

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE
School Board Office
June 2, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

- Present:** Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Chair)
Cendra Beaton, Trustee (Committee member)
Russell Chips, Trustee (Committee Member)
Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair (Ex-Officio)
Dana Savage, CUPE
Amanda Culver, STA
Corrinne Kosik, SPVPA
Ash Senini, SPEAC
Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO
D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
- Guest:** Kira Booth
Madi Rowat
Mark Kaercher, District Principal – Capital Planning
- Regrets:** Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent

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, SCÍÁNEW (Beecher Bay) Nation, and the Nuu-chah-nulth: Paaḡčiidḡaṭh (Pacheedaht) Nation. We also recognize that some of our schools are located on the traditional territories of the MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nation, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

2. Opening Remarks from Chair

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledging a busy month of May across the school district.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT of May 5, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the May 5, 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. Project for Change Presentation – Student Voice – Kira Booth and Madi Rowat

Students Kira Booth and Madi Rowat presented on their initiative at Royal Bay Secondary School entitled “Project for Change”. The students outlined a vision for developing a website that is focused on supporting student transitions beyond the K - 12 experience. Components of this website include a student experiences, opportunities Hub, course planning, career support, and

questions and answers. The goal is to start as a pilot project at Royal Bay that can then grow to other schools. Ideally, future student leaders would play a key role in maintaining and further developing the website. The students are seeking feedback and recommendations to refine the platform based on district input. The goal is to develop a site alongside the school and the district.

Members of the committee reflected positive feedback and encouragement to the students on their presentation. All members reflected on how refreshing it is to have students speaking directly at an Education-Policy Committee meeting. Committee members asked questions about how support for the initiative could be offered, and how the students see their voice engaging with the broader community. The committee encouraged the students to outline their next steps after this presentation and to engage members of the school community in supporting them.

b. 2026/27 District Catchment Review Process – Mark Kaercher

District Principal Mark Kaercher introduced a district catchment review process that is partially influenced by the establishment of a future secondary school in North Langford. **Note** - Mr. Kaercher identified that the information note referred to a Belmont catchment review in some areas; however, the process being introduced is a district catchment review. The district has an uneven distribution of students enrolled in schools with heavy pressure or over-enrolment in some areas, and with low enrolment in others. The purpose is to ensure equitable access to as many students as possible to attend the school closest to their primary residence. Factors considered in the process will be enrolment and capacity, transportation, community impact, and program delivery. Timelines for the process will include planning and design in summer 2026 with broad public engagement and targeted analysis from September to November 2026. Further analysis and draft development will follow until February 2027 and then shift to board consideration March/April with final decision making in May/June 2027.

Members of the committee asked questions about enrolment priorities around keeping families together. Staff responded by acknowledging that all factors need to be considered in the analysis; however, keeping families together has long been a priority for the Sooke School District. Committee members also asked about French Immersion and the option of adding programming, something that staff acknowledged would be considered as part of the analysis. The committee discussed a communications strategy to support a series of engagements with relevant partner groups and impacted parties. Examples of engagement activities would include broad surveys, school-based engagements, neighbourhood town halls, regional consultations, and engagement with communities that are affected.

6. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS**

There were no Policies/Regulations for this meeting.

7. **FOR INFORMATION**

8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. Next meeting - Sept. 15, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

