



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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Monday, February 23, 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, Hervinder Parmar, Director of Finance, Budgets and Financial Reporting, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services, Josh Barks, Acting Director of 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, Vicki Roberts, VPVPA

Partners: Norm Isaac, CUPE 382, Tricia Thexton, CUPE 947, Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Saloumeh Pourmalek, VCPAC, Ahdiyeh, 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 February 23, 2026 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the January 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the January 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

A.5. District Celebrations

- a. Dr Shelly Wilton, Director of Indigenous Education, Kolette Cristante, District Vice Principal of Indigenous Education, and Michelle Newman-Bennett, Vice Principal Shoreline Middle School presented on the 3rd Annual Tri-District Lahal Tournament.

A.6. Community Presentations

- a. Jayne Imeson, parent, presented on funding for music and educational assistants in schools.
- b. Cindy Romphf, teacher from Cedar Hill Middle School, presented on the CBC Music Class Challenge.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT

C.1. Monthly Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Ongoing participation on BCSTA Policy Committee. The Policy Framework will be launched by end of February 2026.
- Visited Lansdowne Middle School (North and South Campuses)
- Attended Audit Sub-Committee meeting
- Attended presentation by Chief Constable Fiona Wilson, Chief of Police for the City of Victoria and Township of Esquimalt
- Attended meeting with Songhees Nation about the 2026 Trustee Election
- Facilitated the Partners of SD61 meeting with discussions on the 2026-2027 Annual Budget
- Participated in Student Connections meetings
- Attended Provincial Budget meeting with Board Chairs and Minister of Education and Child Care Beare and Minister of Infrastructure Ma
- Provided an update to the 2026-2027 Budget Development Process specific to the location and format of the public meeting on March 30, 2026

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Audit Sub-Committee

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided a summary of the Audit Sub-Committee meeting held on February 9, 2026. New business included the review of the December 2025 Quarterly Financial Report and recommendations on financial reporting.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the December 2025 Quarterly Financial Report.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the financial reporting recommendations as presented to the Audit Sub-Committee to better align financial reporting with Ministry of Education and Child Care’s K-12 Public Education Financial Planning and Reporting Policy and the Financial Health Working Group’s recommendations included in the document Financial Governance and Accountability.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1. Superintendent’s Report

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report and a mid-year update to the ESLR.

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

b. 2028-2029 School Calendar

Deputy Superintendent Aerts presented the school calendar update for information.

c. Revision and/or Deletion of Board Policies

i. Deletion of Board Policies

Superintendent Whitten provided rationale for the deletion of sixteen Board policies.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

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

Policy 1311.1	Polling at Schools
Policy 1322.1	Student Participation in Public Contests and Events
Policy 1332.4	Community Use of School Facilities
Policy 1332.5	Community Use of School Facilities Lacrosse on School Grounds
Policy 2120.015	Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Policy 3313.0	School Meal Program
Policy 5130	Technology Education and Student Safety
Policy 5135.0	Student Transition
Policy 5142	Blood-Borne Diseases
Policy 6142.04	First Nations Education
Policy 6151	Class Size
Policy 6155	Variety of Schools
Policy 6161.2	Canadian Content
Policy 6162.8	District Assessment of Programs and Students
Policy 6162.9	Prior Learning Assessment: Challenge and Equivalency
Policy 6164.3	Consumption of Nutritious Foods

ii. Revised Policy 1300 Acceptable Use of Digital Technology

Acting Director of Information Technology Barks presented revised Policy 1300 Acceptable Use of Digital Technology.

Partners had questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Policy 1300 Acceptable Use of Digital Technology.

E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided thanks to Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, and Hervinder Parmer, Director of Finance, Budgets and Financial Reporting and the entire Financial Services team for all their work on the 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget.

Secretary-Treasurer Stride presented the 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of the 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the Regular Board meeting on February 23, 2026.

The Official Trustee passed three readings of the following bylaw:

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2025-2026 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$340,965,481 be:

Read a first time the 23rd day of February, 2026;

Read a second time the 23rd day of February, 2026;

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 23rd day of February, 2026;

And that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Official Trustee be authorized to sign, seal and execute this Bylaw on behalf of the Board.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$1,307,211 of the projected unrestricted operating surplus at June 30, 2026 to be carried forward and applied towards the projected deficit for the 2026-2027 Annual Budget.

b. 2026 Water Sampling Report

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

c. 2026-2027 Budget Update

i. 2026-2027 Ministry-Funded Enrolment Projections

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the 2026-2027 Ministry-funded enrolment projections for information.

ii. Student Connections

Secretary-Treasurer Stride presented an overview of the Student Connections meetings held on February 12, 2026 which were attended by 85 middle and secondary school students.

d. Monthly Financial Report: January 2026

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the report for information. It was noted that, due to the approved financial reporting recommendations, the Monthly Financial Report and the Budget Change Report will no longer be presented in the Regular Board meeting.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Q: Is there an update on the application to the Ministry on the extension of Cedar Hill Middle School?

A: Secretary-Treasurer Stride stated that the expansion request was included in the Five-Year Capital Plan submitted to the Ministry in June 2025, and a response is not anticipated until mid-March 2026.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – January 19, 2026

G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 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 8:11 p.m.

Official Trustee

Secretary-Treasurer