



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

AGENDA

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Broadcasted via YouTube

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

Chairperson: Trustee Mahbobi (Education Policy), Trustee Paynter (Operations Policy)

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 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda

Recommended Motion:

That the October 13, 2026 Combined Education Policy and Directions and Operations Policy and Planning Committees meeting agenda be approved.

B. EDUCATION POLICY AND DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

B.1. Approval of the Minutes

Recommended Motion:

That the September 14, 2026 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

B.2. Business Arising from Minutes

C. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1. Revised Draft Policy 5145

Recommended Motion:

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

D.2. Policy 1300 Acceptable Use of Technology and Regulation 1300.3 Student Acceptable Use of Digital Technology

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent or delegate to review Policy 1300 and Regulation 1300.3 and to recommend changes to support students to use their own devices to access educational materials at school by the December 2026 Board meeting.

E. NOTICE OF MOTION

F. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

G. OPERATIONS POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

G.1. Approval of the Minutes

Recommended Motion:

That the September 21, 2026 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes be approved.

G.2. Business Arising from Minutes

H. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

J. PERSONNEL ITEMS

K. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

L. FACILITIES PLANNING

M. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

N. NEW BUSINESS

N.1. Budget Transparency

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) amend Policy 3501 Annual Operating Budget by adding the following statement: School annual operating budgets will be made available upon request without the need to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent or designate to amend Administrative Procedure 3501: Annual Operating Budget to ensure that the annual budget development process includes meaningful consultation with the District's Partners Table and the public, including at least one publicly advertised town hall and one Partners Table meeting; that the District form a Budget Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations on the proposed budget; that relevant budget information be made available in advance of consultation; and that a summary of feedback received through the consultation process be published and provided to the Board prior to final budget deliberations.

N.2. Climate: Waste Management and Procurement

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) make the following amendments to Policy 4216.22 Energy, Environment and Climate Change:

POLICY 4216.22 ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Board of Education takes it as its responsibility to ensure that every effort is made to conserve energy and resources in order to reduce the District's carbon foot print. This requires an ongoing, integrated and systematic approach to energy management, including assessing performance, setting measurable goals, ~~creating~~ updating and being accountable to a Climate Action Plan, and tracking and communicating results.

Greenhouse emission reduction is the joint responsibility of the trustees, administrators, staff, and students. Every employee is expected to be cognizant of their energy use and contribute to energy efficiencies.

In concert with the Facilities department, it will be the school-based principal's responsibility to ensure the judicious use of resources and the school's various energy systems in order that energy efficiency is maintained on a daily basis.

The Board of Education will endeavor to comply with and, where practicable, exceed all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

Our Guiding Principles:

1. To integrate environmentally sustainable considerations into all our business decisions.
2. To ensure staff, students, and parents are fully aware of our policy, actions and results.
3. To make suppliers and clients aware of our policy and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable environmental management practices.

4. To review, report and continually strive to improve our environmental sustainability performance.

Greater Victoria School District

Adopted: October 20, 2008

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) make the following amendments to Policy 3324 The Environment:

POLICY 3324 THE ENVIRONMENT

Rationale

As of August 2026, Policy 3324 has not been updated since 1990. In that time, the climate crisis has become a reality due to emissions of greenhouse gases. The Board of School Trustees recognizes the importance of taking serious climate action which includes: reducing actual greenhouse emissions, ensuring School District Policy and practice adhere to local environmental bylaws, and being a leader in the Greater Victoria community and the broader community of BC school districts.

The Board of School Trustees believes that the maintenance of our environment is necessary to the quality of our lives. Further, it believes that the district and its schools have the responsibility of fostering and reinforcing positive environmental concepts, concepts that will enhance the relationship between living things and their natural and built surroundings.

The introduction of these concepts must begin early in the life of each child in order to develop a responsible environmental ethic which will be sustained throughout life.

Policy

A. ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

1. *Purchasing*

- a. ~~Where feasible, and a~~At all School District 61 work sites, products shall be purchased that are manufactured from recycled materials. Paper must be 100% post-consumer recycled or FSC-certified (Forest Stewardship Council) recycled. Electronics must be ENERGY STAR, EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool), or equivalent certified when replaced.
- b. The purchase of single-use plastic items is prohibited at all School District 61 work sites, except where required for accessibility, health, or safety purposes. The purchase of the following items is prohibited without exception: single-use plastic cutlery, straws, and cups; single-use or plastic promotional items/swag.
- c. ~~b.~~ Where products are similar in function, the following criteria will be prioritized in purchasing, in order of importance, (1) not burning fossil fuels in any aspect of daily function, (2) locally manufactured

and/or sold, (3) made of renewable non-plastic materials, and (4) energy efficiency that is the least harmful to the environment shall be purchased.

2. *Waste Management*

- a. The district shall substantially reduce paper waste.
- b. The district shall foster environmental practices based on the concepts: reduce, reuse, recycle.

c. ~~Where feasible, waste products shall be recycled.~~ The District shall implement a full recycling and composting system at all School District 61 work sites. The program shall include outreach and educational materials to ensure its proper use. The District commits to ending the practice of sending recyclable and compostable materials to the landfill in the 2027-2028 school year budget.

d. The district shall encourage ~~the participation of staff,~~ students and parents ~~in~~ to use the recycling program. The program shall be implemented by custodial staff and will not rely on custodial, teacher, educational assistant (EA), principal or vice-principal, parent, or student volunteers.

3. *Facilities Management*

- a. The district shall practice energy conservation in the operation of all facilities and equipment.

b. The district shall use, ~~where feasible,~~ environmentally friendly products for all facilities, equipment, and grounds. This means selecting the option with the lowest lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions and lowest amount of waste during operation and at end-of-life.

c. As of the 2027-2028 school year, the district shall no longer approve plans to install gas boilers in new buildings. Where the Ministry of Education will fund retrofitting or upgrading existing school heat systems, the District commits to phasing out existing gas boilers as they come to their end-of-life and replacing them with electric heating and cooling systems.

d. The District commits to reviewing and updating their Climate Action Plan annually with input from GVTA, CUPE 947, CUPE 382, parents, and students. The district will publish an annual report which evaluates progress towards the Climate Action Plan objectives, commitments, and annual district greenhouse gas emissions. The district will use a consistent methodology for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions.

4. *Transportation*

- A. By June 2028, the district shall ensure that each school site has covered and secure bike storage.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1. *Integrated Environmental Studies*

a. The district shall foster the use of an environmental theme, at every level, as a focus for integrating existing curriculum.

b. The district shall encourage inclusion of environmental education resources in school library/resource centres.

2. *Environmental Studies*

a. The District shall encourage the inclusion of Ministry of Education and locally developed Environmental Studies course and/or units in the program offerings of schools.

3. *Environmental Field Trip Sites*

a. The district shall support learning activities that utilize a wide range of appropriate environmental field trips.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

1. The district encourages will consideration of environmental impact in the planning of all operational and educational programs.

2. The district encourages school-based leadership in environmental education at each school.

3. The district shall respond to identified environmental education needs as resources permit, including such measures as:

- a. providing appropriate environmental resources to schools;
- b. providing instructional assistance and in-service to school personnel;
- c. coordinating appropriate community-district environmental initiatives.

4. The district will endeavour to work with community and government agencies in supporting good environmental practices.

Greater Victoria School District

Adopted: May 28, 1990

O. NOTICE OF MOTION

P. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

That the meeting be adjourned.

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, 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.

POLICY 5145

POLICE QUESTIONING OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Adopted: []

Revised:

Frequency of Review: []

The Board of Education (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. An emergency is a sudden, urgent, and critical situation that poses an immediate threat to life, health, safety, or property, requiring immediate police intervention or enforcement action. 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. Nothing in this policy or any administrative regulation relieves police of their responsibility to provide any caution, rights information, explanation, or opportunity to consult with counsel or another person required by law.
- 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, not requesting, authorizing, participating in, or facilitating unlawful, discriminatory, coercive, degrading, humiliating, abusive, or unnecessarily intrusive treatment of a student. 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 there is a legal duty 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.



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

Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Trustees Present: **Operations Policy and Planning members:** Rob Paynter (Chair), Derek Gagnon, Angela Carmichael, Nicole Duncan (Ex Officio)

Trustee Regrets: Karin Kwan

Administration: Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services

Songhees Nation: Anevey Belliveau, Student Success Manager

Partners: Shawna Abbott, CUPE 947, Chris Clarke, GVTA, Nyssa Temmel, VCPAC

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

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the September 21, 2026 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the January 20, 2025 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

None.

C. PERSONNEL ITEMS

None.

D. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

None.

E. FACILITIES PLANNING

E.1. Quarterly Facilities Operations and Capital Project Update: September 2026

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

F. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent or delegate to add the following statement to the Facility rentals page (<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/departments-services/facility-rentals/>):

Greater Victoria School District grounds and facilities are first and foremost a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students and staff. Facility use must align with the principles of equity, inclusion, and respect, ensuring that all participants feel safe and welcomed.

The District will not permit space to groups or individuals that promote hatred, violence, discrimination or bias against any groups or individuals based on prohibited grounds of discrimination under the Human Rights Code.

And further add the following stipulations to the Rental Conditions:

The School District reserves the right to terminate any rental agreement:

- If the event, its organizers, or associated individuals engage in or promote activities that are found to be discriminatory, exclusionary, or harmful to marginalized groups.
- If the user, their organization, or key affiliates are found to have engaged in conduct, publicly or privately, that promote, or support hate speech, discrimination, or violence against any group or individual whether within or outside the context of the rental.

If misrepresentation of the event or violation of these principles is identified prior to or during the event, the School District reserves full discretion to cancel the agreement without refund and deny future rental requests.

Motion Carried Unanimously

H. NOTICE OF MOTION

I. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Gagnon

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

DRAFT