

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

June 23, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton (online via MS Teams)
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
Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, IT – Operations
David Lee-Bonar, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by the Board Chair who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations.

The Board Chair reviewed Robert's Rules of Order related to meeting decorum. Instructions were provided for those participating online.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

The Board Chair called for amendments to the agenda. None were brought forward.

127. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of June 23, 2026, 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 corrections to minutes

The minutes of the Public Board meeting of May 26, 2026 were adopted by unanimous consent.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

This year, 1,113 students graduated across the district, and we celebrate the first graduating class to have received 13 years of dedicated Indigenous instruction embedded in the curriculum. There were approximately 40 graduating students at EMCS that received the Principal's Honour Roll Award. Additionally, that cohort has earned over \$100,000 in scholarship awards. QELESEN Á, LEN celebrated its third graduating class.

The Board Chair acknowledged staff and Trustees for work done throughout the year and wished everyone a safe, happy, and restful summer vacation.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Equity in Action 2025/26 Year End Report – Jon Carr/Connie Swan

The NA' TSA'MAHT Equity in Action (NEAR) report was presented. Equity in Action reflects a commitment to Indigenous learners to dismantle systemic barriers affecting Indigenous students' success. Work began in 2015 in response to the provincial sector-wide audit to address low graduation rates. Information gathered through surveys and student forums reinforces that system-wide transformation is essential and provides focus.

This last school year, the gap between Indigenous and non-indigenous learners in their 6-year completion rate was reduced from 24% to 14%, meeting the goal of the equity scan. Results are grounded in work with families, communities and local rights holders. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) participation has rebounded. Grade 4 literacy for example, jumped from 27% to 75% and numeracy from 25% to 73 %. Many schools and departments refine their goals each year in June based on survey results.

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – No Report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy

1. Office of the Ombudsperson Quarterly Report January 1 to March 31, 2026
2. Letter from Pacheedaht First Nation Dated May 20, 2026 RE LEA Concern
3. Email from Chelsea R. Dated May 15, 2026 RE ECEs
4. Email from Emily R. Dated May 15, 2026 RE ECEs
5. Email from Claire B. Dated May 16 2026 RE ECEs

6. Email from Danielle H. Dated May 16, 2026 RE ECEs
7. Email from Esther S. Dated May 18, 2026 RE ECEs
8. Email from Isabelle D. Dated May 18, 2026 RE ECEs
9. Email from Janelle I. Dated May 18, 2026 RE ECEs
10. Email from Alexandra S. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
11. Email from Carolyn L. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
12. Email from Debbie F. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
13. Email from Danielle V. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
14. Email from Kristi L. Dated May 19 2026 RE ECEs
15. Email from Kerry C. Dated May 19 2026 RE ECEs
16. Email from Laura R. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
17. Email from Lisa M. Dated May May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
18. Email from Maegan C. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
19. Email from Melissa H. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
20. Email from Michelle C. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
21. Email from Nina B. Dated May 19, 202 RE ECEs
22. Email from Rachael S. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
23. Email from Sarah R. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
24. Email from Saza R. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
25. Email from Sophia S. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
26. Email from Tawnya D. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
27. Email from Tiffany D. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
28. Email from Erin V. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
29. Email from Cynthia H. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
30. Email from Jasmine M. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
31. Email from Rafaela R. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
32. Email from Quynne P. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
33. Email from Victor C. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
34. Email from Ola K. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
35. Email from Laurel K. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
36. Email from Jennifer K. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
37. Email from Kristi S. Dated May 19, 2026 RE ECEs
38. Email from Maria F. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
39. Email from Jennifer E. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
40. Email from Kay R. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
41. Email from Francisca T. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
42. Email from Samantha A. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
43. Email from Sue I (Emily M.). Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
44. Email from Uelun T. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
45. Email from Esther S. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
46. Email from Suzanne M. Dated May 20, 2026 RE ECEs
47. Email from Enid E. Dated May 21, 2026 RE ECEs
48. Email from Renata R. Dated May 21, 2026 RE ECEs

- 49. Email from Michelle C. Dated May 21, 2026 RE ECEs
- 50. Email from Kendra U. & Tim S. Dated May 21, 2026 RE ECEs
- 51. Email from Beth B. Dated May 21, 2026 RE ECEs
- 52. Email from Amanda T. Dated May 23, 2026 RE ECEs
- 53. Email from Candace D. Dated May 25, 2026 RE ECEs
- 54. Email from Lana D. Dated May 25, 2026 RE ECEs
- 55. Email from Jeffrey Z. Dated May 26, 2026 RE ECEs
- 56. Email from Christy W. Dated May 26, 2026 RE ECEs
- 57. Email from Kendall C. Dated May 29, 2026 RE ECEs

Correspondence as listed in items 7.1.1-7.1.57 was received by the Board.

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

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard (online)

The President of CUPE 459 began with an acknowledgement of First Nation territories and read Article 14 of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). The CUPE President acknowledged the passing of three CUPE members over the last few months. On behalf of CUPE 459, the CUPE President expressed disappointment over the proposed cuts CUPE members will experience if the budget is passed.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The SPEAC President expressed gratitude for collaboration with partner groups over the year. SPEAC is looking forward to hearing ideas to address gaps, if ECE positions are cut. SPEAC hosted their annual summit to recognize over 80 dedicated volunteers. Looking ahead to September, Tom will be serving his third term as President. Parent info nights will resume with the IES-led parent info night. The parent handbook will be completed in the coming weeks. It will be available online and emailed to all parents in the District. SPEAC is working on an “All Candidates Forum” ahead of trustee elections.

