

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
September 24, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Russ Chipps
Ebony Logins
Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair
Christine Lervold
Trudy Spiller

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent (virtual-MS Teams)
David Strange, Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, Digital Solutions
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Digital Solutions Operations

REGRETS: Allison Watson

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**
The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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
 7. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of September 24, 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

8. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of August 27, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair spoke about the busyness in schools in September ensuring a smooth start. Transportation is addressing late registrations and have communicated with families whose registrations were received up to August 31st. A reminder that families can reach out to the Board Chair, Secretary Treasurer, Randy Cobb or their child’s principal. The Chair recognized community members who were recipients of King Charles III Coronation Medals, including Elder Shirley Alphonse. Walk Bike & Roll to School program is expanding across the district and information was shared with the district PAC. Condolences were offered to the family and community of EMCS student Jesokah Adkens, who went missing 23 years ago, on September 26, 2001.

Truth and Reconciliation week is a journey we all walk to ensure we are creating safe spaces. Please ensure you are holding space for shared stories of Indigenous people affected.

9. **MOVED** Amanda Dowhy/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) write letters to each of the local MLA candidates for the electoral districts within school district 62 in the upcoming provincial election incorporating themes for provincial needs as outlined from the BCSTA and highlighting the unique needs of the Sooke School District.

CARRIED

Trustee Logins declared conflict of interest for Agenda item 4.1.

5. **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 School Trip to Anaheim, California 2026 – Jen Nixon, Linda Hay, Duey Wright, Taylor Musgrave



Staff provided an overview of the school trip to Anaheim, March 19, 2025. Details were discussed including fundraising opportunities, participation numbers and chaperones.

10. **MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Spencer Middle School Trip to Anaheim, California, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.
CARRIED

- 5.2 School Trip to France February 27, 2025 – Mike Huck
Staff provided an overview of the school exchange trip to France, February 27, 2025. The sister reciprocal arrangement has been a valuable experience for students in the past and is something the earlier grades look forward to.

11. **MOVED Ebony Logins/Trudy Spiller**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 approve the Royal Bay Secondary School trip to Avignon & Carpentras, France, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.
CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

- 6.1 Correspondence
Email from C. Peters dated September 6, 2024, RE Human Trafficking in BC Schools with attachments.

12. **MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence.
CARRIED

- 6.2 Standing Delegations (STA, CUPE, PVP, SPEAC) – 5 minutes each
STA – Amanda Culver
The STA have established a rotation for Executive to attend the public board meetings. The STA website has been updated and monthly newsletters have begun. Teachers are being supported working through health and wellness programs and their return to work. The professional development policy is being updated and Pro D days planned. Training is being offered to staff representatives including social justice and committee training. Teachers are setting up in the new



modular classrooms. Move in day was ‘all hands-on-deck’ getting the classrooms ready to welcome students today.

PVP – Jen Nixon/Ruchi McArthur

Principal Jen Nixon spoke of some of the good things happening now that students are settled in, such as the Terry Fox run & cross country. She spoke of the continual focus on Truth & Reconciliation and that staff feel very supported by Executive and the Board. SPVPA will also send a rotation of representatives to attend public board meetings.

CUPE 459 – Tim Hamblin

Tim Hamblin conveyed Amber’s regrets. Tim shared his experience and gratitude as an immigrant to Canada. Schools are looking forward to the upcoming 1701 reports and subsequent Educational Assistant staffing. He recognized outgoing Secretary Treasurer, Harold Cull, for the wonderful job he has done for the district over the years.

SPEAC –

No representative present

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

7.1 Resources Committee Meeting of September 10, 2024 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting of September 17, 2024.

13. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton
That the Board of Education of School district 62 (Sooke) approve the 25/26 Minor Capital Plan submission as presented to the Resources Committee on September 17, 2024.
CARRIED
14. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of September 17, 2024.
CARRIED



- 7.2 23/24 Financial Statements Approval – Christine Lervold
Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the 2023/24 Financial Statements to the Board of Education.

15. MOVED Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the 23/24 financial statements as presented at the Audit Committee meeting of September 18, 2024.
CARRIED

8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 8.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of September 10, 2024 – Cendra Beaton
Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of September 10, 2024, to the Board of Education.

16. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Revised Policy E-110 “Job Descriptions for Excluded Employees”, draft New Policy E-152 “Salaries and Benefits for Excluded Employees”, draft Revised Policy E-123 “Probationary Period for Excluded Employees” and draft Revised Policy and Regulations D-121 “Animals on District Property and in Classrooms”.
CARRIED

17. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of September 10, 2024.
CARRIED

9. STUDENTS

- 9.1 Enrolment Update – Monica Braniff
The Deputy Superintendent is cautiously optimistic with enrolment estimation above projections, currently at 13,250. The Ministry snapshot day is Friday for the final submission. Much appreciation goes out to the schools, CUPE members, Inclusion Support Teachers and the Inclusive Education Department for all the work done to get an accurate 1701 count. A discussion followed around the capacity and planning to accommodate these enrolment numbers in programming and inclusion.

10. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE



10.1 Trustee Liaison report – Board of Education

- CRD Regional Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee – Cendra Beaton
Trustee Beaton provided an update on the first meeting, held September 16th 2024.

10.2 Indigenous Education Council Report – Tara Jensen/Jon Carr

Tara Jensen introduced herself and spoke about her long connection to T’Sou-ke. Jon Carr introduced himself as a student of the district since grade 1. They presented the policy background, rationale and evolution of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC). A Ministerial Order, the IEC’s purpose is to address the persisting disparities in educational outcomes between Indigenous students and other student populations. The first meeting was held September 10, 2024. Membership is renewed annually. Current focus of the IEC was listed, voting members, and composition of Indigenous Learners in our district was presented. The next IEC meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2024. As this is a new process, the terms of reference will be a working document across the year. Appreciation for the IEC and positive changes being seen were expressed. Representation questions were addressed, and clarity provided for terms being used.

10.3 Vision/Mission/Values/Beliefs Approval – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided background on the current strategic plan which ends June 30, 2025. Work has been underway for 7 months towards renewal of the SD62 Strategic Plan 2025-2029. Recognition goes out to Kristen McGillivray for her work on this. The hopeful completion date for the new Strategic Plan is March 2025. The recommended vision, mission, values and beliefs were presented for consideration by the Board.

18. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the District’s Vision/Mission/Values/Beliefs statements for the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan as presented at the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting.
CARRIED

10.4 Strategic Plan Annual Report 23/24 – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided an overview of the 2023/24 Strategic Plan Annual Report and progress made in the 2023/24 Operational Plan, which was developed to assist in achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. Highlights and evidence of the progress from the 23/24 Operational Plan were presented. There has been streamlining of the reporting to make it more readable and accessible to the public.



19. **MOVED** Ebony Logins/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the District's Strategic Plan Annual Report 2023/24 as presented at the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting.
CARRIED

- 10.5 Enhancing Student Learning Report 23/24 – Monica Braniff
Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff discussed the background, Ministry requirements and rationale for the Enhancing Student Learning Report. The report shows how students are doing in specific areas of development and clarity was provided around what data is used, including provincial and local data, reports cards, literacy intervention rates and pathways of graduation, and how that data is used to drive decisions. Last year, there was 3-fold increase in FSA participation rates. Report components were discussed, and the strategic and intentional Continuous Improvement Cycle and calendar were highlighted. The breadth and effectiveness of implemented strategies are included in the report. Emerging areas for growth are important to consider going forward; literacy and numeracy, sense of belonging and adults that care, delayed transition to public post secondary, priority learner cohorts. Many examples of strategic engagement are seen and have become part of the norm. The report informs the strategic plan, to ensure efforts are directed towards achieving the goals of the strategic plan. Recognition goes to district principals and vice principals for the work that went into this report.

20. **MOVED** Ebony Logins/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Enhancing Student Learning report for 2023/24 as presented at the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting.
CARRIED

11. ADMINISTRATION

- 11.1 Board of Education Annual Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy
The Board Chair provided an overview of the Annual work plan to the Board of Education. She noted it is a living document that looks at the work the Board will do over the year and includes meetings and engagements.



21. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the Board and Committee Meeting schedule and Board of Education Annual Work plan for 2024/25 as presented at the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting.
CARRIED

12. PERSONNEL

12.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided the Board of Education an update on Learning, Engagement and Growth. This year continues the significant enrolment growth of 4% year to year, and is likely to reach 14,000 students, supported by approximately 2,400 staff. He recognized the immense work to successfully start a school year in a district this size. Recognition and thanks to Monica Braniff and the teams she is leading around the 1701 process and data collection. In addition, two school communities deserve recognition, Ruth King and David Cameron. In 7 months, 20 classrooms were built and the schools stepped up to the challenge of changing timelines. Harold Cull was recognized for the incredible work he has done for the district. The Superintendent offered congratulations on his upcoming retirement at the end of December. This year is the final year of the current Strategic Plan. Work on the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan is underway and scheduled from October to January with staff, students, the Board and partner groups. With the rise of intolerance on social media, the Superintendent reasserted the district's commitment to diversity and inclusion amid increasing polarization of political views and perspectives. Dave Strange spoke to Feeding Truth through Flourish. The upcoming meal this Friday will be Indigenous themed and locally based. Farzaan Nusserwanji spoke to the ongoing technology refresh and the expansion of multi-factor authentication.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30, 2024 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – no school
October 4-5, 2024 – Vancouver Island Trustee Association Conference
October 5, 2024 – World Teacher Day
October 14, 2024 – Thanksgiving – no school

14. FUTURE ITEMS

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 9:46 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer

