

Survey Results

On August 5, 2025, in partnership with local First Nations and municipalities and the Capital Regional District, the Greater Victoria School District launched public communications to inform the community of the proposed changes to the trustee electoral areas and of the opportunity to submit feedback through an online form. The form closed on September 11, 2025. The results are shared below. Some comments have been redacted because they contain personal identifiers, inappropriate language, and/or unrelated remarks.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
1	I support the proposed shift and distribution of representatives.
2	I am in full support of these changes. Greatly appreciate all those involved to help bring this to the region, district, and students. I am unable to attend the information and engagement session. My wife and I have [REDACTED] children in SD61 and are in full support of the proposed changes.
3	<p>I live in View Royal and, as a parent, I'm interested in how this proposed change will impact the resources and support available at our school. I hope that the new model will ensure fair and inclusive representation for all families, regardless of where they live. I also want to make sure that the voices of parents and students continue to be heard district-wide—not just within individual trustee zones.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Please consider how to maintain open communication and strong collaboration between trustees and the broader school community, including smaller communities like View Royal.</p>
4	[REDACTED]
5	I support the proposal.
6	Good idea. Addresses prior challenges. Uses prior precedent. Kudos.
7	<p>What measures will be put in place to ensure that trustees work towards the interests of all sd61 students and not just those of their designated zones? I'm concerned that this model, although an attempt to increase representation, will fracture decision making further, decrease collaboration, and create an even more politically charged and inefficient environment for the board to do their work.</p> <p>Is this model utilized elsewhere in the province? What data is available to suggest that this model will be functional?</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>What recourse is available to recall this decision should it fail?</p> <p>Would it be possible to leave the designated two seats for the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations while allowing for the rest of the district to be represented by 7 non-regionally designated elected members?</p> <p>Assuming this model goes ahead, will trustees have to live in the zone that they are elected? If so, how were regions represented by candidates in the last few election cycles? IE how many of the candidates (elected and otherwise) came from Oak Bay, Saanich, Esquimalt, etc. Is there a record of a broad enough pool of qualified, willing, and electable individuals from each region available? Or will this proposal limit the potential expertise of the board by excluding potential candidates?</p> <p>Are there any financial costs associated with this change?</p>
8	I think this is a good shift and reflects how trustees are elected in almost every other district in BC and the country.
9	I fully support the proposed ward system.
10	I like this proposal of delegated areas of representation. It will provide greater diversity of views and ensure each community has a voice. It will also provide clarity for each community on who 'their' board member is which enhances accountability and communication.
11	<p>I am in favour of this proposal that gives the various areas in SD 61 representatives. It is fantastic to see that the two First Nations have a representative as well. This way SD61 will be able to have their voices heard in a very meaningful way. It may pave the way for other districts across the province to do this as well.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
12	<No text submitted>
13	<p>As a parent of a Grade 5 student in the Greater Victoria School District, I appreciate the opportunity to share feedback on the proposed change to the trustee electoral model. I support the idea of moving from an 'at large' system to trustee areas based on local municipal and First Nations boundaries. This model can ensure fairer and more inclusive representation, especially for smaller communities and Indigenous Nations.</p> <p>I believe this change will strengthen the connection between families, schools, and the Board of Education. It reflects a thoughtful and democratic approach, and I am grateful that parents are being included in this important discussion. Thank you.</p>
14	<No text submitted>
15	I think this is a great idea and is overdue. I feel this geographic distribution along with the representation from the nations is a progressive step that forwards reconciliation.
16	[REDACTED]

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
17	This is long overdue and I support this. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
18	I think Trustee Electoral Areas based on location is long overdue and makes the relationship between the voter and the elected representative one that is more transparent and accountable.
19	It is about time they were represented for all corners. [REDACTED]
20	This seems like an improvement, however it does not address the problem that school boards cannot influence the school tax rate, and thus their overall available budget. School boards need to be able to increase the school tax mill rate above & beyond what the BC government currently dictates.
21	I support a move away from the "at large" model, and increased representation of Indigenous voices at the table. Also while I'm here, I just want to say that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Thank you :)
22	[REDACTED]
23	I live in Esquimalt, but my kids go to school in Victoria. And before I moved to Esquimalt, I lived in Victoria and had one kid going to school in Esquimalt and two in Victoria. I hope that I would be able to vote for the Victoria reps as well as the Esquimalt one. How will this be handled? I also deeply hope that this is not first-past-the-post. Please consider a weighted system of voting/proportional representation. I am very glad to see that both Esquimalt and Songhees Nations get a seat [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
24	This seems like an improvement over the current system and a necessary step to include Esquimalt and Songhees Nation in school decision making. I would like to see a mechanism to adjust the makeup of the board based on future demographics and needs as well. I would also encourage some form of advisory council made up of CUPE, GVTA, and Principals Association members to help the Board make informed decisions.
25	I think this idea is well over due and support it completely.
26	This sounds like a great idea
27	I am in favour of the proposal to transition the SD61 Board from the current 'at large' electoral model to a model with seven trustee electoral areas based on municipal and First Nations boundaries.
28	In favour of considering a electoral area approach; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
29	<p>I like the idea of “regional” representations. [REDACTED] Students possibly bit so does Sooke and Central Saanich most likely</p> <p>Now too would be to qualify candidates before their name reaches a ballot including Board experience and relevant financial acumen. No longer should it be “a parent of a student(s)” be a qualifier. This is a unique opportunity to stretch the process and make a significant shift in how the district is overseen. Hope that helps</p>
30	<p>This makes the voting more subject to spoiler (or reverse spoiler) effect within those electoral areas, and makes the system more like FPTP. The existing approval voting system is superior.</p>
31	<p>As a formed SD61 and current Saanich voter, this sounds like a very fair & reasonable idea. There needs to be representation for the major stakeholders in the school system.</p>
32	<p>Is the proposed division of the trustees proportional to population and not just reflective of municipal boundaries? If so, it seems to be a better, more equitable, method for representing the school district</p>
33	<p>I think this is an excellent idea. It is representative. I still wonder about the size of the board. Surrey has 7 members which includes a designated seat for White Rock, elected by White Rock voters. Victoria and Vancouver have 9 members which includes boards, this number does not correlate with the Greater Victoria population.</p>
34	<p>Switching to this electoral area model would be a huge improvement. Let's make the change.</p>
35	<p>I agree with the areas proposal described in https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/public-asked-to-weigh-in-on-electing-greater-victoria-school-trustees-from-zones-11037382. (Your link to more information is dead) A further consideration is the need for provincial law emphasizing safety of students as a key responsibility of school boards. (Note this input form is not a true survey as it uses self-selecting respondents.)</p>
36	<p>I fully support this reform. How was the allocation of trustees calculated as it seems Victoria & Saanich populations are underrepresented while the other five are quite over represented.</p>
37	<p>Ward systems of elected representatives generally discourage making decisions that benefit the board as a whole vs decisions that benefit the fiefdom of the person elected to a sub-region.</p> <p>Therefore I'm opposed to a change from the “at large” system of people who are elected to serve the entire school board. If a ward system is desired, consider whether students would be better served by splitting SD 61 into seven different school boards representing the proposed wards. The answer is likely “no”, and therefore the board should remain as a single entity.</p> <p>Additionally, trust in provincial government on this file is quite low after removal of previous trustees, and this government should likely not be the one to oversee any change in structure of the board.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
38	This new model makes so much more sense. Having appropriate representation from all areas is much more representative of our community values.
39	I absolutely support this! All surrounding school districts already do this and Victoria has historically had an outsized presence on the Board. This electoral area model will be significantly more equitable.
40	I support this move to an electoral area representation model. I agree with the distribution of representatives as proposed. I encourage the added voice this will give our local First Nations at the SD 61 Board table. I believe this will also help voters make a more informed decision when they are asked to elect between 1-2 candidates instead of a slate of 9 who are mostly representing the City of Victoria from a list of 30+ names on an overwhelmingly large ballot. Please support this proposal and make it effective for the 2026 general local elections.
41	I agree with having electoral areas for school trustees
42	This is a good idea. I'm happy to see the Esquimalt and Songhees nation being given a voice. Please please please listen to them.
43	How will the classification of "from" be determined? Will elected representatives have to have lived in their represented area for a set amount of time? Just candidate there? Maintain an address there? Primary address? When it is time to vote, will everyone in the district get the same ballot? Or if you live in Esquimalt do you only vote for your area representative? This seems like a better system overall, but seems like details need to be better flushed out.
44	I am in favour of the ward system. [REDACTED]
45	I agree with this direction
46	I support this move towards reconciliation and better inclusion of First Nations.
47	I think the ward system would be a better system.
48	This is a much needed change.
49	Excellent idea, finally meaningful representation from all the stakeholders in the district.
50	I support the proposed electoral model which would result in having trustees from both the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations and proportionate representation from each municipality.
51	This is a great change that would give more clear representation and is a fantastic way to include Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. I fully support this
52	What would happen if someone from the area didn't step up to be elected?
53	Please move to a more equitable Ward system for school trustees.
54	I think this is a fantastic idea

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
55	<p>I agree with the idea of a better geographic allocation, such that one municipality does not dominate the results, and all geographic areas have representation.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
56	<No text submitted>
57	I like this concept of nine trustees distributed from across the region. Balanced ..curious about how they would be elected - I assume from the local government ?
58	This is so important that this change is made to make elections easier for residents and make elections more relevant.
59	This is a good change that allows more potential for the amplification of a diversity of voices.
60	Within or alongside the 9 positions, the schools would benefit from having a disability/mental health advocate on the panel. Many students face challenges that affect their learning and the happenings in a classroom; having an appointed person advocate for the needs of these students and the teachers in this regard would make for positive change.
61	What is the point in choosing any number of new trustees when they can be replaced at will? The whole situation that led to this is disheartening and I will be present to voice my concerns about [REDACTED]
62	I live in SD 61 and support a ward system for school trustees. In fact as I live in Saanich, a large municipality I think we would benefit from a ward system in general for Saanich council.
63	I would prefer to keep the present electoral model
64	i support the proposal.
65	I like the idea of the ward system
66	I think that is great idea. Allows for a more diverse group, and a healthier representation of the whole.
67	I support this change. I live in Victoria and think there should be a balance of representation on the board
68	<p>Please do this! All voices are needed at this table. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] can do better!!</p>
69	I support a move to the zone / electoral area system. I think it will provide for more balanced participation and better representation across the district. I believe this will also provide more accountability to students and parents.
70	Long overdue. The same sort of changes should be implemented in all elections.
71	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	[REDACTED]
72	I believe this is a better model. I would like to have a set person as the contact for my area. I also am impressed with the movement towards reconciliation.
73	Sounds like a good idea which will improve accountability.
74	I am in favour of the ward system, which I have seen to work well in other municipalities.
75	I totally agree there should be school board members from the electoral-areas
76	I fully agree with the idea of having trustees chosen based on municipal boundaries! Everyone I have spoken to about this agrees, although most probably may not provide this feedback or be aware of this form. Thank you.
77	I like the format of having fair and localized representation on the school board. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Perhaps another way to consider organizing is To have representatives from each family of schools.
78	The ward system is a good idea. Please implement it.
79	Is there a protocol is there is no one in that ward? Could it lead to [REDACTED] landing a seat simply by default?
80	This ward system is certainly a good idea
81	Representation from the seven electoral districts and two Nations is a good idea. One would expect that these representatives will actually be representing the community and to that end should live in the community. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Terms of election should stipulate that elected trustees are not aligned with a lobbyist group. Replacement of trustees during the elected term should be drawn (voted in) from the electoral area that they represent.
82	I support the proposed model, particularly the inclusion of dedicated trustees from local First Nations.
83	Good idea Potential trustees should be verified that they actually reside in the area they wish to represent.
84	Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. After reviewing the proposed changes, I'd like to express my support for retaining the current "at large" trustee electoral model. I believe the existing model offers broad, district-wide representation and encourages trustees to consider the needs of all communities, not just those within designated areas.
85	I support this change. I think it is long overdue to have representation of the individual municipalities on the board of trustees.
86	The change to a ward system looks progressive and supportable to me.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
87	I would like to keep it the "at Large" model to best represent the composition of the attending students. The electoral areas do not fairly represent the students and their parents that vote for the the trustees.
88	I live within SD61 (Victoria). I support the proposed change to nine trustees from the seven electoral areas as illustrated in Item 3. of the information that accompanied this form on-line. This will allow a more proportionate and fair representation amongst the trustees on the school board. Please adopt this model.
89	I am in support of the proposed variation to the current model.
90	[REDACTED]
91	[REDACTED]
92	I agree with making the change to the proposed variation in the voting model for all the reasons given above. I want a representative from my local area. [REDACTED]
93	I think this change is long overdue and I support moving to this system 100%!
94	I support inclusive representation, especially for underrepresented communities, but I'm concerned that shifting to area-based trustee elections could lead to more politicized decision-making. We're already seeing academic priorities—especially in STEM—being overshadowed by [REDACTED] agendas. It's essential that this change includes safeguards to ensure trustees stay focused on evidence-based, rigorous education for all students.
95	I agree with the change to focus on one or two trustees from each electoral area. I believe this will give the individual schools/nations more autonomy and ability to have their needs met
96	I like the idea very much for zone representation

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ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
105	I believe this is an excellent approach. It would ensure first nations and each community have adequate representation.
106	I support establishing electoral areas based on somewhat equal populations.
107	I am fully in support of the change to the 7 electoral areas for representation of SD61 trustees. It has always bothered me the way SD61 Trustees are elected and that they do not necessarily represent the entire SD61 region. I think this option would also reduce the incidence of trustees from a specific area with a specific agenda grouping together to get voted into Board. It would ALSO be my suggestion, that the trustees must either reside or be a parent/guardian within the electoral area. To better ensure actual regional representation. AND I am curious if when school board trustees are voted in, if I as a voter can vote for all electoral areas or only just my electoral region? My initial instinct is that I think it would be better to have voters vote ONLY for trustees in their electoral area. Who they want to represent them.
108	<p>I object to the way that these wards have been apportioned trustees, and see this as a step in the wrong direction in terms of democratic representation. Right now it would be:</p> <p>View royal/ Highlands: ~15k people Oak Bay: 18k people Esquimalt: 19k people Saanich: ~125k people, with two trustees Victoria: ~102k people, with two trustees</p> <p>This system would give the votes of those in View a royal almost five times the value as those in Saanich. Those in Oak Bay and Esquimalt would count for more than double those in Victoria. As Saanich and Victoria build more housing than other municipalities and grow faster these under representations would only get worse.</p> <p>I would oppose the ward system as designed here. It could be fixed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the number of trustees so that it can be more proportional. 2. Drawing wards that don't neatly map to municipalities, though this would make elections harder. 3. Use weighted votes like the CRD does, so that trustees' voting power is more proportional to their electorate's population. I see this as the best model. 4. Combine cities differently. <p>Let's look at option 4: With a trustee for each of the two nations, that leaves 7 reps split between ~ 281,444 people going off the population estimates for the municipalities from BC Stats, giving a target of 40,206. If the wards have to be drawn with municipalities as the borders, it could be done as:</p> <p>Ward A: Victoria and Oak Bay, combined population of 121,469, yields 3.02 (3) trustees. Ward B: Saanich, population of 125,436, yields 3.12 (3) trustees. Ward C: Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, combined population of 34,539, yields 0.86 (1) trustee.</p> <p>If wanted, Victoria and Saanich could be broken down further into their own wards, but this</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>would be far more proportional representation than what is proposed above, even with the over representation of Ward C.</p> <p>If anyone would be interested to discuss this, I can be reached at [REDACTED]</p>
109	I think this is a great idea as too much power was concentrated in one area. This gives every area a voice, and makes their Trustee more responsible to their area.
110	I am pleased to see a real effort to make positive change regarding how the School Board of Greater Victoria functions.
111	This is absolutely an excellent idea! Not only is it structurally superior, it makes it much easier for voters, who only have to pay attention to the candidates in their area. It also makes promotion by the candidates cheaper and less wasteful. Now if only municipal elections were handled this way too!
112	This is a great idea
113	Do not let the [REDACTED] What a waste of taxpayers money.
114	Right now I oppose the trustee system currently being proposed, since it does not adequately account for different municipalities having different populations. under the proposed scheme, Esquimalt votes would count for 2.5x as much as a vote in Victoria. A vote in View Royal would count for 3.8x as much as a vote in Victoria. I would support a weighted vote scheme, similarly to what the CRD uses, where trustee votes are weighed directly by population.
115	<p>Trustees should not be able to sit or run again for the position for more than two elections. Some of them have been on the Board for too long and are not open to changing with the times and/or do not engage enough in school communities or with the students who they are supposed to be helping. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] You need fresh faces, a solid education and safety plan and trustees need to be more involved at the school level. Spend a few days walking in the schools shoes and have conversations with the students whom your decisions are affecting. Basing decisions on reports from people who have not even stepped in one of our schools or have witnessed student behaviours and the threats they face each is so unprofessional and is proof how out of touch the board is.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
116	<p>I strongly oppose the current allocation of trustees, as representation would be greatly disproportional to population, in a way that directly disenfranchises residents of Saanich and Victoria, which is particularly inequitable, considering the wealth, age, and other demographics of those who live in Oak Bay, View Royal and the Highlands.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>I echo the suggestions of another person who responded to this survey: "I would oppose the ward system as designed here. It could be fixed by: - Increasing the number of trustees so that it can be more proportional. - Drawing wards that don't neatly map to municipalities, though this would make elections harder. - Use weighted votes like the CRD does, so that trustees' voting power is more proportional to their electorate's population. I see this as the best model. - Combine cities differently."</p>
117	<No text submitted>
118	Excellent idea . I believe it would provide more meaningful opportunities for local communities to be engaged.
119	I think it's a great idea.
120	The new model for the Greater Victoria School Board is a MUCH better representation of students and taxpayers in the Greater Victoria area. Finally and about time!!! Thank you for considering this going forward. It has been almost 30 years since I, as an Esquimalt resident and previous Chair of the [REDACTED] sought election to the Board. [REDACTED] I welcome this change.
121	Other than indigenous board members, I don't see what a trustee from Victori would have over one from, say, Esquimalt. Passion for successful education policies should drive board member selection, not post code.
122	Absolutely yes. And this should be done for council positions in Victoria as well. In otherwords, Victoria should have a ward system to elect councillors.
123	I am supportive of this change
124	I support any change that moves towards better representation of a variety of communities and voices. The word system would demonstrate evidence based practice that is intentional to bring multiple perspectives to decision-making.
125	The trustee electoral model should be eliminated entirely. Electing interested individuals does not bring the education, knowledge and experience needed to manage budget and processes of this size and complexity's.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
126	This is a progressive, more equitable approach which I support. It's critical in a democracy to ensure broad representation, to refrain from leaving the door open for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It makes absolutely no sense at all to allow anyone in the Greater Victoria area to run our school system, when there are multiple municipal jurisdictions at play. Thank you for proposing this. I hope it is put in place before the next elections, as clearly - with other multi-municipal jurisdictions already embracing this model - it's time Victoria emerged from a very old way of ensuring democracy prevails.
127	I think that this is an excellent proposal that should have been implemented years ago. I would hope that our local municipalities might consider the same type of proposal so that there could be some semblance of representative government at that level as well like in most other jurisdictions in the country.
128	I am a resident of Oak Bay and strongly support this change. I believe it will increase participation in school board elections and public engagement with board work in general. I am also very supportive of ensuring that local First Nations have representation on the board.
129	I wholly support this model. This will represent the respective communities more accurately and hopefully not support a slate system.
130	Excellent plan. Implement it. P.S. Expand the concept to municipal elections. [REDACTED] Esquimalt
131	I'm pleased to see the Nations each have a guaranteed seat [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
132	I believe any thing the supports more representative governance is a good thing. True and effective representative governance is a concept and reality that is sadly lacking in this Province at all levels of government, except for perhaps the Provincial government itself. I would very much endorse the distribution of the nine trustees amongst the seven electoral areas as proposed.
133	I like the idea of the ward system. This gives each area a better chance to voice their opinions. I remember the ward system in Vancouver. It worked well.
134	Sounds good. Whatever helps to make this board more representative of our total community, and avoid [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
135	If we are to have School Districts, it is preferable that the Trustees be resident in and elected by the localities they represent. If the choice is between keeping the current system or abolishing the School Districts and running the schools directly by the Ministry, I would opt for the latter. It would rid us of an unnecessary layer of politicians and attendant costs. It works well in Australia.

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ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
141	I support electing trustees by zone so it is easier to learn about the candidates and have better representation of the areas.
142	This would seem to be a fairer representation of votes for school trustees.
143	I strongly support this plan. I am a parent of [REDACTED] children in the school district.
144	This is an excellent and very timely recommendation! We have an opportunity now to help shape our school board so it better represents our community members. I am glad SD61 is exploring this option.
145	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
146	Proceed with this change. Long overdo
147	I do not support this move. I do not see a benefit to moving to a ward system that risks enabling narrower interests to choose trustees that do not serve the benefits of the larger community.
148	As a former School Trustee ([REDACTED]), I see significant value in a ward system. Wards create a stronger, more direct connection with each community, which enables trustees to build relationships with individuals who may not feel comfortable engaging in large public forums. This approach ensures neighbourhood and area-specific concerns are brought to the table while trustees remain committed to serving the entire district and all students. I believe such a system could help [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
149	I like the idea. It will give residents a better opportunity to learn about the candidates for their own community. In the past it has been difficult to get details on all the candidates and what they feel is important. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
150	I would like to see a reduction in the number of trustees - 9 seems excessive. Is there any consideration at the Provincial level regarding having appointed trustees, rather than elected (or a combination of both)? Will the trustees become advocates for their electoral area (and receive input from their electoral area), or just represent the population's voice?