STA - Rita Zeni:

The STA President thanked everyone for their dedicated and tireless work. The STA continues to support teachers in their growth of Indigenous learning and unlearning of our history and of local knowledge. The STA has a large supply of pro-d. resources available to teachers.

SPVPA – Jon Carr

Jon Carr presented in place of Ruchi McArthur and Jen Nixon who sent their regrets. Appreciation was expressed for the Board’s support of SPVPA and to the partner groups. Camille McFarlane and Mike Bobbitt are the incoming co-presidents for next year. Highlights were shared from events taking place across the district: National Indigenous Peoples Day, nature weaving, visits to Botanical Beach, Indigenous games

day and the opening of an outdoor learning space at École John Stubbs.

- 7.3 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each
There were no other delegations.

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of June 9, 2026 – Christine Lervold

The Committee Chair summarized the meeting of June 9th. A low barrier means assessment form was presented to standardize the process for transportation fee waiver requests. Forms will be received and processed centrally, rather than at each school. Consultation occurred with other districts using a similar approach. This standardized and centralized process removes school administrators who are currently processing requests at the school level.

Discussion ensued on the motion which included views for and against a centralized approach.

128. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) support implementation of the low barrier means assessment for transportation fee waiver eligibility as presented at the June 9, 2026 Resources Committee meeting.

CARRIED with one vote OPPOSED

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

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of June 9, 2026.

CARRIED

8.2 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw - Christine Lervold

The Board is required to submit a balanced budget by June 30th. A timeline of work and engagement to produce this budget was reviewed. The roles of ECEs and EAs were discussed. EAs are intended to support students with designations and specific targeted needs in all grades, throughout the system. EAs implement the IEP and are funded through supplemental grants from the Ministry.

Currently there is ECE staffing in 30% of Kindergarten classrooms and 70% remain without. There is no possibility of scaling up due to no targeted funding. Teachers are well versed in early learning framework. Early learning programs and Nature K programs will continue to be offered in the District. The Board's job is to look at sustainability throughout the system as a whole. Advocacy will continue for increased early learning funding.

130. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give third reading to the 2026/27 Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total of \$245,935,907.
CARRIED with one vote OPPOSED.

The meeting was recessed at 9:36 p.m. and reconvened at 9:42 p.m.

- 8.3 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw 2026/27 – Brian Jonker
Funding approval was received in response to the application submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure minor capital child care program.

131. MOVED Christine Lervold/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three readings of the Amended Capital Plan Bylaw 2026/27-CPSD62-02 at its meeting of June 23, 2026.
CARRIED unanimously

132. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give first, second and third readings to the Amended Capital Plan Bylaw 2026/27-CPSD62-02.
CARRIED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 9.1 Education-Policy Committee – Meeting of June 2, 2026 – Trudy Spiller
The Committee Chair provided an overview of items discussed at the meeting.

133. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of June 2, 2026.
CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

- 10.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block
The Superintendent acknowledged the school year as one of change, challenge, and growth. Highlights from the report were presented by staff.

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- 11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education
There were no reports.
- 11.2 Governance Committee Meeting of May 21, 2026 – Amanda Dowhy
Supported by the ongoing work done with the BCSTA, BCSSA, BCASBO and FNESEC, three new policies have been developed outlining and solidifying the roles of the Board and the Superintendent and the delegation of authority. Rationale was provided for

rescission of three policies.

134. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) Adopt the draft new policy A-2, "Role of the Board" as recommended by the Governance Committee at its May 21, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED

135. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) adopt the draft new policy A-11, "Role of the Superintendent" as recommended by the Governance Committee at its May 21, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED

136. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) adopt the draft new policy A-10, "Delegation of Authority", as recommended by the Governance Committee at its May 21, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED

137. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) rescind the following governance documents: Policy A-100, "Statement of Philosophy"; Policy A-110, "Board-Staff Communications"; Policy A-310 "Board of Education – Composition & Purpose", as recommended by the Governance Committee at its May 21, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED

11.3 August 2026 Board Meeting – Brian Jonker

Inconsistencies have been discovered in District policies related to the requirement of holding an August Board meeting. The *School Act* states that a board must meet regularly with no more than 2 consecutive months without a meeting. Historically the District has seen significant enrolment growth over the summer that is not being seen this year. Because of the inconsistencies, the decision is being brought to the Board about whether to hold an August Board meeting. The Board maintains the capacity to call a meeting at any time to address emergent issues.

138. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) aligned to the requirements outlined in the *School Act* 67(3), hereby confirm the date of the next regular meeting of the Board of Education to be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

CARRIED with one OPPOSED

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair highlighted the Trustee information sessions being held for prospective new trustee candidates. The sessions are not intended for current trustees who may be running for re-election.

13. PERSONNEL

There were no items discussed.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Last day of school – June 25
- Year-end Administrative Day – June 26
- School Trustee Candidate Information Session – July 2
- Greater Victoria Pride Parade – July 12
- School Board Office closure – July 13 to August 21
- School Trustee Candidate Information Session – August 31
- Labour Day – September 7
- First Day of School September 8
- Next Public Board Meeting - September 29

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 online.

One member of the public identified herself and asked the following question:
What data will you consider sufficient to put ECE supports back? The question was referred to staff for follow-up.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m. The next meeting is September 29, 2026.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary Treasurer