



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting**

AGENDA

Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Broadcasted via YouTube

<https://bit.ly/3czx8bA>

Chairperson: Trustee Mahbobi

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

A.2. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:
That the September 14, 2026 agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Recommended Motion:
That the January 13, 2025 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes, be approved.

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Motion

Recommended Motion:
That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent to collaborate with Registered Sign Language Interpreters (RSLI), relevant employee groups, and Ministry partners to explore the design and implementation of permanent RSLI positions within an integrated team structure. And further, that the Superintendent provide a progress update to the Board by January 2027 regarding the status of these consultations and any proposed framework.

C.2. Motion

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) approve Draft Policy 5145 Police Questioning of Students in School.

C.3. Motion

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent to establish a working group to include, but not limited to, student representatives, parents, teachers, and external specialists, to review Policy and Regulation 5140.1 Child Abuse, and report with recommendations not later than the January 2027 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting, with consideration for:

1. the provision of annual, age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse prevention to all students;
2. provision of regular in-service professional development for all staff who engage regularly with students;
3. guidance material for staff that meets current legal requirements, includes emerging online harms and non-consensual distribution of intimate images, and facilitates trauma-informed support for students at risk or reporting abuse; and,
4. the provision of relevant guidance material to parents and caregivers via the district website.

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

That the meeting adjourn.

Note: This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Education Policy and
Directions Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

Monday, January 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Trustees Present: **Education Policy and Directions members:** Emily Mahbobi (Chair), Natalie Baillaut, Mavis David, Nicole Duncan (Ex Officio)

Trustee Regrets: Diane McNally

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent, Sean Powell, Acting Associate Superintendent, Connor McCoy, VPVPA, Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services

Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Cindy Romphf, GVTA, Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Mahbobi 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

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the January 13, 2025 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

That the December 2, 2024 Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes as they pertain to Education Policy and Directions Committee, be approved.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Duncan

D.1.

Trustees and partners reviewed the proposed equity audit recommended by the committee and raised questions for clarification. ~~After further discussion, it was agreed that the Operations Policy and Planning Committee would not endorse the equity audit.~~ Trustees suggested that the Equity Ad Hoc Committee continue its work on the motion carried by the Board during the Special Open Board of Education Meeting on October 1, 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

That the December 2, 2024 Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes as they pertain to Education Policy and Directions Committee, be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

None.

C. NEW BUSINESS

- C.1.** Acting District Vice-Principal Blecic and District Career Education Coordinator Alexander presented on career development in the District. Career Center Coordinator, Tarra Clarke, and Career Center Department Head, Ken Henderson, highlighted Esquimalt Secondary students and the career education team.

Trustees thanked staff for the presentation and the work that they do.

- C.2.** Trustee Duncan presented Draft Policy 5145, *Police Questioning in Schools* for feedback.

By consensus it was decided that feedback be provided at the February 3, 2025 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting.

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee David

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

DRAFT

POLICY 5145

POLICE QUESTIONING OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Adopted: []

Revised:

Frequency of Review: []

The Board is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students. That commitment extends to the Board's responsibility to protect the interests and rights of students in its care in a manner consistent with the law.

The Board believes that school is not a proper place for the police to conduct interviews of students. Therefore, police interviews with students should not be conducted at school except in emergency situations. The Board of Education (the "Board") expects that unless there is an emergency School District staff will advise police to contact the students' parent(s)/guardian(s) by telephone and to make arrangements to interview a student. The Board recognizes that in an emergency it may be necessary for the police to conduct an interview at school subject to the policies and regulations established by the Board and in accordance with the relevant law. In any case, the Board expects that School District staff act in compliance with the law and in accordance with Board policies and regulations to ensure the rights and interests of students are upheld.

The Board considers that it has a responsibility to protect the interests and rights of students in its care in a manner consistent with the law. School District staff should take immediate steps to inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) when a students' rights or interests are a matter of concern.

The Board expects that the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted by telephone immediately upon the Administrator or their delegate receiving notice of the police request to interview a student. The Administrator or their delegate will inform the police that they should make arrangements to interview the student through that student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

- 1) In an emergency where the police insist on conducting an interview of a student at school the Administrator or their delegate should take the following actions as appropriate:
 - i. Contact by telephone and wait for, in the following order of precedence: (a) the student's parent(s)/guardian(s); (b) another adult relative; or (c) a trusted adult of the student's choosing.

- ii. Contact by telephone and wait for legal counsel for the student in question, including by assisting the student with accessing legal aid. In British Columbia, legal aid is freely available for youth under the age of 18 who face potential criminal sanctions.
- iii. Explain to the student that they are allowed to have both their lawyer and a parent, close relative, or trusted adult present when questioned by the police.
- iv. Ensure the student has been informed of their rights. The student should be informed of their rights immediately, in language appropriate to their level of understanding. These rights include the right to remain silent, the right to counsel, and the right to know why they are being detained.
- v. Ensure that the student is safe from violence, racially derogatory language, or otherwise abusive treatment of the student by the police. This includes, for instance, the student being kept safe from the use of strip searches at school.
- vi. Document all police interactions with students, including the reason for the interaction, the individuals involved, and any outcomes.

Administrators or any other school district staff should not present themselves as the student's legal advocate, and should clarify this point to the student prior to the police interview. It is misrepresentation to claim to be a legal representative when you do not have this authority.

- 2) In rare circumstances, at the request of a student, or their parent(s)/ guardian(s), where the student is a victim of an alleged crime the police may be asked to attend the school to conduct an interview. In such a case the Administrator or their delegate will:
 - i) Consider whether it is appropriate to notify the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), or to make other appropriate notifications such as those related to child protection; and
 - ii) Ensure that appropriate supports are provided to the student, such as from a counselor, Youth and Family Counselor (YFC), or social worker.