151	My concern would be on how the voting would be set up - do candidates put their names forward to represent a given electoral area and then the one with the most votes is the trustee for that electoral area? As a voter do I vote for 9 trustees, or just the candidates who are running to represent the schools that my children attend (which could be in different electoral areas, given that catchments span municipalities). Or do the 9 trustees that are elected get assigned to represent an electoral area after the election? How does this work in other school districts where this distribution of trustees by electoral areas has been

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	implemented? The school district needs to provide parents and families with more information about how this will work.
152	I fully support the electoral area model for electing school trustees. I do not see information yet as to how representatives will be assigned to electoral areas. I would like to see this based on trustee's residency locations. Trustees should reside in the area that they are running to represent.
153	<p>I think our system of SDs, SD 61 in particular, because of it's inexplicable size, [REDACTED] is out dated and does not serve our children, their parents or their staff efficiently and [REDACTED]</p> <p>I have never understood how it is justifiable to entrust the well being and future of the children of almost the entire GVA, to one [REDACTED] organization, when apparently, it takes 13 Municipalities to administer that same area.</p> <p>I would like to see SD 61: broken down into smaller districts that the purpose, function, and importance of those Districts, be communicated and carefully explained to parents, teachers, organizations and individuals connected with the schools and that student representatives be encouraged to join. That all those stakeholders, parents/caregivers/teachers, student representatives etc ALL be vigorously encouraged to participate in meetings and in the work of the District</p>
154	<p>This new proposed direction seems positive. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
155	<p>A review of School Boards across BC shows 57% (28 Boards) are elected by Electoral Area and 43% (21 Boards) are elected At Large. SD61 is not included in the analysis. This even split shows both methods are viable.</p> <p>No matter how trustees are elected, all trustees are tasked to look out for the best interests of ALL students. Our success comes from every stakeholder - bus driver, teacher, parent, admin, caretaker, trustee, student - pulling together.</p> <p>Election of Trustees by Electoral Area, IF the elected trustee lives within that area, would be a reasonable way to represent children in that area. My concern is not with the change from elections At Large to elections by Electoral Area. My concern is with the distribution of the 9 trustees within the 7 areas.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
156	I am in favour of this system. Thank you.
157	<p>I oppose the proposal to change the current process for electing School District Trustees to one based on unequal representation by allotting a prescribed number of Trustees , based on boundaries of the Municipalities and First Nations. Such a scheme would destroy our historic and fairly based principle of equal representation. I and more than 18,000 residents live and work in Oak Bay, one such proposed jurisdiction, and we pay significant School taxes. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] I oppose this new proposal and I petition my Provincial Government and my Ministry of Education to prohibit the proposed changes and to maintain the existing system for the election of Trustees to our District #61 board. Submitted by [REDACTED] OakBay resident and retired [REDACTED] Teacher.</p>
158	<p>Representation on the board should be population based [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] This is absurd</p>
159	<p>Hi friends</p> <p>I am in favor of the change in electoral process for sd61 school board trustees beginning Nov 2026</p>
160	<p>I support the shift to a model with trustee electoral areas based on municipal and First Nations boundaries. I specifically support a designated trustee representing the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>My understanding is that only residents of the designated "wards", e.g. Saanich, Oak Bay, can run for, and vote for, the trustee(s) representing that specific ward - the change to a new model would be pointless if this is not going to be the case.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>The shift to the new model should not preclude, or specifically prohibit, individuals in each "ward" running under the banner of, or in affiliation with, a regional "party" e.g. parents for school choice, parents for conservative values, parents for sports academies, or specific provincial party affiliations e.g. Green or Conservative.</p> <p>The bigger picture problem of the greater community taking little or no interest in school board elections, thus allowing special interest groups with narrow constituencies to capture the board is due in large part to the very limited roles granted to school boards. The Province needs to give boards a bigger role (and impact on the larger public) in order to make voting worth most voters' while.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
161	<p>I think there should be more parameters and clarity on the rules of trustees within the British Columbia school system. Individual school districts seem to think that they can change the guidelines of the minister of education away from our number one priority: educating our youth. As a principal who has worked around the province for 30 years, I have witnessed a dramatic change in the roles of trustees. Once valued for their expertise and knowledge helping direct school districts to make sound financial decisions, they are now more radical attempt to interfere in the education side of the school district. This is simply unacceptable and damaging to students.</p>
162	<p>Public Comment on Proposed Seat Allocation</p> <p>I respectfully object to the proposed allocation of seats based on geographic location, as it results in a voter parity deviation that far exceeds the $\pm 25\%$ standard used for Provincial Electoral Districts in British Columbia.</p> <p>I urge the task force to consider the precedent set in <i>Dixon v. British Columbia (Attorney General)</i>, 1989 CanLII 248 (BC SC), where Justice Beverly McLachlin found that unequal representation undermines democratic principles. She emphasized that electoral boundaries must ensure effective representation—not just formal equality, but substantive fairness in how votes translate into political power.</p> <p>In <i>Dixon</i>, a 12:1 disparity between urban and rural districts was deemed unconstitutional. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>My question to the trustee is this: If legal due diligence was conducted prior to this proposal, how much funding has been allocated to defend against a likely Charter challenge under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
163	Our household supports this change towards electoral representation. All municipalities contribute to the success of the CRD. Students deserve the voices and support of trustees throughout the area of School District 61, not just Victoria/Saanich trustees. [REDACTED] Esquimalt resident
164	I believe in one person one vote, and I believe that all votes should have the same weight. Residents of larger communities would have the weight of their vote diminished under a "ward" system like this, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
165	I fully support the proposed variation to the current model of trustee elections for SD61. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Oak Bay resident
166	I support dedicated trustees from the local Nations. I am opposed to moving away from an at large model for the rest of the district. It is a reactionary move designed to quash district-wide organizing. Allowing a single appointed trustee to advance this discussion is inappropriate and opportunistic, and it does not lend credibility to the process.
167	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
168	As a parent of school-aged children and Victoria resident, I support this change. However, I think there needs to be some transparency on the potential fiscal impacts of this change and how that could impact schools and students. Will SD61 bear the burden of preparing and counting different ballots and managing different processes? In addition, providing some perspective from residents or trustees that are in a district that already have this kind of model in place would be beneficial. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
169	Please keep current system. I want folks that are looking out for the best interests of all the kids, not just their own.
170	"At large" representation supports the growth of the district as a whole and permits opposing voices to be heard. "Ward" representation creates arbitrary geographic fiefdoms (the Modifiable-Areal-Unit-Problem in Geography), and makes it less likely to have a fully representative slate of candidates. -- Please continue to support an at-large system to promote the growth of the district as a whole.
171	The proposed distribution is not reflective of the proportion of students that each trustee would represent. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	do agree the current system needs revision and that it is important to include indigenous perspectives on the board.
172	This makes a lot more sense than the current model to have more equal and representative officials. My concern would be what is the compensation to attract appropriate talent and make it something they want to do in addition to their other jobs.
173	I don't have comment to share for now.thank you
174	this seems to have great potential for adversarial combat [REDACTED] [REDACTED] At large representation is typically much less political and more holistic and big picture. However, it continues the [REDACTED] for random, fact-free experimentation on school populations, so I guess it fits (see the "hybrid learning" experiment in Surrey)
175	This is a good idea
176	Seems like a good plan.
177	I support this change.
178	I support this initiative and believe it will bring better communication and more informed and engaged elections.
179	More work needs to be done to correctly identify location demographics. Seats for Victoria and Saanich need to be reduced to prevent block voting and unfair control.
180	I think it's an excellent idea to have trustees representing the First Nations. I don't care very much about representation from the individual municipalities, but if that's what it takes to have Esquimalt and Songhees representatives, it's fine with me. Thank you for undertaking this initiative.
181	I support this change.
182	I think this is a great idea! I completely support the inclusion of First Nation representation on the school board. Thanks for making this happen!
183	I think this is a great idea! I'd like to see this happen.
184	I support the above proposed changes. Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.
185	I believe that the proposed distribution will represent the student populations better than the current at-large system. I would like to see elected officials in these positions at the earliest possible date.
186	I don't like the proposed model for a number of reasons. First, it presupposes that the main connection between me and a school board trustee is geographic, when in fact I think it is primarily ideological. Second, it does not account well for the fact that many children in our area go to schools that aren't in the same municipality in which they live. Third, it will result in overrepresentation of small municipalities such as Oak Bay or Highlands, as there is no way to proportionally balance representatives based on population. I am also unclear why none of the communication about this potential change actually makes clear the mechanism for such a change - can our city councils just decide to make it? Will the province impose this on us? Or will there be a referendum?
187	I think it sounds like a better model to use, and look forward to seeing it in action. Hopefully it brings much needed different points of view.
188	I'm in favour

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
189	<p>I strongly agree that changes need to happen in the way our school board is elected. From an outside view, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] This new proposal seems like a positive step towards better representation, and creating a school board that would incorporate the perspectives of the First Nation communities on whose territory our schools operate. It sounds like a good change.</p>
190	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
191	<p>We support this direction, but wonder if the capacity of different schools should be part of the allocation formula for different trustees? For example Oak Bay has the largest schools in SD61 (Willows and OB High) and yet only has one dedicated trustee.</p>
192	<p>Yes, why have the Official Trustee and Task Force meetings been "confidential"? Would you consider "confidential" meetings "inclusive" as your Media Advisory of Aug. 05, 2025 states?</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Please note that the LGA definitions uses the term "election area" and not "electoral area". Therefore, I have used the term election area.</p> <p>Should your newspaper ads for the Information Session for Sept. 09, 2025 speak briefly to the "at-large" system of elections for Board Trustees as well as the potential "Ward" system?</p> <p>Your ad as written appears to be focused on the "election area". Therefore, from my perspective your ad's information is missing important and relevant information. By doing so, is that the best approach to public engagement? More later.....</p>
193	<p>I think this makes good sense. And it's critical that the next Board understands their responsibilities with respect to listening to their constituents wishes and respecting First Nations.</p>
194	<p>I do not want to change the current model.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
195	Sounds like a positive step, especially ensuring the local First Nations have direct representation on the Board.
196	It is long past the time that board members should be elected by the people in each municipality and First Nation to really reflect a representative perspective. For too long Victoria has had a disproportionate representation on the board. Some municipalities have never been represented nor have our two First Nations. In the spirit of Reconciliation and democratic decision making, the model being proposed fulfills the need for local representation and recognizes the importance of having indigenous representation around the district board table.
197	I do not support this, as I feel it does not represent the needs of the district. Do not segment or split up our trustees.
198	<p>I whole hearted agree that a ward system with proportional representation for all stakeholders will provide the fairest governance, ensure all voices are heard at the table, and support collaboration for the common good of those impacted by the board's decisions. My hope and understanding of a ward system model is that it will facilitate and actively invite feedback from all district stakeholders for consideration as part of their decision making process. A ward system supports opposing views to be brought forward, discussed, resulting in informed decision making.</p> <p>I strongly believe that the current "at large" model allowed for "Slate" elections that can be biased to a particular group / area of interest without consideration of differing needs or provide a culture of collaboration to support decision making with the best interest of all at mind. In fact, the current "at large" model has enabled pushing through agendas that are in the interest of those that support the "slate" and assisted in their election rather than the best interests of students when those interests don't align and the shut down of the democratic process of providing input that was heard and considered in good faith.</p> <p>I have no faith in the current at large model to provide fair governance that respects the interests of the various municipalities and stakeholders of sd61.</p>
199	I am in favour of this model, however, what happens if there are no candidates from 1 or more of the electoral areas?
200	My husband and I are definitely in favour of this proposal. It would be valuable to have trustees represent an area in which they live & know the needs and people in that area. Secondly this model would hopefully encourage increased voting participation ie if voting for people who are local to one's area is preferable to trying to figure out who to vote for out of a large slate of candidates who are mostly unknown to many voters.
201	Its completely undemocratic and inappropriate to engage in this process when we have no elected Trustees. Any proposal to change should be subject to a citizen referendum, [REDACTED]
202	The ward system is a fantastic idea, all areas should be represented by a elected member. the current at large model doesn't work for a area as big as Victoria.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
203	<p>I strongly support the move to the seven electoral area model for trustees. Each area has its own specific priorities and allowing them a more equal voice at the Board will hopefully result in more equitable decisions to the benefit of all students of SD61.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Esquimalt</p>
204	<p>I support the proposed shift to a ward system for electing school trustees. I hope that candidates will be required to reside in the ward in which they are running.</p>
205	<p>Please allow for equitable representation. Each municipality deserves to have a voice.</p>
206	<p>Yes. I am wondering if this consideration of a "variations" is a possible solution to a non-existent problem. This SD has Families of Schools whereby schools are divided up geographically and Trustees are assigned to a Family of Schools. These assignments can and do change on an annual basis so Trustees get a feel for each area of schools and different perspectives. The SD annually advises municipalities on who their Trustee representative is for that year. Since the earlier 2000's when the then Liberal gov't brought in "Choice" because, as we all know now, all schools are not the same, and the old premise of "neighbourhood" schools are gone too. Further the SD is funded by the provincial gov't on a per student basis so the funding follows the student where ever they go and formula's determine how schools are funded based on student numbers. So...these days kids don't necessarily go to school in the their own neighbourhood but perhaps across town.</p> <p>- I know I've had kids in the Mt Doug Catchment of schools, the Reynolds Family of Schools and the Vic High Family of Schools at the same time (especially since the change to middle schools- which changed the configuration of grades too). So my question is where would I run as a Trustee or could I use my kids' school choice as an option to provide me with the chance to run for 3 seats? Perhaps the bigger question and only question is - what advantage does the proposed variations provide? Lobbying for what? What "representation" is lacking and what are students not getting because of this? to me this is purely an exercise in futility and will only cause division as we break ourselves into smaller groups - fighting over what?</p>
207	<p>For decades as a community newspaper reporter I covered education and spent hours (and hours) at school board meetings in a district with electoral areas. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>District-wide elections favour candidates with deep connections which, in our current social culture, are usually political parties (although affiliations are not on the ballot.) Being elected to the school board is often a reachable first rung on the political career ladder.</p> <p>Trustee electoral areas wouldn't guarantee representation of broader interests on the school board. At least it could make it a bit easier for candidates whose advocacy is for education, not special interests.</p> <p>I support this change.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
208	<No text submitted>
209	<p>I'm new to Oak Bay, where our child is in Grade [REDACTED]. I support the move to Trustee areas, as it is more representative and will build consensus. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] it is worth trying the Trustee model. [REDACTED] my family moved to Victoria from a similarly sized city [REDACTED] where we also moved our school district (serving 25,000 kids) from at-large to trustees in 2017 after years of poor representation, lack of competitive seats, and chronically low voter turnout (under 10%). Moving to the Trustee model greatly improved representation and in the quality of the candidates who have run for office there over the past several election cycles. Single parents, underrepresented groups, recent graduates, and public school teachers have run and won, where previously under the at-large system people had been in their seats for up to 20 years (we had no term limits either), often running unopposed because nobody felt they could unseat someone who had been there so long. The Trustee model has also increased voter turnout: voters now have someone in their part of town who is running and who is focused on reaching out to a specific geographic area and campaigning on concerns that may uniquely affect that area (traffic safety around schools, course offerings, etc.) while also being beneficial to the entire district (for example, it is important to know that the schools in one Trustee area may have a concern that has successfully been addressed in another). There is a lot of data from political scientists and public policy experts on the advantages of the Trustee model vs. at-large that I hope you have looked into. Finally, I am grateful that SD61 is considering this change, and I truly hope that SD61 uses this opportunity to move to governing model that incentivizes better representation and voter participation. I look forward to canvassing for a future Oak Bay Trustee in the next election.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
210	<p>Hi there. [REDACTED] here from Saanich. I also serve on [REDACTED] but submit this feedback solely in my capacity as a private citizen (with perspective being a parent of two in the system + one yet to join).</p> <p>Generally speaking, WARD SYSTEMS ARE BAD. They polarise the electorate and candidate ecosystem into First-Past-the-Post, winner-take-all, etc. You've heard the many talking points I presume already. If not, check out any page of anything put out by FairVote Canada.</p> <p>A Plurality-at-Large system, while not proportional representation, is more proportionate ('ate' vs 'al'), and typically brings more balanced sets of voices from across a constituency. However, and you will recognise this lately, this theory doesn't hold as well for school boards as it does for e.g. local councils. This is due to lower voter turnout, in spite of (or possibly because of) sharing a ballot with local government elections.</p> <p>Having said all that, it might be true that e.g. OB, VR having dedicated "single ward reps" could provide more balance to the mix. But it will be balance at the expense of diversity - which ultimately works out worse. Better Approach? is to find ways to increase voter turnout!</p> <p>Moving on to the issue of REPRESENTATION:</p> <p>While some may opine -myself included- that elected schools boards might be unnecessary; yet, if locally elected boards are seen as important for local representation on issues (within their jurisdiction to control without [inciting] provincial ministerial override), then there should be Geographical Fairness.</p> <p>Saanich (& Victoria) stand to lose the most representation from this proposed system. Most of Saanich lives & attends school in SD61. Together ~160,000 folks would share 4 reps: 1:40,000. Meanwhile, OakBay, Esquimalt, ViewRoyal, Highlands together would 3 reps across combined population of 50,000. So: 1:17,000!</p> <p>[REDACTED] as a meaningful step toward T& RECONCILIATION.</p> <p>DO THIS INSTEAD: 2 FN Reps + 7 PLURALITY-AT-LARGE.</p>
211	Seems like a good idea. No concerns.
212	This issue should have been addressed ages ago! As the Board serves all stakeholders in the SD61 community, each municipality and First Nation should be represented. Inclusive & fair representation should be a given - not an option in any body that serves the public.
213	I very much support the new model being proposed for better geographical representation. Victoria has historically weighed far too heavily and this is a good change to allow all municipalities to have a voice.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
214	The ward system as presented seems like a great plan. I could not attend Tuesday night session as I was working but I look forward to hearing the feedback.
215	<p>This doesn't make a ton of sense to me for the same reason I think it makes sense to consider amalgamation between Victoria and Saanich (and possibly other municipalities later on), I don't know anyone who doesn't travel between municipalities on a daily basis. When I was a kid I lived in Victoria and all my schools were in Saanich (and they were the closest to my house). It's already hard enough to get a diverse and well educated group of people to run in the first place but putting further restrictions on the elections will create weird one-off opportunities for people to run unopposed in municipalities where nobody else wants to run. I think switching to a ward system will create further division where right now what we really need is unity and better communication.</p> <p>From what I understand, after the last election, multiple trustees moved house into other municipalities than where they lived during the election. I also understand that in city council elections, there is no restriction that says mayor and council have to live in the municipality they are running in (and few seem to have a problem with half of Victoria City Council living outside the municipality).</p>
216	No
217	<p>What kinds of changes to electoral districts (municipal) require greater public feedback, if not a referendum? Shouldn't we get feedback from the greater public if we are making changes to how they vote? (Everyone within SD61 boundaries votes, not just parents.)</p> <p>The FAQs state that a candidate chooses a municipality to run from. They aren't actually required to live in that municipality! How can they represent students from that geographical area if they don't live there?</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>In recent years, the district has emphasized with their policies that all schools are equitable and that no school is "better" than another. If there are trustees representing different municipalities, how does this system help promote inclusivity and equity? If we bring in a ward system, there is the possibility that trustees will only represent their ward district and not all students, which can create a further divide in the district, with the possibility of creating "special interests" on the board.</p> <p>The current proposal doesn't consider the actual representation of municipalities attending SD61 schools. Saanich & Victoria stand to lose the most representation from this proposed system. All of Victoria and most of Saanich lives & attends school in SD61: 160,000 folks would share 4 reps. And other municipalities such as the Highlands, OB and Esquimalt would</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	get 3 reps, across a combined population of 50,000 people. Is this truly equitable? We know that several priority schools in the District are in Saanich & Victoria and for them to lose more voices at the table could cause huge issues for schools [REDACTED]
218	<p>1) What kinds of changes to electoral districts (municipal) require greater public feedback, if not a referendum? Shouldn't we get feedback from the greater public if we are making changes to how they vote? (Everyone within SD61 boundaries votes, not just parents.) How does the district/province intend to solicit feedback from all voters before such a change is made?</p> <p>2) The FAQs state that a candidate chooses a municipality to run from. They aren't actually required to live in that municipality! How can they represent students from that geographical area if they don't live there? This is not unlike the situation we now have in municipal politics where the current mayor of Victoria doesn't reside in Victoria but lives in Saanich.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
219	<p>4) In recent years, the district has strongly emphasized with their policies that all schools are equitable and that no school is "better" than another. If there are trustees representing different municipalities, how does this system help promote inclusivity and equity? If we bring in a ward system, there is the possibility that trustees will only represent their ward district and not all students, which can create a further divide in the district, with the possibility of creating "special interests" on the board.</p> <p>5) Students may not actually attend a school in their municipality (in fact, it's quite likely). For example, those living in Victoria, may attend a school in OB or Saanich. How does the ward system truly represent students if they live in one municipality but attend school in another?</p> <p>6) The current proposal doesn't consider the actual representation of municipalities attending SD61 schools. Saanich and Victoria stand to lose the most representation from this proposed system. All of Victoria and most of Saanich lives & attends school in SD61: 160,000 folks would share four reps. And other municipalities such as the Highlands, OB and Esquimalt would get three reps, across a combined population of 50,000 people. Is this truly equitable? We know that several of the priority schools in the District are in Saanich and Victoria and for them to lose more voices at the table [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
220	<p>Personally I like the new idea of having representation of all electoral areas. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>This has not been useful in providing a balance of needs for the district. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Their mandate should be to give district students and parents the best quality educational tools to succeed [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] I vote for change!</p>
221	<p>[REDACTED] in the last election. I struggled to pick nine candidates out of the thirty and the competition was largely within a very crowded progressive lane. I think that the proposal will help bring more viewpoint diversity. I am, however, concerned that the seat distribution is inequitable. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
222	<p>As a former teacher in SD 61, I strongly feel that establishing electoral areas for trustee selection would allow for more equitable representation on the board of trustees. It is important that representatives from all regions covered by the district have input in decisions made that can affect all students, teachers, staff in the district, and consequently the general public.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
223	I am in favour of electoral areas for School Board Trustees when elections are held.
224	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
225	<No text submitted>
226	<p>I am in favour of moving to an Electoral model in 2026. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] I agree with the distribution of trustees in the proposed Electoral model as presented in the information listed above this form.</p>
227	I fully support the proposal and the new distribution of the trustees.
228	<p>I think it is totally inappropriate to be proposing changes to an electoral system when we currently have no democratically elected trustees to engage in public consultation and debate.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>The time line is too rushed to allow for authentic public engagement. I went to the Sept 9 event and counted 50 people in the room, the vast majority of whom were people already fully engaged in the process - representatives of the school district, Nations and municipalities. That is not community consultation.</p> <p>The proposed boundary changes are undemocratic. The proposed electoral boundaries do not represent population, and members of some municipalities (Esquimalt, Oak Bay, View Royal/Highlands) will have more access proportionally to their elected trustee, whereas Saanich and Victoria will have much less access. Additionally those trustees will have a far greater area to campaign within and less ability to reach their voters.</p> <p>I am in support of including protected seats for Nation representatives in all Canadian governance structures. [REDACTED]</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>This would be much better done over a longer period. Why the incredible rush?</p>
229	<p>I fully support a ward system. I've never been able to find 9 trustee candidates that I've wanted to vote for, I think the "at large" system breeds voter apathy and candidate mediocrity.</p> <p>I've lived in 2 other large Canadian cities, both with ward systems for school boards/city councils, and believe it provides greater accountability.</p> <p>[REDACTED] Victoria</p>
230	<p>I have some concerns/questions about this proposed new ward system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the general public have a chance to give feedback on the proposed system? All voters vote for trustees, not just parents of school-aged children. (I was surprised to learn that this kind of change doesn't need public feedback or a referendum - that doesn't sound very democratic to me) 2. How is this any different than the current system if candidates don't have to reside in the electoral district? 3. The proposed representation is not reflective of the population that attends SD61 schools. For example, the majority is Saanich and Victoria, so shouldn't they also have the majority representation at the school board and combine OB/View Royal/Highlands? 4. Since my child doesn't attend a school in the municipality I live in (school catchment is out of my municipality), I wouldn't even be voting for my representation, so what's the point of this new system? 5. I'm concerned that this system will create "special interest" representation on the board. Instead of representing all students in SD61, trustees will only represent those in their electoral district. What effect will this have on funding, particularly for priority schools? How does this promote equity and inclusivity? (hint: it doesn't)
231	<p>A process that mitigates self serving slates that have special interests, not aligning with the interests of the majority within the community</p>
232	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
233	<p>I am in favour of the proposal to use a ward system. in the current system it is difficult and time-consuming to obtain enough information to make an informed choice between the many contenders. This leads to some voters abstaining, some voting based on name recognition, and some choosing not to vote or to vote for a reduced number of candidates. A ward system would increase the likelihood of informed voting and reduce the likelihood of a board which does not reflect the community it serves. I do not have the knowledge to comment on whether the suggested distribution of wards is appropriate.</p>
234	<p>Yes I agree with creating electoral areas in the Great Victoria School District</p>
235	<p>It's great and I think it's a wonderful idea to get true equity across the district.</p>
236	<p><No text submitted></p>
237	<p>In regards to regional in put. The education system has a robust structure through PAC and DPAC to gather school and regional perspectives - the ministry recognized voice of parents.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>Supporting this structure to be better advocates than fundraisers would be beneficial. In regards to an elected quality board, voters need to have a broad list of candidates and ideology to choose the best of all candidates not the best of the few in their area. This allows for more diversity in elected candidates. There is no electoral change that will compel newly elected Trustees to be good govenors which seems to be the issue this change is trying to resolve. Only good quality candidates will. What if the best most informed candidate is in a different municipality (and my kids attend in that municipality cause my school is full) but they are running against a well funded, potential career hoping politician. In the ward system you will get the wellfunded smooth talker (and we need some of those) but the quiet well spoken candidate (we need them too) are elected from the larger pool as are LGBTQ candidates. We are in an area that is increasingly leaning to amalgamation, where families frequently cross borders to use services where moving across municipal borders is normal and common practise for families. I do not support the Ward system. It seems this is a manufactured problem which distracts us from the other real errors that occured but does not provide solution to those issues - but maybe makes it worse.</p>
238	<p>I agree that the nations require representation at the Board - this will remove past issues where their input was not received or heard due to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I also agree with 7 Trustees to represent the region instead of nine. The nine is more than similar sized districts and historically the bottom 2 have received a significant number less votes than the top 7 - and have also been the weakest and least prepared to be a Trustee. Nine trustees has also seen the constant 5-4 split most often seeing the bottom 2 creating the stand off. I do not agree with the ward system. Being a good trustee is not about being someone your neighbors can connect with. Trustees advocate for All students, are focused on EVERY student receiving quality equitable education no matter what school they attend. Voters need to be able to determine from a larger pool than a ward system who will respresent students first not their school or municipal wishes.</p>
239	<p>I think the suggested electoral areas would be a significant improvement over the at-large system we have now. Consituents may feel better represented by a trustee who is focused on the needs of schools in their neighbourhood, leading to broader public engagement in the whole process. While all schools in the district deal with issues relevant to all of them, trustees representing specific areas could really add true diversity to the conversations and considerations that inform the decision-making process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
240	<p>I also disagree with the timing and process of this change. Now more than ever it is critical that we demonstrate to our youth that policy, legislation and political processes are adhered to and that through lawful democratic processes and dialogue positive nonviolent changes occur. This process is a serious overstep by the current government on electoral changes. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
241	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
242	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] So if the proposal went forward it would be preferable to the current situation. Further, as the trustee noted the individuals would serve the overall District.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
243	<p>SLOW DOWN!</p> <p>This school District and the Minister continue to suffer from arbitrary timelines that severely curtail debate and public consultation. There is zero need to rush on this decision, but the Minister is forcing a reactionary measure without the proper time to reflect and do extensive consultation. This is obviously a reaction to the [REDACTED] firing of the previous board and therefore lands on a very divided community. It is currently a flawed process that needs to be slowed down and set up properly. Look to the slow, measured and thoughtful process occurring in both Saanich and Victoria over amalgamation. It is taking the time to do it right, [REDACTED]</p> <p>This should not be occurring until we have proper democratically elected trustees back in office. It is being argued that we need better local representation, but that order is coming from the province which is far removed from the local and is in fact the reason why we don't currently have proper local representation.</p> <p>It is extremely hard to accept recommendations from a Task Force when we have no knowledge around their work. Who was appointed to it as well as how and why were they appointed? How many meetings were held, what was discussed and how were decisions made? [REDACTED]</p> <p>The population and school site ratios are not appropriate. Out of 48 school sites, View Royal for example has 3 school sites which is only 6.25% of the total, but they would have almost twice that representation due to having 1 of 9 trustee positions. The ratios are not remotely appropriate. I live in Saanich and even though I would have 2 trustees under the proposed system, I'm going to have way less access to trustees due to the significantly higher population of Saanich that needs to be represented. Also, how to I hold trustees accountable for their decisions that directly affect my children when I have no ability to vote for 7 of them.</p>
244	<p>As a parent of [REDACTED] SD61 students and living in Esquimalt I support the shift proposed. The change has the potential to increase community engagement during School Trustees Election, while ensuring fair geographical representation.</p>
245	<p>I'm strongly in favour of having electoral areas.</p>
246	<p>There has been a lack of transparency in this process, a lack of sufficient consultation, concerns that those who do not live in an area can represent an area. This must go to referendum at the next election..no small group should be making the decisions. I do agree with the first Nations representation.</p>
247	<p>I think it is very important that a change of this magnitude go to a referendum. I think it shows bad faith on the ministers part to attempt to implement such a change in such a hurried manner, with such minimal consultation, when there is an appointed trustee, a pending court case on the legality of the ministers firing of the board, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and there's no referendum—this is not democratic. The data that is being used to justify the change is flimsy. We can look a municipal election results and see how people in each municipality vote and we can see from past elections that the candidates who win, receive the highest amount of votes in many municipalities, so to say that they don't represent their community is patronizing to the voters. Additionally, I am concerned with the role that</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	socioeconomic status will play into who gets elected in municipalities such as Oak Bay. The reality, is that people who live in Oak Bay have a much higher income than those in Victoria or Esquimalt. Privileging them with a seat, not based on philosophy or platform but simply living in a neighborhood is not more democratic. Trustees need to take into account the views of the entire community not their individual municipality. I do think that the local Nations should have a seats on the board of Trustees, [REDACTED]
248	It's a great idea! Allows for true equity.
249	any fundamental changes to our electoral system should be delayed until we have democratically elected trustees
250	I'm concerned that this change is being made without democratically elected trustees. As a parent and a teacher in sd61 I think we shouldn't make changes that will shape our system for years to come at a time when our voices are not officially represented.
251	Any fundamental changes to our electoral system should be delayed until we have democratically elected trustees.
252	If we are seeking to create proportionate representation, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Victoria as a city has complex and divided needs. Putting an electoral area in a core area like around [REDACTED] would give those communities with less agency a voice where currently they do not have one.
253	It is important for the nations to have this representation.
254	I am very concerned and confused as to why this process is going ahead when we don't have a democratically elected board in place
255	For the area of Highlands currently within SD 61 catchment area, does the Task Force know the number of households there, or BC School Tax payers etc.? Why is the Task Force proposing 2 trustees each for Saanich and Victoria and, what exactly was your decision based on? Why are you proposing to potentially combine Highlands and View Royal into one single election area? What exactly is the "requested variance" to trustee electoral area for the Minister's consideration in #4, page 12? On page 7, #25, what section/clause of the School Act is being referenced there? [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am supportive of a Ward System. However, with the limited information that I/we have, (in reading all the printed information) I am NOT supportive of Saanich and Victoria potentially being provided with 2 trustees each. I/We have NOT been provided with a rationale for just cause for such a proposal.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
256	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>How is this fair representation?</p>
257	I'm in favour of the new plan
258	<p>This process has been rushed through, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] also during a time with no elected board present is undemocratic. There has been a lack of transparency around the Task Force, who was appointed to it, and what was on the agenda of meetings. The proposal for the electoral areas is not an equitable distribution by population, this allows for some municipalities to have better access to elected representatives. Also I agree that the nations need to have reserved positions on the board, [REDACTED] I believe any fundamental changes to our electoral system should be delayed until we have a democratically elected board. Thank you.</p>
259	<p>I feel the shift from at large to electoral districts allows for the nations and community members to all have a say [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] I support this change for the greater good of the children, community and district as a whole!</p>
260	<p>As stated in your email: "The change has the potential to limit disproportionate representation of communities on the Board of Education"</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] that there is room for those involved to concentrate on the many, many issues that affect the large, diverse population across this district. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
261	I will not agree to any change in this model until a democratically elected board is elected and moves to consider this change.
262	<p>There has been extremely limited opportunity for community consultation and no public opportunity for debate. I counted 49 people at the community consultation night, and only identified about 10-12 of those people as being outside of the process. Compare this to how the question of amalgamation in Saanich and Victoria has been handled. There has been a lack of transparency around the work of the Task Force, who was appointed to it, how and why, when their meetings were held and what was on the agendas.</p>

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	<p>Outside of the proposal for [REDACTED] seats for the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, [REDACTED] the proposed electoral areas for the municipalities have removed representation by population. The proportional representation will be approximately Victoria, 1:50 000, Saanich, 1:60 000, Esquimalt 1:19 000 View Royal/Highlands, 1: 16 000, Oak Bay 1:18 000.</p> <p>This is not an equitable distribution and will lead to citizens in some municipalities having better access to elected representatives.</p> <p>I personally agree that reserved positions for Indigenous leadership in Canadian governance is appropriate. If Esquimalt and Songhees want reserved seats on our board, we need to hear this and act. But it is important to get this right, and that takes time and thoughtfulness.</p> <p>Changing our electoral system at a time we don't have elected representation to engage in the process is undemocratic. I asked a few municipal counsellors about how this question had been considered. Several said they had never thought of it. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
263	<p>I am deeply opposed to the proposed changes as it currently stands for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The proposed ward system does not reflect the population of the different municipalities. For example Oak Bay currently has a population of 18, 000 while Victoria has a population of 92, 000. Therefore under the proposed system a resident of Oak Bay's vote would count for over 2 1/2 as times as much as a resident of Victoria's! 2) The municipal boundaries do not match the school catchment boundaries. For example, I live in Oak Bay but my children's catchment school is in Victoria. 3) The proposed process does not allow for regular citizens to have a say on whether they approve of the changes beyond limited and extremely self-selecting, consultations. As I understand the process, the Task Force will make its recommendations to the Province, who will then decide whether or not to proceed with the changes. There is no referendum, in which residents can vote on the issue. 4) The Greater Victoria School District does not currently have a democratic mandate. The current trustee was not democratically elected but rather appointed by the provincial government following the dismissal of the previous board. I think it is fundamentally anti-democratic for the District to contemplate such a drastic change in structure until an election has been held. 5) A ward system based on the municipalities, would quite likely lead to a less political diversity among candidates. As your own data shows, few candidates come from the smaller municipalities. My fear is that many of the ward elections would be uncontested or feature maybe one other candidate, decreasing the range of policies on offer.

ID	Do you have any comment or considerations you would like to share?
	Given these reasons I am against the proposed changes. Instead I support the position put forth by the City of Victoria, which guarantees seats for Songhees & Esquimalt, given their status as sovereign nations, but preserves the at-large system for other seats.
264	<p>While I appreciate the initiative to ensure greater inclusion and representation on the Board of Trustees, I am concerned that the proposed changes do not accurately account for or fairly reflect the large populations that exist in both Saanich and Victoria. Saanich has a population of almost 120,000 while Victoria has a population of over 90,000. Meanwhile, Esquimalt and Oak Bay have populations of approximately 17,000-18,000 people each, while View Royal and Highlands have a combined population of 13,000.</p> <p>The above proposed changes arguably benefit those municipalities with fewer residents - disproportionately representing them on the Board of Trustees - and thus runs contrary to the intent of the proposal, which is to "limit disproportionate representation of communities on the Board of Education". Specifically, both Saanich and Victoria residents will be disproportionately underrepresented given their significantly larger populations.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>An alternative proposal that could be considered would be to divide the nine (9) trustee seats as follows:</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the above feedback into consideration.</p>
265	Yes, this would put neighbourhoods against each other vying for priorities. Not ideal.
266	I am in favour of this model.