



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

Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting

MINUTES

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

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

Operations Policy and Planning Committee members: Angela Carmichael, Karin Kwan, Rob Paynter

Songhees Nation: Anevay Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Norman Isaac, CUPE 382, Kristina Preston, GVTA, Saloumeh Pourmalek, 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 David

That the September 14, 2026 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

None.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Motion

Moved by Trustee Kwan

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.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Baillaut

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent **or delegate** to collaborate with Registered Sign Language Interpreters (RSLI), ~~relevant employee groups,~~ **Deaf and hard of hearing students, parents, caregivers and guardians, VCPAC, CUPE 947, CUPE 382, GVTA, VPVPA, IEC, POPDHH** and Ministry partners to explore the design and implementation of permanent RSLI positions within an integrated team structure. And further, that the Superintendent **or delegate** provide a progress update to the Board by January 2027 regarding the status of these consultations and any proposed framework.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Kwan

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent or delegate to collaborate with Registered Sign Language Interpreters (RSLI), Deaf and hard of hearing students, parents, caregivers and guardians, VCPAC, CUPE 947, CUPE 382, GVTA, VPVPA, IEC, POPDHH and Ministry partners to explore the design and implementation of permanent RSLI positions within an integrated team structure. And further, that the Superintendent or delegate provide a progress update to the Board by January 2027 regarding the status of these consultations and any proposed framework.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C.2. Motion

Moved by Trustee Duncan

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

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the motion “That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) approve Draft Policy 5145 Police Questioning of Students in School.” be referred to the October 13, 2026 Joint Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting pending further consultation.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C.3. Motion

Moved by Trustee Paynter

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.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent **or delegate** to establish a working group to include, but not limited to, student representatives, parents, teachers, **VCPAC appointed parent reps, CUPE 947 reps, and CUPE 382 reps**, 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, **developmentally** age-appropriate instruction, **and culturally responsive training** 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.
5. **Provision of information to students regarding the post disclosure process when the abuse is or is not familial.**
6. **Developmentally appropriate information regarding the fact that there is no statute of limitations in Canada for filing criminal charges or a civil suit in regards to sexual abuse.**

Motion Carried Unanimously

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of the Greater Victoria School District (No.61) direct the Superintendent or delegate to establish a working group to include, but not limited to, student representatives, parents, teachers, VCPAC appointed parent reps, CUPE 947 reps, and CUPE 382 reps, 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, developmentally ~~age~~-appropriate instruction, and culturally responsive training 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.
5. Provision of information to students regarding the post disclosure process when the abuse is or is not familial.
6. Developmentally appropriate information regarding the fact that there is no statute of limitations in Canada for filing criminal charges or a civil suit in regards to sexual abuse.

Motion Carried Unanimously

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 7:38 p.m.