

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
April 22, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton
Christine Lervold
Trudy Spiller

Vacant, Vice Chair
Russ Chipps (online via MS Teams)
Ebony Logins (online via MS Teams)

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

REGRETS: Allison Watson, Trustee

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 provided a territorial acknowledgment.
2. **AGENDA**
 - 2.1 Call for amendments and additional items
 66. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of April 22, 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.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

67. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of March 11, 2025, as presented.
CARRIED

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair wished the Victoria Grizzlies luck in game 3 of the playoffs.

On April 1st the Board met with Minister Beare, along with MLAs Ravi Parmar and Dana Lajeunesse. The meeting provided an opportunity for open dialogue to highlight challenges within the District.

The British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) is this weekend with four trustees participating, along with the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Education Committee of the Whole meeting takes place April 29th providing opportunities for input towards the 2025/26 budget.

The Federal Election Day is April 28th from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. It is disappointing to see continued division within our communities and an increase in racist actions. The Board Chair encouraged everyone to stand up for acceptance and inclusion, promoting a safe environment in our schools.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS – no presentations

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL – no report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence



- a. Email from B. Swezey dated March 11, 2025 RE Preventing Child Maltreatment
- b. Letter from Minister Beare dated March 26, 2025 RE Cybersecurity

68. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence as outlined in items 7.1a, and 7.1b.
CARRIED

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

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The SPEAC President listed upcoming events and highlighted the SPEAC Summit happening on May 12th to recognize school PACS. The final parent information night of the year is coming up on May 22nd. The topic is Lockdown and Hold & Secure. A delegation from the Board and Executive team will be going to the SPEAC AGM in May. Nominations are currently open for anyone wanting to join the SPEAC executive.

The Board expressed appreciation for the student presentations at French SPEAC and offered congratulations for the great job done by SPEAC on the parent information sessions offered throughout the year.

STA – Amanda Culver

The 2nd Vice-President of the STA shared information on professional development for STA members. The STA organizes three conferences each year. A variety of sessions are offered; recently a fossil hunt, Math Anxiety, By-stander Intervention Training, Tough Conversations, Social-emotional learning session through yoga, How to Teach Cricket, ADHD, Financial Literacy and Book Binding, to name a few. Positive feedback was received on the collaboration with Indigenous Elders during the April professional development session. Teachers dedicate their evenings and weekends to ensure they continue to learn.

A social justice themed book club has begun and has 20+ teachers participating.

Local bargaining wrapped up prior to March break and now provincial bargaining is underway. Fourteen teachers travelled to Vancouver for the BCTF AGM.

Spring staffing is underway and there is a sense of anxiety for teachers due to the higher layoff line and increased movement that comes with the opening of a new school.



The Board expressed appreciation for the great work being done by the STA and to Amanda Culver, for coming to present.

SPVPA – Lisa LeClerc

Lisa LeClerc shared a presentation with the theme of celebrating transitions and achievements. Some events included a Read and Ride event at Millstream attended by 29 families! Transition to middle and high school events are underway with middle school teams visiting elementary schools, concerts held to showcase band opportunities, and a course selection seminar, enabling students to teach their parents the process.

Congratulations to District finalists from Centre Mountain Lellum and Dunsmuir Middle Schools who participated in the Provincial Skills Canada Competition April 15th-16th on the mainland. The Spaghetti Bridge team placed 4th and Wind Turbines team placed 4th and 5th provincially!

Dunsmuir had two teams participating in the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary Lahal invitational. Both teams made it to the finals with Team 1 taking home 3rd place!

Royal Bay Secondary Band is preparing to perform on an Alaskan Cruise, as one of the onboard entertainment options. Their Dry Grad Carnival is May 3rd, and the Golf Team is on track to be Provincial Champs.

Millstream's Spring Elementary concert is on Wednesday and Thursday evening this week.

The Board expressed appreciation for the report and for the opportunities available through the Indigenous drumming group.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

Amber Leonard read call to Action #50 – Equity for Aboriginal people in the legal system.

The CUPE President spoke of the employer's obligation to provide time for employees to cast their vote on election day. Women in Canada were denied the right to vote in parts of Canada as recent as 1951.

There is large growth in the District and that growth includes newcomers to Canada. CUPE is assisting with removing language barriers and encourages the District to continue to look at



ways of providing translation services.

The Board expressed appreciation for CUPE offering translation services and for reminding us of Call to Action #50. The recent passing of Pope Francis has resulted in renewed media coverage of the apology offered to Indigenous people for abuse suffered in residential schools. It was noted that reconciliation did not begin until the 1980's, which is why it is still ongoing today.

The Board acknowledged all the partner groups present. As leaders, each came to speak about resilience, inclusion, and perseverance, in an unprecedented time of multiple pressures.

7.3 Other Delegations – no reports

8. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of April 8, 2025 – Christine Lervold

Amanda Dowhy sat as Acting Chair this month. Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee meeting. Discussion included the impact of tariffs on the budget.

69. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three readings of the Capital Plan Bylaw 2025/26-CPSD62-01 at its meeting of April 22, 2025.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

70. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give first, second and third readings of the Capital Plan Bylaw 2025/26-CPSD62-01.
CARRIED

71. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of April 8, 2025.
CARRIED

9. **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of April 1, 2025 – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the Education-Policy meeting.



72. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy C-313 “Willful Damage and Theft of School Property”.
CARRIED

73. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulation C-314 “Substance Use Prevention and Intervention”.
CARRIED

74. 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 April 1, 2025.
CARRIED

- 9.2 Adoption of Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-309 and C-311 – Paul Block
The Superintendent summarized the level of feedback received on these policy revisions.

75. MOVED Christine Lervold/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 and Regulations C-309 “District and School Codes of Conduct”.
CARRIED

76. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
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 and Regulations C-311 “Student Attendance”.
CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

10.1 Pathway Change for David Cameron to Spencer – Paul Block

This process has been underway since June 2024. Centre Mountain Lellum has been overcapacity since its 2nd year of opening. Consequently, the District revised the pathway of students from David Cameron to Spencer. Communications and engagements with the



community around this change were listed. Parents are encouraged to email catch62@sd62.bc.ca with any questions. Catchment change formally takes place for 2025/26 school year.

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

- BCSTA Update – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided details about the upcoming BCSTA AGM happening this weekend.

77. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) mandates the chair to directly inform the BCSTA that the Board of Education requires the weighted ballot votes to be equally distributed among the following SD62 Trustees attending the 2025 BCSTA AGM: Allison Watson, Christine Lervold, Trudy Spiller, and Cendra Beaton.

CARRIED

Discussion on the above motion included rationale for the procedure above, rationale for use of the form created to collect responses, and how the voting was done at past AGMs.

11.2 Strategic Plan, Engagement Plan – Paul Block

In February, the Board passed the 2025-2029 Strategic plan. This motion addresses how the plan is to be communicated out. The Superintendent provided details of the proposed plan and the associated timeline which runs from May to late September, 2025.

78. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) approve the District's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, Engagement Plan as presented at the April 22nd, 2025 Board Meeting.

CARRIED

11.3 Trustee Enrolment in the BCSTA Leadership Program

Trustee Beaton highlighted the merits of the BCSTA Leadership Program. After discussion about the budget available for this program, the anticipated timeline and delivery method, the following amended motion was put forward.



79. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct staff to investigate the cost and schedule of the BCSTA Trustee Leadership Program for all trustees to participate in, which is designed to enhance the governance skills of trustees through a focus on good governance, theory, and practices, and report back to the Board.
CARRIED

The meeting was recessed at 9:02 and reconvened at 9:09 pm.

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 congratulated the Dunsmuir Girls Volleyball team on their win at the City Championships in March.

Associate Superintendent D'Arcy Deacon spoke about the good leadership of Bruce Salinger and Brittany Simms throughout the Skills Canada Competition. Congratulations to all the students taking part in the Regionals. Three SD62 students will be heading to the Provincials next month, observed by a crowd of 5000 or more.

Associate Superintendent Dave Strange spoke to the work being done to get the District to a state of readiness in emergency release planning and gave a shout-out to Administrative Assistants in schools for their work keeping student contact information up-to-date.

Associate Superintendent D'Arcy Deacon attended the Empowering Women in STEM event on April 7th. The event was well attended and ran over the two hours of time allotted.

The Superintendent participated in Literacy Week at Wishart and commented on the tremendous job staff did in organizing this event.

Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff attended an open house at PEXSISEN Elementary. Several community agencies attended and Flourish! Food program provided food tastings for everyone. The collaboration to put on this event was commended and a special shout-out went to Makayla Miller for putting together the detailed and inspiring art gallery.

The Deputy Superintendent attended the launch of the “Kiss and Go” parking lot at Ruth King. The drop off area increases the safety and flow of traffic. Thank you to the PAC for supporting the event and helping to cement awareness in the school community.

The Superintendent listed some productions in progress throughout the District and highlighted areas of growth, specifically around teacher staffing.

The Board expressed appreciation for the updates and all of the work done to provide these opportunities to support students in the District.

