

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
October 22, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Ebony Logins (virtual – MS Teams)
Christine Lervold
Allison Watson
Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair
Russ Chipps (virtual – MS Teams)
Trudy Spiller

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
David Strange, Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, Digital Solutions
Beth Kim, Digital Asset Management Analyst, Digital Solutions

REGRETS: Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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

22. **MOVED** Allison Watson/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of October 22, 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

23. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of September 24, 2024, as presented.
CARRIED

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair discussed the recent provincial election and the campaign preceding. The effect of this on the school communities can't be ignored and she called on members of the District to uphold the values and beliefs of the District. Low voter turnout was disappointing and the close election results highlight the importance of every vote. Considering this, the Board and District will continue to protect the human rights of students and families, protect Indigenous rights and ensure safety and inclusivity in schools.

The Trustee/Student Forum and other upcoming engagement events were discussed. Transportation bus passes have been delivered to schools. This allows the District to collect an accurate picture of ridership and shift as needed. A reminder regarding the availability of fee waivers was given. In closing, the Board Chair shared her reading of *Atomic Habits* by James Clear, in which the author draws attention to systems that are not geared towards neurodiverse learners; a reminder that we all learn differently.

5. **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 School Trip - Huntington Beach, California – Royal Bay Secondary School– Jacob Wheating

This trip will provide an opportunity for students in the Girls Lacrosse Program to attend the Surf City Winter Classic lacrosse tournament in Huntington Beach, California, January 30, 2025 to February 3, 2025.



24. **MOVED Allison Watson/Christine Lervold**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Royal Bay Secondary School Trip to Huntington Beach, California, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.
CARRIED

Trustee Beaton declared a conflict of interest for item 5.2

- 5.2 School Trip – Alaskan Cruise – Royal Bay Secondary Music Program – Karen Snowsell
Karen Snowsell will be taking approximately 100 students from various music programs who will get to perform on the ship. Students from other parts of BC will also be attending. This trip was chosen by parents and fundraising started last year. Concerns were brought up regarding the environmental impact of cruises. It was suggested that these concerns are important and best addressed through a revision of the existing policy. Also noted, was the gendered language in the trip package and a request for forms across the District be updated.

25. **MOVED Allison Watson/Trudy Spiller**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Royal Bay Secondary Music Program Alaskan Cruise, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.
CARRIED 6/1.

- 5.3 School trip – Galapagos – Belmont/EMCS – Megan Bondurant
Environmental fees make this trip more expensive, and flights are long, however, students will be experiencing a tremendous amount of culture. The Galapagos Islands are known as a living museum of natural history.

26. **MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Belmont/EMCS School Trip to Galapagos, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.
CARRIED

6. **CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Email from Dr. R Nelems RE Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Report dated September 26 2024.



27. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence.
CARRIED

- b. School District 62 Advocacy Letter to Provincial MLA Candidates

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

STA – Mary McEachern

Mary McEachern introduced herself as a teacher of grade 1 at Wishart Elementary. She is on the Joint Education Change Committee (JECC). Being on the Executive, she works with the District Health and Safety Committee, the Joint Integration Implementation Committee (JIIC) and the STA Bargaining Committee. She shared her appreciation for the Board Chair's acknowledgement of neurodivergent student learning needs. She noted that Employer-STA relations are improved.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The next SPEAC meeting is November 20th. SPEAC will be participating in the Strategic Plan District Partners Forum on November 25, 2024. SPEAC is anticipating the results of the recent provincial election.

CUPE 459 – Dana Savage

Amber Leonard is away, and Dana Savage spoke in her absence. Amber Leonard has been acclaimed as the CUPE 459 President and Trudy Court as the Vice-president. There is much work happening around the District while students and staff settle in. CUPE is looking forward to the management led Pro-D day coming up November 22nd.

PVP – Krista Leaky

Krista Leaky shared a presentation featuring recent events at various schools. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was marked by a choir singing over the PA, drumming, sharing circles, art projects, button making, roasting Bannock over a fire and assemblies. The Terry Fox Run was held and fundraising efforts for Cancer research were recognized. A student vote was held at Centre Mountain Lellum and Poirier and welcome back BBQs took place at Dunsmuir and École John Stubbs. Day to Day Kindness was celebrated at École Poirier and John Muir hosted a Fall Fair. A shout out was sent to Gary & Wayne in Facilities for installing an accessible gate in the Gaga Ball pit. Sooke Elementary had the Interactivity Board



Game Café at their Meet the Staff Evening and Grade 5 students look forward to bowling with Residents at Ayre Manor. Finally, nature-based learning was explored by making of apple sauce.

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

7.1 Resources Committee Meeting of October 8, 2024 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting of October 8, 2024, and expanded on the three agenda items: Catchment Changes, Childcare Spaces & Enrolment.

28. MOVED Christine Lervold/Allison Watson
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of October 8, 2024.
CARRIED

8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

8.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of October 1, 2024 – Cendra Beaton

Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of October 1, 2024. Highlights from a presentation by Wayne Kelly were shared.

29. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson
That the Board of Education receive the Q1 Strategic Plan Report as presented at the October 1, 2024 Education - Policy Committee Meeting.
CARRIED
30. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education for School district 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Revised Policies E-358 “Pension Plan Membership”, Policy E-139 “Death Benefits for Excluded Employees”, and Policy E-331 “Access and Appeal for Excluded Employees”.
CARRIED
31. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of October 1, 2024.
CARRIED

8.2 Adoption of Draft Policies & Regulations – Paul Block



No feedback was received on the revised Policies E-110, E-152 or E-123. Feedback was received regarding revised Policy D-121 “Animals on District Property and in Classrooms”, so the Notice of Motion has been extended until the November 26, 2024 Board Meeting.

32. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
Given that the required period for Notice of Motion has been served, that the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt Draft Revised Policy E-110 “Job Descriptions for Excluded Employees”, Draft New Policy E-152 “Salaries and Benefits for Excluded Employees”, and Draft Revised Policy E-123 “Probationary Period for Excluded Employees”.
CARRIED

9. STUDENTS

- 9.1 **2024/25 Enrolment Update – Paul Block**
The Superintendent presented the finalized September 1701 enrolment and provided a breakdown of growth at each level. The K-12 growth is up 4.3%, however, there was a decrease in Online Learning and English Language Learning. Reasons for this unexpected drop are being investigated and could be attributed to Federal immigration rule changes and work permit changes. Kudos to Monica Braniff, the Digital Solutions Department, D’Arcy Deacon and Dave Strange for compiling this data.

10. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- 10.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education
Trustee Lervold attended the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee Meeting on September 26, 2024. The committee is Chaired by the Mayor of Metchosin and representatives from across municipalities. Topics included the Mobile Youth Service Team Case Report.

EMCS Society – Amanda Dowhy reported the Society had their AGM last week.

VISTA – At the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association Conference October 3-4, Trustees had the honour of being in the presence of Residential School survivors. Superintendent Paul Block was part of a panel that presented at VISTA.

- 10.2 Indigenous Education Council Report September 10, 2024 – No report
10.3 Strategic Plan Development Update – Paul Block
The Superintendent reviewed past milestones in the development of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan and listed the engagements and timelines that are upcoming. The



Trustee Student Forum held on October 15th was a success, with 16 middle school and 24 secondary students in attendance. Feedback from the forum is being compiled and analysed to contribute to the direction of the Strategic Plan.

10.4 Spencer and Centre Mountain Lellum Catchment Changes - Paul Block

Centre Mountain Lellum has grown quicker than expected. All general instruction classrooms are filled. David Cameron, which feeds into Centre Mountain Lellum, has had 8 classrooms added creating additional enrolment pressure at Centre Mountain Lellum. Spencer Middle School student numbers are in decline, however, will see growth return in 2026/2027. In order to meet the growth over the next 5-7 years, the catchments in these areas will need adjustments now.

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

That the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Superintendent to review the Spencer and Centre Mountain Lellum catchment areas per Board Policy F-502 and bring back any proposed changes to the Board for their consideration.

CARRIED

11. **ADMINISTRATION**

11.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the work plan spanning November to January.

12. **PERSONNEL**

12.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided the Board of Education an update on Learning, Engagement and Growth. The Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA) Conference was attended by the Superintendent and Trustees on October 4th and 5th. A student choir with members in grades K-3 sang for attendees. Highlights of the Trustee/Student forum held at EMCS on October 15th were shared by D'Arcy Deacon. There were many questions from students and great feedback was received. On October 17th Sooke School District SOGI School Leads attended the Provincial SOGI Educators Summit. Dave Strange spoke to the importance of this work now and into the future. A repository of educational materials is being built to share with students, parents and the community. Dave Strange emphasised that this work is a shared task for all of us and not just the SOGI Leads. Ruth King and David Cameron prefabricated classrooms welcomed students on September 25th and October 11th respectively. Gratitude goes out to the teachers, staff, PVP and parents for their flexibility and



support throughout the move. Also acknowledged is the work of the Capital Steering Committee, led by Harold Cull, and attended by Pete Godau, Ben Macklin, Windy Beadall, Mark Kaercher and Mhairi Bennett. The Superintendent discussed current recruitment processes in our growing district. An announcement is anticipated mid-November regarding the search for a new Secretary-Treasurer. Recruitment efforts are underway for the leadership of the new SCIANEW STELITKEĒ Elementary School, as well as Vice Principal of Inclusive Education Services, for which interviews will take place November 7th. Finally, Belmont hosted a tri-district cross country event and acknowledgment goes out to Tiffany Evans for organizing. Both the 4 km Junior Boys Race and the 4 km Junior Girls Race were won by students in our District.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

BCSTA Provincial Council October 25-26, 2024*
Halloween October 31, 2014
BCPSEA Fall Symposium November 7-8, 2024*
SPEAC Power-Up Parent November 7
National Indigenous Veteran's Day – November 8, 2024
Remembrance Day November 11, 2024
BCSTA Trustee Academy November 21-23, 2024
*Only Trustee Liaison representative will attend

14. FUTURE ITEMS

15. QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public have the opportunity to 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 9:02 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer

