Principal Information Technology, David Hovis, Director of Instruction, Sean McCartney, Director of Instruction, Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA
Songhees Nation:	Anevey Quocksister, Student Success Manager
Partners:	Norm Issac, CUPE 382, Tricia Thexton, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Saloumeh Pourmalek, VCPAC, Aarav Goyal, Student Representative

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The 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 October 6, 2025 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Approval of the September 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the September 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. District Celebrations

- a. Early Childhood Educators - District Principal Early Years and Child Care Shortt

District Principal Early Years and Childcare Shortt presented on Early Childhood Educators.

A.6. Community Presentations

None.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

- B.1. September 28, 2025 Greater Victoria Teachers' Association to Official Trustee Bell – Trustee Electoral Area**

C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT

C.1. Monthly Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Attendance at school-wide assembly at Tillicum Elementary School which included a blessing of the land by Elder Mary Ann Thomas
- Visit to Torquay Elementary School
- Ongoing participation on BCSTA committee engaged in jurisdictional scan of school district policies and administrative procedures to develop a framework that aligns policies and administrative procedures across the province
- Overview of engagement process leading to a proposal submitted to the Minister of Education and Child Care recommending a transition from a single trustee electoral area to multiple trustee electoral areas

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. 2025-2026 Elementary School Goals (School Plans)

Superintendent Whitten provided the 2025-2026 Elementary School Goals (School Plans) for approval.

The Official Trustee and partners had questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2025-2026 Elementary School Plans as presented.

c. Climate Action Plan Update

Associate Superintendent Powell and Director of Facilities Services Vistisen-Harwood provided an update on the Climate Action Plan.

The Official Trustee and partners had questions of clarification.

d. Revision and/or Deletion of Board Policies

Superintendent Whitten provided rationale for the deletion of Board policies.

Partners had questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the deletion of the following Board policies:

Policy 1162 *Educational Heritage*

Policy 1325.4 *Publicity for Non-School Events*

Policy 2101 *Deputy Superintendent of Schools*

Policy 2110 *Secretary Treasurer*

Policy 2115 *Associate Superintendent of Schools*

Policy 2120.010 *Director of Facilities*

Policy 2120.020 *Director of Learning Resources and Information Services*

Policy 2120.025 *Director of Human Resource Services*

Policy 2120.030 *District Principal of Learning Initiatives*

Policy 2120.062 *Director of Student Support Services*

Policy 2123.041 *Manager of Purchasing Services*

Policy 2127.067 *First Nations District Counsellors*

Policy 2212.2 *District Principal Special Education Services*

Policy 4152.51 *Medical Services Association and Group Life Extension*

Policy 4199 *Staff Reports*

Policy 4220.3 *Purchasing Services Buyer*

Policy 6164.1 *Health Services*.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. 2025-2026 Student Enrolment Report

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the 2025-2026 Student Enrollment Report for information.

b. 2026-2027 Budget Development Process – Draft

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an overview of considerations for the draft 2026-2027 Budget Development Process.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride advised that the draft budget development process will be discussed at the Partners of SD61 meetings in both October and November, and the final budget development process will be presented to the Official Trustee for approval at the Regular Board Meeting on November 24, 2025.

c. Monthly Financial Report: September 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the September 2025 report for information.

d. Monthly Budget Change Report: September 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the September 2025 report for information.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: What is the future plan for school cash online and the downloading of 4% fees onto families? How long can we expect this to continue?

A: Secretary-Treasurer Stride noted that the decision to transition to the value-based model was made in April 2024 during the budget development process for the 2024–2025 school year. It was explained that there is no option to revert back from the current model, and that alternative platforms have been explored but all have comparable fees.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – September 15, 2025

G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – September 29, 2025

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 7:57 p.m.

Official Trustee

Secretary-Treasurer