

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

December 16, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton
Trudy Spiller
Christine Lervold, Vice Chair
Russ Chipps (online via MS Teams)

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Brian Jonker, Secretary Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
Vanessa White, Acting Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Digital Solutions - Operations

REGRETS: Ebony Logins, Allison Watson,

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Secretary Treasurer who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations.

The Secretary Treasurer outlined the annual trustee election process as per by-law 1-20 by way of secret ballot and provided instructions to trustees.

1a. Election for Board Chair – Brian Jonker

Three rounds of nominations were called, resulting in a nomination for Trustee Dowhy who accepted the nomination, and a nomination for Trustee Lervold who declined the nomination. Trustee Dowhy was elected by acclamation. Chair Dowhy assumed the duties of the Chair and administered the election process for Vice Chair.

1b. Election for Vice Chair – Amanda Dowhy

Chair Dowhy, using the same procedure as previous, called for three rounds of nominations for Vice-Chair. Trustee Spiller was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Lervold was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Lervold was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.



- 1c. Election for BCSTA Provincial Council Representative/Alternate – Amanda Dowhy
Three rounds of nominations were called and resulted in a nomination for Trustee Spiller who declined the nomination. Trustee Beaton was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Lervold was nominated and accepted the nomination. Election ballots were distributed, collected and returned to the Secretary Treasurer who tallied the votes and reported to the Chair. The Chair announced Trustee Lervold was elected as BCSTA Provincial Council Representative.

Three rounds of nominations were then called for BCSTA Provincial Alternate Representative. Trustee Spiller was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Dowhy was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Chipps was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Dowhy was elected BCSTA Provincial Council representative – alternate, by acclamation.

- 1d. Election for BCPSEA Representative/Alternate – Amanda Dowhy
Three rounds of nominations for BCPSEA representative were called. Trustee Spiller was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Beaton was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Chipps was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Lervold was nominated and declined the nomination. Election ballots were distributed, collected and returned to the Secretary Treasurer who tallied the votes and reported to the Chair. The Chair announced Trustee Spiller was elected as BCPSEA Representative.

Three rounds of nominations were called for the role of BCPSEA Alternate Representative. Trustee Dowhy was nominated and accepted the nomination. Trustee Beaton was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Chipps was nominated and declined the nomination. Trustee Dowhy was elected Alternate BCPSEA Trustee Representative by acclamation.

56. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Secretary Treasurer to destroy the ballots from the December 16, 2025 elections.
CARRIED

2. **AGENDA**

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

The Chair called for amendments to the meeting agenda. No amendments were put forward.

57. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/ Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of December 16, 2025, as presented.
CARRIED

2.2 Report on In Camera Meeting – Board Chair

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

The Chair called for amendments to the minutes. No amendments were put forward.

58. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of November 25, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Board Chair

The Chair expressed gratitude for being re-elected to serve as Board Chair and emphasized the value of democracy in appointing people who understand the importance of advocating for public education. With appreciation to the three partner groups who spoke as a shared delegation last month, the Chair pledged to focus on student outcomes, the strategic plan and legislative requirements. With a reminder of support services available to staff and families through EFAP, the Chair wished everyone a safe and happy break.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 École Royal Bay Secondary School Trip to Italy, March 15-23, 2027 – Jouelle

Brick/Melissa Horner

Principal Horner introduced Jouelle Brick who presented details about the proposed school trip to Italy and answered questions about fundraising options.

59. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the École Royal Bay Secondary School trip to Italy, March 2027, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent’s Office.

CARRIED

The Superintendent noted the original motion contained dates spanning only 7 days (March 15-23). The Board agreed on a friendly amendment to March, 2027.

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – No Report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Board Chair

Email from D. London Dated December 3, 2025 RE Request for Educational Material Review.

60. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence.

CARRIED

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

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

The CUPE President reported that CUPE elections were held and welcomed the incoming CUPE 1st Vice President Dana Savage and acknowledged Tim Hamblin, the outgoing 1st Vice President. The CUPE President then spoke about UNDRIP, brought about by the United Nations as a standard of achievement that lifts everyone up.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The President of SPEAC expressed appreciation for staff that continue to work over the holiday and wished everyone a happy winter break. The next SPEAC meeting is January 21st, 2026.

SPVPA – Lisa Leclerc

Principal Leclerc highlighted various events taking place in schools across the District. In closing, appreciation was expressed to the Trustees, CUPE staff, parents, teachers and the Executive Team and wished everyone happy holidays.

STA - Rita Zeni:

The President of the STA drew attention to and appreciation for the energy required by staff who are already on low reserves this time of year, to create the special events taking place in schools across the District.

The STA was proud to match CUPE's donation to the 10,000 Tonight fundraiser. In light of the work being done around Board correspondence, the STA requested a formalized procedure outlining the best way to communicate with the Board.

7.3 Other Delegations – There were no other delegations.

The meeting was recessed at 8:59 p.m. and reconvened at 9:06 p.m.

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of December 9, 2025 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold acknowledged the committee members for their contributions and reviewed the items discussed at the Resources Committee meeting of December 9th. Appreciation was expressed for the Transportation team for their work and their collaboration with SPEAC to improve communication.

61. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of December 9, 2025.
CARRIED

8.2 Statement of Financial Information – Brian Jonker

The Secretary Treasurer provided the provincial regulations driving the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI).

62. MOVED Christine Lervold/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Statement of Financial Information Report as presented at the Public Board meeting of December 16, 2025.
CARRIED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of December 2, 2025 – Cendra Beaton

Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee meeting of December 2, 2025.

63. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed BAA Course “Hockey Innovation and Performance 11”, effective February 1, 2026.
CARRIED

64. 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 December 2, 2025.
CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

There were no student presentations

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- a. Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education
BCSTA Academy November 27-29, 2025 – Christine Lervold
Trustees Beaton, Spiller, Watson and Lervold attended along with Superintendent Paul Block, Secretary Treasurer Brian Jonker and Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff.
Trustee Lervold listed the workshops attended.

12. ADMINISTRATION

- 12.1 Board of Education Work Plan – Board Chair
The Board Chair outlined the Board work plan for January to March 2026.

13. PERSONNEL

- 13.1 Superintendent’s Report – Paul Block
The Superintendent shared highlights from the report and invited the Deputy & Associate Superintendents to expand on items in the Superintendent’s report.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Winter break – December 22 to January 2
- Education-Policy Meeting – January 6
- Resources Committee Meeting – January 13
- SPEAC meeting – January 21
- Next Public Board Meeting – January 27

15. RISE AND REPORT

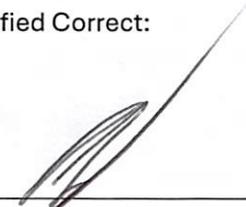
16. QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at tonight’s meeting. There were no questions.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer