



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Monday, January 19, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Official Trustee: Sherri Bell

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Tom Aerts, Deputy Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Sean Powell, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Josh Barks, Acting District Principal, Information Technology, Mike Knudson, Director of Human Resource Services, David Hovis, Director of Instruction, Sean McCartney, Director of Instruction, Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, Jeff Davis, Director of International Education, Sarah Winkler, VPVPA, Charmaine Shortt, District Principal, Early Learning and Child Care

Songhees Nation: Anevey Quocksister, Student Success Manager

Partners: Norm Isaac, CUPE 382, Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Saloumeh Pourmalek, VCPAC, Glory, Representative Advisory Council of Students

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 January 19, 2026 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. District Celebrations

- a. District Career Education Coordinator Alexander presented the micro grant winners from the Career Education Society of BC.

A.6. Community Presentations

- a. Torquay Elementary School grade five student, Isabelle Ogilvie, presented on the Bubble Buddies program at Torquay Elementary.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT

C.1. Monthly Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Visited Oak Bay High School
- Minister of Education and Child Care accepted the proposal to shift from an 'at large' electoral model to a model with seven trustee electoral areas based on existing municipal and First Nations reserve boundaries
- Planning for 2026-2027 Annual Budget
- Facilitated the Partners of SD61 meeting
- Ongoing participation on BCSTA Policy Committee

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

The report was provided for information.

b. Revised French Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Partners asked questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Terms of Reference for the French Advisory Committee.

c. Revised Policy 1330.1 Child Care

Partners asked questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 1330.1 Child Care.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. Spectrum – Artificial Turf Field Update

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an update on the artificial turf field at Spectrum.

b. 2026-2027 Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an update on the 2026-2027 Budget.

c. Monthly Financial Report: December 2025

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

d. Monthly Budget Change Report: December 2025

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the December 2025 report for information

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: I would like to know what the District Policy is regarding staff using personal devices to store images of minors without guardian consent?

A: Official Trustee Bell stated that Superintendent Whitten would arrange to meet and discuss the answer directly with the questioner.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – December 8, 2025

G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – January 5, 2026

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 7:04 p.m.

Official Trustee

Secretary-Treasurer