

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
May 27, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Brian Jonker, Secretary-Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
David Lee-Bonar, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Digital Solutions - Operations

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**
The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by the Board Chair who provided a territorial acknowledgment.
2. **AGENDA**
 - 2.1 Call for amendments and additional items
 82. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of May 27, 2025, as presented.
CARRIED
 - 2.2 Report on In Camera Meeting – Amanda Dowhy
The Board Chair informed 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. The Chair



reminded trustees that the agenda includes the first reading of the budget by-law and as such, any trustee with a conflict relating to budget, should declare.

Trustee Chipps declared a conflict of interest relating to CUPE for budget.
Trustee Lervold declared a conflict of interest relating to local bargaining.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

83. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of April 22, 2025, as presented.
CARRIED

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair spoke about the conclusion of the federal election and congratulated the newly declared successful candidates. Both STA and SPEAC held their annual general meetings. Congratulations to both Rita Zeni and Tom Davis for being re-elected as Presidents. It is a busy time in the District with many graduation and year-end celebrations happening now to the end of June. In closing, the Board Chair expressed congratulations to all graduating students.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement Report 2024-25 – Jon Carr/Marlys Denny

Jon Carr and Marlys Denny presented the NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement Report.

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL – no report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

- a. Email from Parent dated April 24, 2025 RE Out of School Suspension
- b. Letter from Parent dated May 2, 2025 RE Establishment of PAC at SĆIΛNEW STĒLIT̓KEL Elementary.
- c. Email from Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada dated May 11, 2025 RE Safeguarding Sexual Education.



84. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence as outlined in items 7.1 a., b., and c.
CARRIED
85. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) express its support for the establishment of a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at ~~SCIANEW STELITKE~~ Elementary School, in accordance with Section 8(1) of the British Columbia School Act and SD62 Policy and Regulation D-201 – *Parent Advisory Councils*; and further, that the Board direct the Board Chair to respond to the correspondence received regarding this request, including Principal Camille McFarlane in the response, to acknowledge and encourage the initiative taken by parents in forming the PAC.
CARRIED
86. **MOVED** Allison Watson/Cendra Beaton
That the Board of Education of the Sooke School District 62, direct the Chair to respond to public correspondence within 2 to 3 business days, and to forward the response to all trustees immediately thereafter.
CARRIED with 5 votes FOR and 2 OPPOSED.

Trustee Beaton raised a point of order related to the Superintendent requesting to speak during discussion of a motion. No further action was taken.

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

STA – Rita Zeni

The STA President presented a monthly update.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The President of SPEAC presented a monthly update.

SPVPA – Kendra Laidlaw

The Principal of Happy Valley Elementary presented slides highlighting events going on in schools.

CUPE – Tim Hamblin

The CUPE Vice President presented a monthly update.

7.3 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each

No other delegations presented.

The meeting was recessed at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Education Committee of the Whole - Meeting April 29, 2025 – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair recounted the ECOW meeting in which the budget presentation was provided to the Board in its entirety. Delegations and partner groups were given the opportunity to offer input.

87. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education Committee of the Whole (ECOW) meeting on April 29, 2025.

CARRIED

8.2 Resources Committee – Meeting of May 13, 2025 – Christine Lervold

The Committee Chair provided an overview of the meeting and topics discussed.

88. MOVED Christine Lervold/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve 2026/27 Capital Plan submission as presented to the Resources Committee on May 13, 2025.

CARRIED

89. MOVED Christine Lervold/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give first reading to the 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw, specifying a total of \$239,357,761.

CARRIED with 6 votes FOR and 1 abstention due to conflict.

90. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of May 13, 2025.

CARRIED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of May 6, 2025 – Amanda Dowhy

The Acting Committee Chair provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee meeting and topics discussed.



91. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke), in accordance with the BC School Act, Board Policy and Regulation A-340 (School Board Committees), and the Board's bylaws and procedures, direct the Board Chair to formally appoint a trustee to fill the current vacancy in the role of Chair of the Education-Policy Committee by no later than May 31, 2025 and prior to the next Education Policy Committee Meeting. This appointment shall be made following consultation with all trustees.

DEFEATED with 3 votes FOR and 4 votes OPPOSED.

During discussion on the motion, the following points of order occurred:

Trustee Lervold raised a point of clarity regarding comments made about policy being disregarded.

A point of order was raised by Chair Dowhy regarding comments bordering on disparaging against other trustees. No appeal was made.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Beaton regarding remarks not being on topic. The Chair did not make a ruling. No further action was taken.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Lervold regarding a trustee's comments about lack of leadership. The Chair did not make a ruling. No further action was taken.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Beaton regarding the mover of a motion being able to provide concluding remarks. The Chair allowed for the closing remarks.

The meeting was recessed at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

92. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Quarter 3 Operational Report as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of May 6, 2025.

CARRIED

93. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education Policy Committee meeting of May 6, 2025.

CARRIED



9.2 Rescind Policy and Regulations C-310 – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided the rationale for rescinding C-310 “Student Behaviour”.

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

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to **RESCIND** Policy and Regulations C-310 “Student Behaviour”.

CARRIED

9.3 Adoption of District Policies and Regulations – Paul Block

The Superintendent thanked those that provided feedback on the revised policy and regulations below.

95. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold

Given that the required period for Notice of Motion has passed, that the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt:

Draft revised Policy C-313 “Willful Damage and Theft of School Property”

Draft revised Policy and Regulations C-316 “Safe Schools”

Draft new Policy and Regulations C-318 “Sexual Misconduct”

CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

10.1 Report on Cross Border Safety – Allison Watson

Trustee Watson provided rationale for the motion.

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

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Superintendent to provide a report at the June 2025 Board meeting outlining:

1. How the District and Superintendent is responding to recent developments at the U.S. border that may impact the safety and dignity of students, staff and families;
2. What measures are in place to reduce risk and ensure the emotional and physical well-being of students **during** international travel;
3. How the District is addressing potential harm caused when non-binary students are asked or required to use legal names or identities that do not reflect who they are.

CARRIED



11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

- BCSTA AGM – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the BCSTA AGM and some of the themes presented.

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the 90 Day Work Plan.

13. PERSONNEL

13.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent introduced each topic in the report and called on Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff and Associate Superintendents D'Arcy Deacon and Dave Strange to elaborate on the areas within their portfolios.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- District Long Service & Retirement Recognition – May 29
- Anti-Racism Awareness Week – May 26 to June 1
- June is Deafblind Awareness month and Brain Injury month
- Education-Policy Meeting – June 3
- Resources Committee Meeting – June 10
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration at Royal Roads – June 20
- National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
- Saint Jean Baptiste Day - June 24
- Public Board Meeting – June 24
- Last day of school – June 27

15. RISE AND REPORT

16. 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.


There were no questions from the public.




17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Certified Correct on June 24, 2025:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer

