

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**August 27, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**TRUSTEES:** Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair  
Christine Lervold  
Allison Watson  
Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair  
Trudy Spiller

**STAFF:** Paul Block, Superintendent  
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer  
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent  
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent  
David Strange, Associate Superintendent  
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources  
Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, Digital Solutions  
Nicole Gestwa, Computer Support Network Analyst

**REGRETS:** Russ Chipps  
Ebony Logins

**SECRETARY:** Jenny Seal

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**  
The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by the Board Chair, who acknowledged the traditional territories of the First Nations.
  
2. **AGENDA**
  - 2.1 Call for amendments and additional items
    1. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of August 27, 2024, as presented.  
**CARRIED**



2.2 Report on In Camera Meeting – Amanda Dowhy

This notice is to inform the public that prior to this meeting an “in-camera” meeting of the Board was held where issues of legal, land and personnel were discussed.

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

2. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of June 25, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair acknowledged work being done over the summer to prepare for the return of students and staff and welcomed everyone back.

5. **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Letter from Metis Nation dated July 22, 2024, RE: Bill 40 and establishment of IEC. The Superintendent acknowledged the relationship between the District and the Metis Nation. Details of the recently released terms of reference for Indigenous Education Councils (IEC) were discussed regarding inclusion of Urban Indigenous peoples. District staff have been invited and sit as non-voting members of the IEC.

3. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the letter from Metis Nation dated July 22, 2024, RE: Bill 40 and establishment of IEC.

CARRIED

Two letters received from Mayor Maja Tait, District of Sooke re:

Sooke Elementary ([link](#))

Traffic Management Solutions ([link](#))

6.2 Standing Delegations (STA, CUPE, PVP, SPEAC) – 5 minutes each

STA – Rita Zeni

The STA acknowledged the loss of one of their members over the summer and offered condolences to their family.



Teachers are busy preparing classrooms for startup making them welcoming to students. The STA has been busy fielding calls from members seeking information about returning to work from leave.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

CUPE also acknowledged the loss of a district staff member over the summer. It is a reminder to keep open communication and of the value of relationships within our district.

Ms. Leonard acknowledged the hard work of staff over the summer, particularly Facilities staff, and the importance of recognition.

PVP – Jen Nixon & Ruchi McArthur

The SPVPA offered condolences regarding the passing of a staff member. Looking forward to another year and partnerships. Ms. Nixon shared that while Principals and Vice Principals are the ‘face’ of the school, all the staff work together to create the school community.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The first in-person meeting with Executive went well. The first SPEAC meeting will be September 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings this year will be held in Lekwungen Room at the School Board Office, allowing for online participation.

**7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

**7.1 Major Capital Update – Harold Cull**

Staff gave a “shout out” to the 12-month staff who work over the summer. Planning continues on North Langford Secondary and the PDR report submission. David Cameron and Ruth King prefabricated classroom schedule is a week and a half behind with occupancy expected September 16<sup>th</sup>. A mitigation strategy is in place and students will be accommodated within their schools.

The field at SCÍΛNEW STĒLITĪKĒL has been prepped and seeded. The project is on time and on budget to open September 2025.

**8. EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- 8.1 Trustee Beaton discussed preparation for the 2025/26 budget season and the need for a report on the efficacy of early learning supports and interventions. The scope of the report was addressed as well as partner groups being involved and the process around the Board receiving the report.

4. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson



That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct staff to produce a report on the efficacy of the early learning supports and interventions within SD62 for the Board of Education to review prior to the 2025/26 budget deliberations.

CARRIED

**9. STUDENTS**

**9.1 2024/25 Enrolment Update – Monica Braniff**

Staff provided an initial enrolment update to the Board of Education. This very early look at enrolment shows the district is on track for meeting and likely exceeding the target number of 13,065 K-12 students which is a 300-400 increase in student enrolment since September 2023. Growth over the summer is consistent with last summer at approximately 200 students. Indications are staffing levels are appropriate as planned but monitoring continues.

**10. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

**10.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education will present to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission.**

Trustee Watson provided update regarding upcoming BCSTA elections.

**11. ADMINISTRATION**

**11.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy**

The Board Chair provided an overview of the work plan to the Board of Education.

**12. PERSONNEL**

**12.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block**

The Superintendent welcomed everyone back and thanked the standing delegations for attending this August Board meeting. In addition, he acknowledged staff for summer work, particularly CUPE and Facilities, 12-month district clerical, Finance, Human Resources and Transportation. Recognition went out to Principals and Vice Principals who ran summer learning. Executive team members were recognized for their work over the summer. The work of the Board was highlighted as we look to engage and develop our new Strategic Plan as well as the Board's engagement with T'Sou-ke Nation during the Board retreat on August 22, 2024. The Superintendent also spoke about the Leadership Team Retreat on August 27<sup>th</sup> hosted at Sc'ianew Nation, and the amazing opportunity and engagement with the Nation's leadership and Elders.

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**13.1 SEAPARC Strategic Plan Virtual Focus Group Session Sept. 18, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.**



Discussion ensued around the best way to provide feedback to SEAPARC on current needs.

5. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) accept the invitation from SEAPARC and direct staff to represent our school district at their September 18, 2024 virtual focus group session.

**DEFEATED**

6. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Superintendent to provide feedback directly to SEAPARC on behalf of the Sooke School District as per their request in their letter of July 29, 2024.

**DEFEATED**

**14. FUTURE ITEMS**

Labour Day September 2, 2024

**15. QUESTION PERIOD**


Members of the public can ask questions related to agenda items discussed at tonight's meeting using the QA function in MS Teams. Individuals must identify themselves and ask questions directed to the Chair. Members of the media can direct their questions to the Manager, Strategic Communications for response following the meeting.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Certified Correct:

  
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Chairperson of the Board

  
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Secretary-Treasurer

