



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

**Regular Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

**Monday, April 20, 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, 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, Carolyn Howe, GVTA

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**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 April 20, 2026 agenda be approved.

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

a. Approval of the March 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the March 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved.

- b. Approval of the April 8, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the April 8, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes be approved.

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

None.

**A.5. District Celebrations**

- a. Teacher Librarian Aerts and students from Gordon Head Middle School presented on Battle of the Books.
- b. Victoria High School students Annie Dos Santos, Ephrata Abebe, Ila Woodrow, Pia Guerrero, Mim Campbell and Molly Descantes (founder) presented on the second annual student-organized Wellness Fair.

**A.6. Community Presentations**

None.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

- B.1.** March 20, 2026, CUPE 947 to Official Trustee and Superintendent Whitten, 2026-2027 Budget
- B.2.** April 8, 2026, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils to Official Trustee, 2026-2027 Budget
- B.3.** April 8, 2026, Advocacy for Music in Schools to Official Trustee and Superintendent Whitten, 2026-2027 Budget

**C. OFFICIAL TRUSTEE REPORT**

**C.1. Monthly Report**

- a. Monthly Report

Official Trustee Bell provided a verbal report:

- Acknowledged and honoured the lives of respected Elders of the Songhees Nation, Frank George and Skip Dick
- Attended the Lahal tournament for middle school students held at Shoreline Middle School

- Facilitated the Partners of SD61 meeting with discussions on the 2026-2027 Annual Budget
- Attended public budget meeting
- Ongoing participation on BCSTA Policy Committee
- Attended the BCSTA conference and AGM

b. Board Policy Review for Boards of Education

Official Trustee Bell provided highlights from the report.

**A. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**B. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

**B.1. Superintendent's Report**

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Whitten provided the report for information.

Official Trustee Bell had questions of clarification.

b. 2028-2029 School Calendar

Deputy Superintendent Aerts presented the proposed 2028-2029 school calendar for approval to post it on the District website for a one-month public review period.

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 posting of the following 2028-2029 school calendar on the School District website for a period of one month.

c. Deletion of Board Policies

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

Partners had questions of clarification. Policy 4115.4 *Position (Job) Sharing* was removed from the deletion list and will be discussed further at a future Partners of SD61 meeting.

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 4213      Universal Precautions Procedures

Policy 4301	Non-Professional Personnel – Performance Appraisal
Policy 6120.1	Programs of Choice
Policy 6141.1	Board Authority Authorized Courses
Policy 6142.05	Education of Students or Learners with Gifted Abilities

## **B.2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

### **a. 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Bylaw**

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided an overview of the minor and major capital projects approved for Ministry funding and highlighted the requirement for the Board to approve the 2026-2027 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan Bylaw in order to receive funding for these projects.

The Official Trustee had questions of clarification.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Official Trustee of The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD61-01 at the April 20, 2026 Board meeting.

The Official Trustee passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD61-01 for the 2026/27 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 27, 2026, be:

Read a first time this 20th day of April, 2026;

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD61-01 for the 2026/27 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 27, 2026, be:

Read a second time this 20th day of April, 2026;

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD61-01 for the 2026/27 Annual Five-Year Capital Plan as approved by the Minister, to include the supported capital project(s) specified in the letter addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent, dated March 27, 2026, be:

Read a third time, passed and adopted this 20th day of April, 2026;

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

b. 2026-2027 Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Expenditure Plan Submission

Secretary-Treasurer Stride presented highlights of the 2026-2027 AFG Expenditure Plan Submission, totaling \$5.9 million. It was noted that AFG funding for 2026-2027 increased by \$292K compared to the previous year.

**F. QUESTION PERIOD**

None.

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

**G.1. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – March 9, 2026

**G.2. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting** – March 23, 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 7:35 p.m.

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Official Trustee

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Secretary-Treasurer