

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
June 24, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

ABSENT: Ebony Logins

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Board Chair who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

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

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of June 24, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 advised that Trustee Chipps has declared a conflict of interest relating to budget and Trustee Lervold declared a conflict of interest relating to local CUPE bargaining that does not relate to budget.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

The proposed amendments to the May 27, 2025 public meeting minutes were displayed on both screens in the room.

98. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of May 27, 2025, as amended.
CARRIED with 5 votes FOR and 1 OPPOSED

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair highlighted that June is Pride month and National Indigenous Heritage month. Kindness; Inclusion and acceptance is seen in schools and consequently, to increased feelings of safety. In recognition of National Indigenous Heritage month, the Chair encouraged everyone to learn more about Indigenous Heritage.

Committee assignments will take place over the summer and will be announced in September and in place for October meetings.

The Chair shared her appreciation and gratitude towards all SD62 students for their community engagement, hard work and dedication, and to staff for their hard work. In closing, the Chair wished everyone a restful, safe, healthy and happy summer.

99. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of Schools District 62 (Sooke) direct the Board Chair to write letters of recognition to all SD62 Valedictorians of the 2025 graduating class.
CARRIED with 5 votes FOR and 1 OPPOSED

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS – no presentations

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL – no report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

- 7.1 Correspondence – none received
7.2 Standing Delegations (STA, CUPE, PVP, SPEAC) – 5 minutes each

STA – Rita Zeni

The STA president reflected on the past year, her first year as President of the STA. She contrasted what schools were like when she was a student, to what they are like now. She credited trustees for advancements in sexual health curriculum, inclusion, Indigenous reconciliation, and a focus on belonging and diversity which have made schools better. That said, the STA President encouraged trustees to vote on the budget this evening in alignment with their values.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The SPEAC President, having finished his first year as president, shared his gratitude for the trustees and the work they are doing. Shared values amongst our Board, makes SD62 unique. Children growing up in this District are able to be themselves.

SP/VPA – Rob McCallister

Rob McCallister introduced himself as the Vice Principal of Spencer Middle School and a parent of two students in the District. He shared a presentation highlighting events taking place in schools, over the month of June.

CUPE 459 – Trudy Court, 2nd Vice-president

The CUPE 2nd Vice President read Call to Action #55 and reminded staff to reach out to administrators before visiting any site during the summer, as CUPE are busy with maintenance that can necessitate limited access. CUPE is pleased to report there were 8 successful applicants for the CUPE bursary this year, awarding \$8,000 to students.

7.3 Other Delegations – no reports

8. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of June 10, 2025 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the June Resources Committee meeting.

100. MOVED Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three readings of the Amended Capital Plan Bylaw 2025/26-CPSD62-02 at its meeting of June 24, 2025.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

101. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give first, second and third readings of the Amended Capital Plan Bylaw 2025/26-CPSD62-02.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

102. 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 10, 2025.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 8.2 Annual Budget Bylaw – Brian Jonker
The Chair reviewed the budget development process highlighting opportunities for
partner, public and trustee input.
103. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give second and third
readings to the 2025/26 Annual Budget Bylaw, specifying a total of \$239,357,761.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 8.3 Idlemore Intersection – Brian Jonker
The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the Idlemore project and the land
disposition bylaw.
104. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three readings of
the *Disposal of Real Property Bylaw No. 2025-01*.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
105. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give first, second and
third reading to Disposal of Real Property Bylaw No. 2025-01 in order to authorize
the transfer of a 0.498 acre section of the west field of the Saseenos Elementary
property located at 6066 Sooke Road to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit
to construct a signalized intersection at Idlemore Road and that staff proceed to
satisfy the requirements of *the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08)*.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 8.4 Invitation to the Indigenous Education Council to Participate in Budget and Committees
going forward – Allison Watson
106. MOVED Allison Watson/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) write a letter to the
Indigenous Education Council (IEC), inviting them to participate in the 2026/27
budget deliberation process, and in subsequent years thereafter. This invitation
includes the opportunity for the IEC to engage directly with the Board on budgetary
matters that support students and advance the work of the IEC, in a manner and
format that the IEC determines is appropriate.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

107: MOVED Allison Watson/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) write a letter extending an open invitation to the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) to explore and define how they may wish to expand their advocacy and collaboration with the Board, including the option to appoint a representative to participate on the Education-Policy Committee and the Resources Committee, should they see this as a meaningful avenue for engagement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of June 3, 2025 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the June Education-Policy Committee meeting.

108. MOVED Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the 2025-26 Operational Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

109. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-111 “International Education and Non-Resident Students”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

110. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-112 “Ordinarily Resident”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

111. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education Policy Committee meeting of June 3, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. **STUDENTS**

10.1 Report on Cross Border Safety – D’Arcy Deacon

The Associate Superintendent reviewed the report submitted to the Board as per Motion #96, carried at the May Board meeting.

11. **FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education – No reports

The Board Chair introduced item 11.2, noting the live version has updated language around the requested motion.

11.2 BCSTA Trustee Leadership Program – Paul Block

As per motion #79 that was carried at the April 22nd board meeting; “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”, the Superintendent presented the report.

112. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) schedule the BCSTA to deliver the pilot learning module(s) on board governance no later than October 31, 2025 with an approved budget of \$2,500 to support travel and per diem costs of the facilitators.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 and noted the MLA visits are initiated by the MLA offices. Trustees will be kept informed about what that schedule might look like. The Board Learning Series is an opportunity for the Board to look at their work and the systems in place to support that work.

13. PERSONNEL

13.1 Superintendent’s Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent presented the monthly Superintendent’s update.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- June is National Indigenous History Month, Portuguese, Filipino and Italian Heritage Month, and Pride month.
- Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day – June 24
- Last day of school – June 26
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day – June 27
- SD62 Participates in Pride Parade – July 6
- Public Board Meeting – August 26
- First Day of School – September 2
- Education-Policy – September 9
- Resources Committee – September 16
- Public Board Meeting – September 23

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.


17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer