
**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE
School Board Office
April 7, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

- Present:** Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Chair)
Russ Chipps, Trustee (Acting Committee member)
Amanda Dowhy, Trustee, (Acting Committee member)
Dana Savage, CUPE
Amanda Culver, STA
Corrinne Kosik, SPVPA
Ash Senini, SPEAC
Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent
- Guests:** Denise Wehner, District Principal – Curriculum Transformation
- Absent:** Trustee Cendra Beaton (Committee member)
Trustee Ebony Logins (Committee member)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that we live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T’Sou-ke Nation, SĆIÁNEW (Beecher Bay) Nation, and the Nuu-chah-nulth: Paaʔčiidʔath (Pacheedaht) Nation. We also recognize that some of our schools are located on the traditional territories of the MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nation, and the Ləkʷəŋən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

2. Opening Remarks from Chair

Chair Spiller advised that the PACE Musical Theater shows are happening at Spencer Middle School and to refer to the district’s website for details.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT of March 3, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the March 3, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting was received by the committee.

4. BAA COURSE PROPOSALS

There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2026 – 27 Operational Plan – Paul Block

Superintendent Block reported on the 2026 – 27 Operational Plan. He said the Plan lays out what the executive team will share with departments and school to guide development of their department plans and school plans, keeping all cohesively aligned to the Strategic Plan.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) receive the 2026 – 27 Operational Plan as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of April 7, 2026.

Trustees in attendance gave unanimous support for the recommended motion.

6. REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS

a. Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-329 “Field Trips” – D’Arcy Deacon

Associate Superintendent Deacon provided an update on proposed revisions to Regulations C-329. The Regulations are considerations for field trips outside of the province and internationally. While Board approval is required in advance, supervision falls under the authority of the Superintendent’s office. Current guidance from BCSTA supports delegating of operational decisions to staff. Field trips fall under this. We are seeking to ensure that we align our policies with best practice around governance and decision-making regarding field trips.

Key points:

- That the Board specifically delegates authority to the Superintendent or designate to make clearly outlined decisions.
- For boating trips, there is language regarding wearing life jackets when using small vessels. However, the policy did not intend to suggest that students and staff needed to wear safety vests when travelling on BC Ferries, for example. Language has been added to distinguish between Transport Canada regulated vessels and smaller non-regulated vessels.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-329 “Field Trips”.

Trustees in attendance gave unanimous support for the recommended motion.

b. Independent Directed Studies Guidelines – Denise Wehner

Denise Wehner, District Principal – Curriculum Transformation, provided information on the Independent Directed Studies Guidelines:

- Directed Studies is an alternate pathway for a secondary student to get credit for a course. No guiding documents existed to date. School administrators, other districts and the Ministry of Children and Child Care were consulted to create this guiding document.
- The guidelines lay out a clear process and what to consider when approving an independent directed studies course. The guidelines provide a pathway for considerations related to cultural learning as well, a key component connected to the district’s Operational Plan.

- The process for approval is robust and clear steps for addressing concerns are imbedded and clear in the document.

7. **FOR INFORMATION**

8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** May 5, 2026
The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

