

Engagement Session Feedback

The Greater Victoria School District received feedback on the proposed Trustee Electoral Area Variation through other means in addition to comments collected through an online form. Written comments and a letter gathered at the September 9, 2025 in-person public engagement session are shared below, in addition to a follow up email received after the session. Some comments have been redacted because they contain personal identifiers, inappropriate language, and/or unrelated remarks.

Sticky Note Feedback (September 9 Engagement Session)

Saanich Table

- Interested to see if something similar will happen in SD63, particularly regarding First Nation representation on school boards
- Some concerns about trustees not fully understanding what a trustee is and does before running for trustee
- Even if these changes happen, it may still feel like an “at large” model within Victoria and Saanich
- We need to model “coming together” for students
- This is the first step in being democratic, relevant, inclusive. Evaluation. How successful in reaching the goals of ward system. In a world when things seem so disconnected it is reassuring me to see connections being made in our school board
- A tremendous amount of thought and care has taken place to present this document. Thank you.
- The number of trustees for each proposed electoral areas makes sense- fairly proposed
- I support changing the school at to reflect the selection of a board member by First Nations. This will impact positively all of BC

Oak Bay Table

- I think that having two Nations is a great idea but I think the other 7 seats should be voted on by the general populace
- Why is this not being sent to a referendum?

Esquimalt Nation Table

- Culturally, we build bonds. We all take part and help one another. [REDACTED] Chief Andy Thomas dedicated his chiefmentship to the kids “because they’re our future.”

Greater Victoria School District Table

- Once elected and then annually, Trustees should spend a minimum of 2-3 days visiting and observing schools and classrooms. One at each level (elem. Mid. Sec.). I find it difficult to understand how they can make decisions on behalf of students, families, and staff when some (make several) have never been in a school or not in years.
- I want less Teacher Federation influence in our elections

Additional

- Trustee ability to be seen/heard by voters (eg debate)

VICTORIA SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Victoria, BC

I am in favour of [REDACTED] your proposal to employ the ward system to provide better personal representation in a democratic setting. I consider that my voice would be better heard in this design [REDACTED] But, as I understand the democratic electoral purpose, it is to give [REDACTED] a forum in which to collectively express their views on finance, administration and education policy to an elected School Board within a defined area. The existing area of SD#61 is precisely defined into five municipalities, two large and three small. The proposal – [REDACTED] – allots seven seats which seems to me fair and administratively reasonable considering population numbers and geographic spread. The voters, the residents, of all these municipalities are payers of annual property taxes and have therefore [REDACTED] to cast a ballot for those who feel qualified to offer themselves for election in a particular ward. [REDACTED]

Richard A. Rennie
Esquimalt Taxpayer

FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES VIOLATED

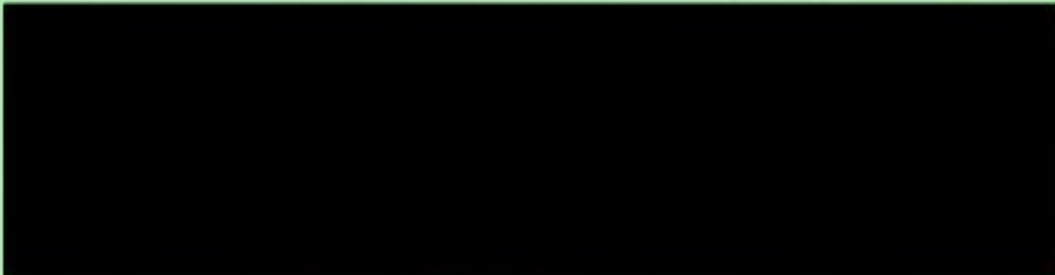
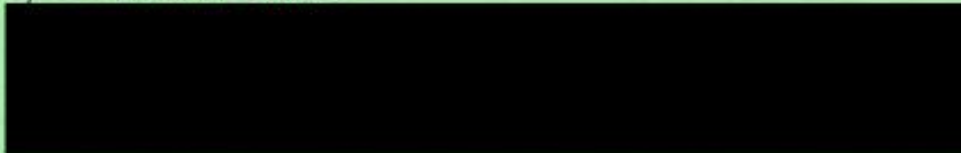
1) REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION



2) NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION



3) GERRYMANDERING



Emailed Feedback (Post September 9 Engagement Session)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:23:35 a.m. (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Official Trustee <officialtrustee@sd61.bc.ca>
Subject: Support for seven trustee electoral area model

CAUTION: External email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are confident about the source.

Dear Sherri Bell, Official Trustee of SD61,

I unfortunately missed the Public Engagement Session on the proposed change to the SD61 trustee model (I was at a PAC meeting) and have also missed the window to provide feedback using the online form (closed yesterday).

I am not sure if this email can be incorporated as feedback, however I wanted to share that I support the proposed shift from an 'at large' electoral model to a model with seven trustee electoral areas based on municipal and First Nations boundaries.

Thank you, [REDACTED]
Resident of Esquimalt and parent of [REDACTED] students attending SD61 schools.

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[REDACTED]