In response to a question from the Board, Associate Superintendent Dave Strange shared that work is being done towards holding a Re-unification District-wide drill. While a regional drill would be valuable, there is no plan for such.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- April is Autism Awareness Month, Sikh Heritage Month & Sri Lankan Heritage Month
- Spanish Language Day – April 23
- Administrative Professionals Day – April 23
- Education Day – April 25
- Education Committee of the Whole (ECOW) – April 29
- Education-Policy Committee – May 6
- Non-instructional Day – May 12
- SPEAC Summit – May 12
- Resources Committee Meeting – May 13
- Victoria Day – May 19
- SPEAC AGM – May 21
- SPEAC Lockdown & Hold & Secure parent info session – May 22
- BCCPAC AGM – May 22
- Indigenous Education Graduation Ceremony – May 26
- Public Board Meeting – May 27



15. RISE AND REPORT**15.1 Trustee Election for Board Vice-Chair – Brian Jonker**

The Secretary Treasurer requested a motion to assume the role of chair for the purposes of conducting the election.

Procedure of the election for Vice Chair was discussed.

80. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Secretary-Treasurer to assume the role of Chair for the purposes of conducting the election of Vice Chair.

CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair switched seats. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that the election procedure will follow Board By-law 1-20, section 1.6 which requires the nomination and election processes to be conducted by secret ballot. Associate Superintendent D'Arcy Deacon was appointed scrutineer for trustees in the room and Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff was appointed scrutineer for trustees online. Instructions were provided to Trustees. Trustees online confirmed they received the Deputy Superintendent's number to text with their vote. The Scrutineers distributed, collected and reported the tally of the 1st call for nominations to the Secretary-Treasurer who reported:

- Trustee Lervold is nominated for Vice-Chair.

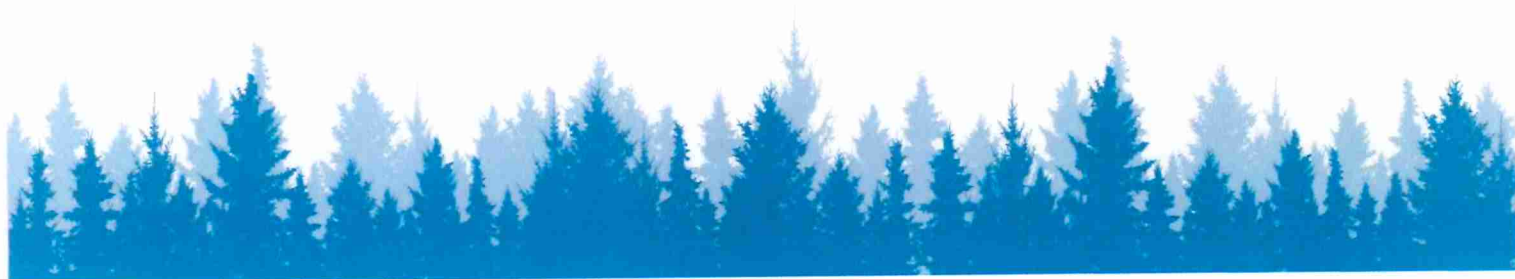
The Secretary-Treasurer asked Trustee Lervold if she accepts the nomination for the position of Vice Chair. Trustee Lervold accepted.

The Secretary-Treasurer made the 2nd and 3rd call for nomination for the position of Vice Chair. Since no further nominations were received, the Secretary-Treasurer declared Trustee Lervold elected by acclamation and requested a motion to destroy the ballots.

81. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 direct the Secretary-Treasurer to destroy the ballots from the election of Vice Chair.

CARRIED



The Secretary-Treasurer and Board Chair exchanged seats, and the Board Chair continued the meeting.

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.

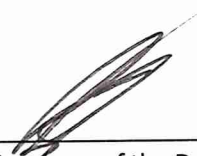
Jennifer Anderson, a teacher at Royal Bay Secondary, introduced herself and explained that 17 staff from RBSS attended the Public meeting to support the following question but had to leave due to the late hour. Prefacing the question with accolades for RBSS and its administration, it was asked, what was the process behind the decision to have two of the four administrators leave the largest school in the district at the same time? Preference would be to have one of those two administrators remain, to assist with transition.

The Superintendent provided the background and factors that led up to the staffing change, expressing confidence in the administrators who will not be leaving Royal Bay, to handle the transition. It is strongly felt that the team at RBSS are capable of doing the job. The Superintendent praised the community of RBSS for being very strong and committed and encouraged communication to continue, should concerns not resolve.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer