
Public Notice – Board of Education Public Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) will be held on **October 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

Please note that all Public Board and Committee meetings are held **in person** at the District School Board Office, located at 3143 Jacklin Road, Victoria.

To encourage more public participation, the meeting will be **livestreamed** via Microsoft town hall.

To join the meeting please click here: [Follow Link](#)

- Anyone who has the link can attend the meeting online. Ensure you have the Microsoft Teams app downloaded on your device.
- Members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at the meeting:
 - o Select the **Q&A**  function at the top of your Teams window.
 - o Type in the **Ask a question** text box at the top of the Q&A panel. When asking a question, please identify yourself. **Anonymous questions will not be responded to.**
 - o You will be notified that your question was received and will be published after a moderator approves it.
 - o Members of the media can direct their questions to the Communications Manager at School District 62 for a response following the meeting.

If you have questions regarding the meeting or how to access it, please email info@sd62.bc.ca.

See link for upcoming and previous Board and Committee meetings [Public Meetings | Sooke School District \(sd62.bc.ca\)](#) materials.

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

By Townhall

October 27, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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, SCÍΛNEW (Beecher Bay) Nation, and the Nuuchah-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. (Words gifted by the Nations SD62 works with)

2. AGENDA (page 2)

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

Recommended Motion: That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of October 27, 2026, as presented (or as amended).

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 (page 5)

3.1 Call for corrections to minutes of the Public Board meeting of September 29, 2026.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Governor General Award Recipients – Paul Block (page 12)

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – No Report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

- 7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy (page 14)
- a. Email from Jonathan L. Dated Sep 21, 2026 RE Pro d day dates
 - b. Email from Sooke Music Teachers’ Association Dated September 29, 2026 RE Elementary School Music Programs
- 7.2 Standing Delegations (CUPE, SPEAC, SPVPA, STA) – 5 minutes each
- 7.3 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES (No Report)

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM (No Report)

10. STUDENTS

- 10.1 Superintendent’s Report – Paul Block (page 19)

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- 11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education (No Reports)
- 11.2 General School Election Results – Brian Jonker (page 24)
- 11.3 Board Accomplishments & Highlights – Amanda Dowhy/Paul Block

12. ADMINISTRATION

- 12.1 Board of Education Work Plan: November to January - Amanda Dowhy (page 26)

13. PERSONNEL

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Pumpkin Smash – November 1
- Inaugural Board Meeting – November 3
- Remembrance Day (schools closed) – November 11
- Resources Committee Meeting – November 17
- Education Committee Meeting – November 19
- BCSTA Trustee Academy – November 26-28

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, Communications for response following the meeting.

17. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

September 29, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton
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 (online via MS Teams)
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 7:01 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.

1. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of September 29, 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. MNP LLP was appointed as the District's internal audit service provider for the next three years and the IM/IT roadmap was received by the Board.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for corrections to minutes

The minutes of the Public Board meeting of June 23, 2026 were adopted by unanimous consent. The report from the Resources Committee meeting of September 22, 2026 was corrected to show Trustee Chipps as regrets and Trustee Spiller as acting committee member.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

In July the Chair attended the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) conference, which provided an opportunity to meet other trustees from across the country and compare practices. Keynote speakers were Jody Wilson-Raybould and Rick Hansen. Key takeaways from concurrent sessions included Board success being supported by creating a culture of respect, empowerment, and mutual understanding, and a reframing of how Boards approach Superintendent evaluations by shifting perspective from “evaluate” to “appreciate”.

This Board contributed to the Provincial Steering Committee report that was distributed in August with an emphasis on advocating for child care space and new funding for children with support needs. Included from our submission, was acknowledgement that inflationary costs are being downloaded onto districts.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no educational presentations

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – Michelle Thut/Marlys Denny

A written report was included with the Board meeting materials.

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy

- a. Email from Clyde D. Dated June 20 2026 RE ECEs
- b. Email from Janine S. Dated Jun 30 2026 RE ECEs
- c. Email from Derek Y. Dated June 26 2026 RE ECEs
- d. Email from Minister Beare Dated July 22, 2026 RE ARC Funding
- e. Email from Karmen M. Dated July 1, 2026 RE Theatre Rental
- f. Email from Karry B. Dated September 16, 2026 RE Erin’s Law

Correspondence listed in items 7.1 a-f was received by the Board.

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

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard and Dana Savage

The President of CUPE 459 read Article 14 from The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, created in 2007 to establish a framework of basic human rights.

The CUPE 459 1st Vice President shared that CUPE had challenges at the start of the year including security, communication, working alone and contractors showing up unannounced.

SPEAC – Ash Senini

The Communications Vice President of SPEAC reported that SPEAC held its first meeting on September 16th with great turnout. A school trustee all-candidates meeting is scheduled for October 13th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Belmont Secondary School theater. A parent information session about Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be held in November or December. The next SPEAC meeting is scheduled for Oct 21st, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. online.

SPVPA – Karen Sjerven

The Principal of Hans Helgesen Elementary is celebrating 35 years in the district and is retiring in December. Highlights of events happening in schools after only 14.5 days in session were shared, including welcome picnics, PAC meetings, emergency drills, photo day, Terry Fox runs, Truth & Reconciliation events and cross-country meetings, to name a few. Hans Helgesen has a new childcare facility on site and families received tours during the welcome picnic. Acknowledgement goes to staff for the tremendous amount of work that has already taken place.

STA - Rita Zeni:

The STA President was inspired by the many different ways schools recognized the day for truth and reconciliation. Appreciation was expressed for acclaimed trustees and candidates present. The STA will endeavour to keep communication open between the STA and trustees. Concerns were shared about the number of grievances. Work continues to protect teachers' rights. The STA President requested increased communication around settlement agreements and follow-up on work safe investigations.

8. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting September 22, 2026 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources meeting.

2. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton**

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the 2027/28 Minor Capital Plan submission as presented to the Resources Committee on September 22, 2026.

CARRIED

3. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of September 22, 2026
CARRIED

8.2 2025/26 Financial Statements Approval – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the financial statements. The surplus is at 2% and budget planning has put the District in a good position to manage risks.

4. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the 2025/26 financial statements as presented to, and recommended by, the Audit Committee at its meeting on September 23, 2026.
CARRIED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

9.1 Education-Policy Committee – Meeting of September 15, 2026 – Trudy Spiller

Trustee Spiller provided an overview of items discussed at the meeting.

5. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Cendra Beaton**
That the Board of education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the 2025/26 Operational Plan Final Report as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of September 15, 2026.
CARRIED
6. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Cendra Beaton**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of September 15, 2026.
CARRIED

9.2 Early Learning Motion – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold reviewed the motivation provided in the meeting materials. Trustee Spiller requested a friendly amendment to replace the word 'direct', with 'request'.

7. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Christine Lervold**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) amend the motion on the floor to change the word 'direct' to 'request'.
CARRIED (one opposed)
8. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) request staff to provide a report on the feasibility of a Board operated Early Learning program (Pre-K) to support opportunities for improved educational outcomes and strengthen transitions into the K-12 system.
CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

10.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent acknowledged the members of the public present tonight and the student advocacy it represents. Highlights from the Superintendent's report were summarized.

The meeting was recessed at 8:41 and reconvened at 8:50.

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

There were no reports.

11.2 Enhancing Student Learning Report for 2025/26 – Monica Braniff

The Deputy Superintendent summarized the Enhancing Student Learning Report. Better outcomes were attributed to individualized conversations, ensuring supports are in place in a variety of ways to engage students, and honouring students' voice and choice. The increased intentional focus on numeracy and literacy is showing results. Continuous improvement has been realized by ensuring alignment between the Operational Plan and Department Plans across the District.

9. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the September 2026 Enhancing Student Learning Report submission as presented to the Board of Education on September 29, 2026.

CARRIED

11.3 Policy Adoption: A-6 "Board Committees" – Amanda Dowhy

Ongoing Governance Committee policy work continues following support and best practice recommendations from BCSTA, BCSSA, BCASBO, and the MoECC in consultation with FNESC to create separation between purview of the Board and that of the Superintendent. This work was undertaken to provide a solid foundation for the incoming board.

10. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) adopt draft new Policy A-6 "Board Committees", including its related appendices, Committee Terms of Reference and Appointment of External Committee Members as presented at the Governance Committee meeting of September 17, 2026.

CARRIED (one opposed)

11. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) rescind Policy and Regulations A-340 "School Board Committees".

CARRIED

12. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) rescind Policy and Regulations F-335 “Audit Committee”.
CARRIED

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education Work Plan for 2026/27 - Amanda Dowhy

The Chair summarized the Board Work Plan including the Board meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Key dates for the incoming Board in November were highlighted.

Having received notice of not having quorum for the October 6th Education Committee and October 13th Resources Committee meetings, both meetings are cancelled.

13. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District #62 (Sooke) adopt the 2026/2027 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule and the 2026/2027 Multi-Year Board of Education Work Plan as presented at its September 29, 2026 meeting.
CARRIED

13. PERSONNEL

There were no items discussed.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (schools closed) – September 30
- World Teachers’ Day – October 5
- World Mental Health Day – October 10
- Thanksgiving (schools closed) – October 12
- SPEAC Monthly General Meeting – October 21
- Non-Instructional Day – October 23
- Next Public Board Meeting - October 27

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 and 3 from the gallery.

1. What pre-emptive safety practices are in place right now for maintenance staff and when were those policies last reviewed?

The Superintendent confirmed there are structures in place. There are Joint Occupational Health & Safety committees on each site and protocols in place that address working alone.

-
2. What are the deferred maintenance costs (sum) and how much would we need to catch up?

The Secretary Treasurer answered there is approximately \$50 million in deferred maintenance.

3. SD62 is tracking 8 times above the average for grievances and severances. Who is getting severances and in what budget line is that reflected?

The question was referred to staff for future follow-up.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m. The next meeting is October 27, 2026.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer

Board Information Note Public Board Meeting

October 27, 2026

Agenda Item 5.1 – 2025/26 Governor General's Academic Award

ISSUE: Celebrating the Governor General's Award Winners from the 2025/2026 school year

BACKGROUND / FACTS:

Governor General's Academic Medal



Lord Dufferin, Canada's third Governor General after Confederation, created the Academic Medals in 1873 to encourage academic excellence across the nation. Over the years, they have become the most prestigious award that students in Canadian schools can receive.

For nearly 150 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. They are awarded to the student graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved college or university programs. Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy are just some of the more than 50,000 people who have received the Governor General's Academic Medal as the start of a life of accomplishment.

Today, the Governor General's Academic Medals are awarded at four distinct levels: Bronze at the secondary school level; Collegiate Bronze at the post-secondary, diploma level; Silver at the undergraduate level; and Gold at the graduate level. Medals are presented on behalf of the Governor General by participating educational institutions, along with personalized certificates signed by the Governor General. There is no monetary award associated with the Medal.

ANALYSIS:

Award Winners:

- Belmont Secondary School – Brianna Norris
- Ecole Royal Bay Secondary School – Riley Pardell
- Edward Milne Community School – Amara Smith

Prepared by: Paul Block - Superintendent / CEO

Jenny Seal

From: Jonathan L [REDACTED]
Sent: September 21, 2026 8:29 AM
To: ravi.parmar.mla@leg.bc.ca; Trustees
Subject: Formal Complaint: Concerns Regarding the Scheduling of September Pro-D Days in SD62

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER: This email originated from outside of School District 62. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear SD62 Board of Education and MLA Ravi Parmar,

I am writing to formally register my strong objection to the scheduling of the Professional Development (Pro-D) Day on Monday, September 21, 2026.

While I entirely support the ongoing training and professional growth of our educators, the timing of this non-instructional day is highly disruptive and unreasonable for working families. Students have been back in the classroom for less than two weeks. After families have spent the past two months navigating the logistical and financial strain of summer childcare, being forced to immediately scramble for care or take unpaid time off work this early in September is a massive burden.

Superintendent Paul Block has previously acknowledged to the board that these dates are inconvenient for families, yet the scheduling conflict remains. Many parents across our district feel caught in a bureaucratic loop, where the province points to the local school board and the board points back to provincial collective agreements.

I urge both the SD62 Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education to work together to reform how these mandatory days are structured. Professional development should be scheduled:

- **During the summer months** before the school year officially launches.
- **In consecutive blocks** rather than staggered single weekdays that disrupt student routine.
- **Outside standard working hours** where possible, to prevent passing childcare costs onto parents.

As an elected representative of our community, I am asking you to advocate for a school calendar that balances the operational needs of teachers with the practical, daily realities of the working families who fund our public school system.

I look forward to hearing how SD62 intends to address parent feedback when planning the 2027/2028 school calendar.

Sincerely,

Jonathan L [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Becky C [REDACTED]
Sent: September 28, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Trustees
Subject: Music Advocacy Letter
Attachments: Elem Music Classrooms Advocacy.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER: This email originated from outside of School District 62. Do not click links or open attachments unless you have verified the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from the Sooke Music Teachers' Association regarding the current state of elementary school music programs. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to meet.

Thanks for your time,
Becky

Dear SD 62 Upper Management and School Board Trustees,

We are writing to you to let you know of our concerns regarding how prep is currently being taught in elementary schools and the spaces deemed necessary. Over the last 5 years, spaces used for teaching prep were given over to be used as classrooms, due to our enlarging school populations. As a result, many prep teachers (mostly music teachers) were either relocated to less desirable locations (e.g. Libraries, gyms) or directed to teach in classroom teachers' spaces (at desks, etc). Not only is this an issue for classroom teachers (who are not able to do their own work in their own spaces at that time), but also libraries and gyms have been expected to accommodate the allocated times.

The biggest factor encountered by these prep teachers is that they can no longer teach a full and curated program necessary for their students' development and achievements. Prep teachers have been expected to minimize their curriculum (with limited access to instruments, technology, and other resources), which has limited students' opportunities. This has also created inequity amongst the elementary school as access to required teaching materials for robust programs is inconsistent throughout the district.

The following are just a few examples of how music in particular has been impacted in elementary schools:

- No transition time for travelling classroom-to-classroom - when one class ends at 10:42 and another class begins at 10:42 across the school, it is impossible for teachers to receive their contractually required prep time.
- Lack of access to equipment due to multi-level schools and the need to transport equipment in bins up and down the stairs.
- Lack of proper storage for instruments/equipment- in a number of cases, music equipment has been passed to other schools to store, or are stored in 4+ storage rooms due to lack of space. This leads to expensive equipment being lost or broken.
- Parent frustration at the music teacher for not teaching instruments when the teacher only has the students during eating instructional time (students cannot play instruments while eating!).
- Uncertainty and stress - no enrolling teacher has to advocate to have a space equitable to other classrooms in the district.

We would recommend that all elementary schools have dedicated spaces for non-enrolling teachers (especially music teachers) to mitigate the above issues.

We don't have to remind you of how many curriculum areas music education addresses and includes (Numeracy, Literacy, Indigenous Studies, Geography, Social Studies, Science, Inclusion, SEL). Below are some SD62 Strategic Plan points (2025-2029) and how they are

addressed in the music classroom (as taken from <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/student-success/strategic-plan>):

- “Vision: We create learning environments where every individual is valued. Our schools are nurturing spaces that inspire purposeful and innovative learning, guiding students to become informed and responsible citizens.” (pg. 6)

Are the prep spaces “nurturing spaces that inspire purposeful and innovative learning”? Does every individual student feel valued? How about students who may not find purpose and belonging in a conventional classroom? Furthermore, the district’s goals of focussing on Literacy and Numeracy directly relate to a vibrant music education environment, because music is an avenue for teaching numeracy and literacy through non-conventional ways (one of our music teachers even worked the past two years with the Ministry of Education to create Music/Fine Arts lessons plans that can be used in the new Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions). We would argue that this is exactly what is meant by “innovative learning”, wouldn’t you agree?

- Goal: Develop and support adaptable learners who are creative, critical, and social thinkers with the capacity to be educated citizens. (pg. 8)
 - We will: Ensure learning is inclusive, relevant, and adaptable, with student voice and choice guiding both learning experiences and assessment practices.

The Strategic Plan specifically states that SD62 has the objective to “focus on student curricular skills and competencies in Literacy, focus on student curricular skills and competencies in Numeracy, and create ways for students to share their voice, contribute their ideas, and actively participate in decisions about their learning, their school, and the district.” How is this being achieved with the current state of prep?

- Goal: Strive for operational excellence by using sustainable practices and constantly improving our ability to meet the needs of our growing community. (pg. 10)
 - We will: Take action to address the challenges of growing enrollment, ensuring that all students have access to suitable and effective learning environments.

The strategic plan talks about how “all students [will] have access to suitable and effective learning environments”. We would argue that currently elementary students do not have “suitable and effective” learning environments as they are not taught in a space that allows proper access to the equipment required for a vibrant, relevant program. Furthermore, the program students had only a few years ago was more vibrant and accessible than the program they have available to them now due to the lack of appropriate space and equipment. Although we have a new elementary school which has taken some of the load of our enlarging enrollment, spaces have not been given back to elementary prep teachers (specifically music teachers). How is this currently “meeting the needs of our growing community”? We would argue that it is not.

On a personal note, many of our music teachers feel undervalued and disposable which has left many music teachers leaving the music profession to become an enrolling teacher or leaving the district entirely. Specifically many music teachers are feeling burned out due to the working conditions and uncertainty.

As a result, we respectfully request that when planning for classroom configurations, please keep in mind with administrators where non-enrolling teachers can have a consistent, usable, accessible space for all students to prosper and thrive (that also has adequate space for equipment essential for a thoughtful and robust program). This will help mitigate the above issues.

We are advocating for ourselves as music teachers, as well as all non-enrolling prep teachers, and all classroom teachers who have been affected. We hope you see the benefit for a dedicated prep space in every school (regardless of subject) and hope you will keep this at the forefront of your thoughts in future planning and current classroom configurations.

We welcome the communication of your thought process and/or reasoning regarding the allocation of spaces and would certainly be willing to discuss this further at any given time.

Sincerely,

The Sooke Music Teachers' Association Executive, representing all music teachers in the district.

President: Becky C

Vice President: Jess S

Secretary: Kailee V

Treasurer: Kristine K

Middle/High Liason: Jacky S

BOARD INFORMATION NOTE

Public Board Meeting

October 27, 2026

Agenda Item 10.1: Superintendent's Report



As we conclude the final public meeting of the current Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each trustee for your dedication and service to public education.

Serving as an elected trustee is both a privilege and a significant responsibility. It requires a considerable commitment of time, thoughtful deliberation, and a willingness to make decisions that are not always easy. Much of this work takes place outside the public eye, yet its impact is felt throughout our schools and communities.

Public education is strengthened by individuals who are willing to step forward in service to their communities. Your contributions reflect the importance of locally elected school boards and the democratic principles upon which public education is founded.

One of the things I have come to appreciate about public education is that leadership brings together people with different experiences, perspectives, and convictions. This diversity of thought is important, but even when our perspectives differ, we must never lose sight of the one reason we are all here: students.

As you move into your next chapter, I hope you carry forward the experiences, accomplishments, and relationships that have shaped your time in public service.

Thank you for your service to our students, our schools, and our communities.

Learning

Fair Notice

Fair Notice is a process where school districts inform students, parents, guardians and staff that schools have a responsibility to respond when someone makes a threat of violence or engages in behaviour that could pose a risk to safety. It is essentially advanced notice that a threat assessment process exists, explaining how and when it may be used.

This month, the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced how the new laws and regulations under the Firearm Violence Prevention Act (FVPA) impact school districts. The FVPA further strengthens existing school and district policies banning firearms on school property by providing law enforcement with additional tools to address and enforce firearms-related public safety risks. The FVPA does this by establishing a clear and consistent province-wide prohibition on firearms, low velocity firearms (such as BB, pellet, gel, airsoft and paintball guns) and imitation firearms (such as lighters designed to closely resemble firearms) on all K-12 school properties.

The FVPA has been added to the Fair Notice disclaimers on the district website. Each school website also includes a Fair Notice link under the "Parents" heading, directing visitors to the district website for this information.

BOARD INFORMATION NOTE

Public Board Meeting

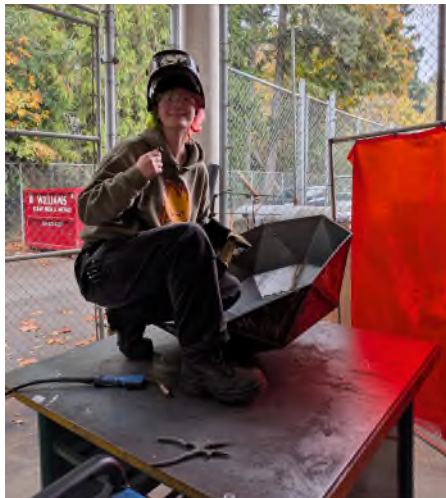
October 27, 2026

Agenda Item 10.1: Superintendent's Report

**Celebration of TASK Students at EMCS**

During the first six weeks of school, TASK students at Edward Milne have been immersed in welding, working directly with Cody Blandhal from Camosun College to develop their skills in Stick, MIG and TIG welding. On October 15, students were able to show off their learning through a Rocket Stove Competition followed by a BBQ lunch prepared by the EMCS Culinary Program.

Students put their skills to the test in a competition to see whose student-built rocket stove could boil water the fastest. They also had several student projects on display including Polygon Fire Pits, and welded metal cups. The student-made Polygon Fire Pits can also be purchased by contacting the school for more details.



Responsive Literacy Instruction: From Assessment to Action

The Curriculum Transformation Department has developed a professional learning series, “Responsive Literacy Instruction: From Assessment to Action,” for Grades 1–8 teachers. Offered before winter break and again in the new year, this series will support teachers in analyzing assessment data, identifying instructional priorities, and translating evidence of student learning into responsive instructional plans.

This work directly supports the literacy goals outlined in the Strategic Plan by strengthening teacher capacity and instructional competencies to respond to diverse student learning needs. Through a focus on assessment-informed instruction and intentional planning, the Curriculum Transformation Department is supporting educators in advancing the district’s commitment to strengthening students’ literacy skills and competencies.

Public Board Meeting

October 27, 2026

Agenda Item 10.1: Superintendent's Report



Engagement

The Great ShakeOut: Practicing Earthquake Safety and Preparedness

On October 15, our schools and district sites participated in the Great ShakeOut, an annual earthquake preparedness exercise that provides an opportunity to practise the important safety steps of “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” Participation times varied across our schools to accommodate bell schedules and previously planned activities.

Earthquake preparedness is an important part of our ongoing commitment to student and staff safety. Our schools conduct earthquake drills three times a year to ensure students and staff are familiar with emergency procedures and know how to respond.

We encourage families to visit the Emergency Information & Preparedness section under Resources on our district website. This section provides important information about how our schools prepare for and respond to emergencies, as well as what families can expect if an emergency occurs.

We recognize that, in an emergency, your first instinct will be to check on your child, contact the school, or go directly to the school. While this response is completely understandable, we ask parents, guardians, and family members not to call, text, or go to the school during an emergency unless directed to do so.

Our students and staff regularly practice emergency procedures so they can respond calmly and safely. During an emergency, it is essential that students remain focused on their teachers and school staff, listen carefully to instructions, and follow the safety procedures they have learned. Calls, texts, or unexpected arrivals at the school can create distractions and interfere with emergency response efforts.

If you happen to be at a school when an emergency occurs, please follow staff directions and respect the emergency protocols in place.

During an emergency, information can spread quickly, particularly through social media and messaging. Unfortunately, this can also lead to rumours, speculation, and misinformation.

We ask families to rely only on official communications from the school or district for accurate, verified information. If information has not been confirmed through our official communication channels, please do not assume it is accurate or share it as fact.

Thank you for helping us maintain safe and prepared school communities.

Let's Get Visible Day

In partnership with SD61, SD63, the Capital Regional District (CRD) and ICBC, the district will be participating in Let's Get Visible Day on Friday, November 6! We encourage all students, staff and

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families to wear bright, reflective or high-visibility clothing to help promote pedestrian and driver safety as we adjust to darker winter mornings.

With British Columbia's transition to permanent daylight-saving time, our clocks will no longer change twice a year. While this means more daylight in the afternoons, it also means darker mornings throughout the winter, with many students travelling to school before sunrise.

As we adjust to this change, we encourage families to take extra precautions when travelling to and from school. Wearing bright or reflective clothing, choosing well-lit routes, using designated crosswalks and staying alert around traffic can all help support safer journeys. Drivers are also reminded to slow down and use extra caution around schools and pedestrian crossings.

Depending on the control system at our school or site, some outdoor lighting will adjust automatically for the darker conditions, while our electrical team will complete adjustments and monitor manual systems as necessary.

Let's work together to stay safe, be seen and keep our school communities visible!

Fundraiser in Support of Flourish! School Food Society

The Langford Firefighters Charitable Foundation is hosting its Annual Pumpkin Smash Fundraiser on Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Westshore Town Centre. This year's event will support Flourish! School Food Society, which provides nutritious meals and snacks to more than 3,000 students across 34 schools each school day.

As part of the fundraiser, Langford schools have been invited to participate in a friendly Pumpkin Smash Challenge, encouraging students and families to collect and donate their Halloween pumpkins. Pumpkins will be dropped from a 107-foot fire truck ladder by donation, with all proceeds supporting local school food programs. The school contributing the most pumpkins will receive a special visit from Langford Fire Rescue and be recognized as the Pumpkin Smash Champions.

This initiative provides an opportunity to strengthen community connections while raising awareness and support for student food security. If you have a pumpkin to donate, drop it off on November 1 and let them know which school to record in their tally.

Illness in Schools

As we enter cold and flu season, we would like to remind families, staff, and visitors of the importance of helping keep our school communities healthy. In keeping with guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), everyone is encouraged to complete a daily health check before attending school or visiting a district site. Individuals who are feeling unwell and unable to

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participate fully in their regular activities should stay home until they are well enough to return, or follow the advice of a healthcare provider.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, parents or guardians will be contacted to arrange for pickup as soon as possible. While awaiting pickup, students may be supported in a designated area to help reduce the potential spread of illness.

We recognize that families sometimes have questions about why schools do not routinely notify parents and guardians when cases of head lice, influenza, hand, foot and mouth disease, norovirus, or other common illnesses are reported.

In British Columbia, schools follow provincial public health guidance regarding communicable disease prevention and notification. Schools also have a responsibility to protect students' and staff members' personal health information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).

As a general practice, schools do not issue individual notifications for routine cases of common illnesses. Public health authorities assess communicable disease risks and provide direction when additional measures or communication with families are necessary. Where notification is recommended or directed by public health, the school district will communicate with affected families in accordance with public health guidance and applicable privacy legislation.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of our families and staff in helping maintain healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments for everyone.

Growth

Postponement of Grand Opening for Hans Helgesen Child Care Centre

The official opening of the new child care centre, originally scheduled for October 1 was postponed following the issuance of the provincial election writ and the resulting restrictions on provincial government participation during the election period. A new date will be determined in consultation with our partners.

We look forward to celebrating this important addition alongside the Board of Education, Vancouver Island YMCA staff, District staff, elected officials, and community partners at a future date.

