



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

**Regular Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

**Monday, March 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m.**

Official Trustee: Sherri Bell

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Deputy Superintendent, Sean Powell, Associate Superintendent, Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, 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, Vicki Roberts, VPVPA

Songhees Nation: Anevay Quocksister, Student Success Manager

Partners: Norm Isaac, CUPE 382, Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Cindy Romphf, GVTA, Saloumeh Pourmalek, VCPAC

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

This 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 March 9, 2026 agenda be approved.

**A.3. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Approval of the February 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the February 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

**A.4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**A.5. District Celebrations**

- a. Associate Superintendent Powell presented on the School Food Sustainability grants in the District.

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

**A.6. Community Presentations**

None.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT**

**C.1. Monthly Report**

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Extended congratulations to GVTA on the ratification of a four-year collective agreement
- Attended the Oak Bay Young Exceptional Star (YES) Awards
- Ongoing participation on BCSTA Policy Committee. The Policy Framework has now been released.
- Attended meeting with Esquimalt Nation about the 2026 Trustee Election
- Attended fundraiser hosted by 1000 x 5 Children's Book Recycling Project
- Provided an update on the 2026-2027 Budget Development Process including a reminder of the public meeting on March 30

**D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**E.1. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

**b. Deletion of Board Policies**

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

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

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

Policy 1422	Recognition of Significant Contributions to the District
Policy 3323	Purchasing Services

**E.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

**a. Quarterly Facilities Operations and Capital Projects Update: March 2026**

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

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

**F. QUESTION PERIOD**

**Q:** Will there be an opportunity in the budget process to consider the current need for students to complete upgrading prior to attending post-secondary?

**A:** Official Trustee replied that Superintendent Whitten and Director of Indigenous Education Wilton will arrange a time to meet and respond to the question.

**Q:** What will happen to the \$4.6 million risk reserve held by the Ministry for Cedar Hill Middle School if there are no risks?

**A:** Secretary-Treasurer Stride replied that the Ministry currently holds the risk reserve funding and, if the District does not require the funding, it will remain with the Ministry.

**G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

**G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – February 23, 2026**

**G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – March 4, 2026**

**H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**H.1. New Business**

None.

**H.2. Notice of Motions**

None.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The Official Trustee adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Official Trustee

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Secretary-Treasurer