The centre began operations on September 1 and continues to provide much-needed child care spaces for infants and toddlers, children aged 3–5, and before- and after-school care.

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Agenda Item 11.2 – Election Summary Report

BACKGROUND

- Pursuant to section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act*, the Chief Election Officer is required to submit a report of the election results to the Board of Education within 30 days of Declaration of Official Results.

ANALYSIS:

The Chief Election Officer:

- Declared preliminary results of the election on October 17, and as required by the Act, published this declaration on the District website and notified all trustee candidates.
- Declared final results of the election on October 21, and as required by the Act, published this declaration on the District website and notified all trustee candidates.
- Submitted the report attached as required under to section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act*.

NEXT STEPS:

- With final election results declared, new Trustees will take their oath of office at the inaugural meeting on November 3, 2026.
- Staff will follow-up with the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election officer to debrief on the election period and related processes to identify lessons learned for future election cycles.

Prepared by: Brian Jonker, Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

1. Chief Election Officer - Election Summary Report

ELECTION SUMMARY REPORT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 62 (SOOKE) TRUSTEE ELECTION
OCTOBER 17, 2026

Summary for: All Municipalities, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups

Municipalities Reported: 5 of 5

Voting Places: 23 of 23

Votes Cast:

	Advance Voting	Special Voting	Mail In Voting	Voting Day	Total
City of Colwood	6389			6670	13,059
District of Highlands	569			691	1,260
City of Langford	15052	278	351	18112	33,793
District of Metchosin	2247			2606	4,853
Town of View Royal	4			4	8
Total					52,973

	City of Colwood	District of Highlands	City of Langford	District of Metchosin	Town of View Royal	Total		% of votes received
Trudy Spiller	2829	288	6784	935	2	10838	Elected	20.46%
Mike Manhas	2421	260	6560	887	2	10130	Elected	19.12%
Cendra Beaton	2355	201	5947	839	2	9344	Elected	17.64%
Tom Davis	2008	185	5684	525	1	8403	Elected	15.86%
Russ Chipps	1830	204	4610	994	1	7639		14.42%
Mattie McMillan	1616	122	4208	673	0	6619		12.50%

Submitted

Neilane Mayhew, Chief Election Officer



BOARD 90 DAY WORK PLAN

2026-2027 School Year

NOVEMBER

Meetings/Events:

- Inaugural Board Meeting (Nov. 3) (Oath of Office for Trustees/Chair & Vice Chair & elected representative positions only)
- Board Learning Session #1 (Nov.10)
- Remembrance Day (Nov 11 – Stat)
- Resources Committee (Nov. 17)
- SPEAC Monthly Meeting (Nov.18)
- Education Committee (Nov.19)
- BCSTA Trustee Academy – Vancouver (Nov. 26-28) (VISTA Meeting/Board Chairs Meeting/Provincial Council)
- Non-Instructional Day – Pro-D local includes CUPE (Nov. 27)
- BCPSEA Symposium (Board Representative - Vancouver) (Nov. 30/Dec.1)
- Board Chair makes Board Committees and External Liaison Appointments

Statutory Obligations

- Submit Pay Transparency Report
- Approve quarterly financial report

DECEMBER

Meetings/Events:

- Education Committee (Dec.1)
- Resources Committee (Dec.8)
- Board Learning Session #2 (Dec.9)
- Municipal Partner Meetings – CAO/ST/Mayor/Chair/Supt - Colwood (Dec 10), Langford (Dec 10 lunch mtg), Sooke (Dec 14)
- December Board Meeting (Dec.15)
- Participate in SBO Winter Luncheon (Chili Cook-off) (Dec. 18)
- Attend school functions as invited
- Send cards on behalf of the BoE
- Winter Break (Dec. 21 – Jan. 1)

Considerations:

- Board committee recommendations as required

Statutory Obligations

- Submit Quarterly Financial Report
- Submit Statement of Financial Information Report 2025/26

JANUARY

Meetings/Events:

- Schools Re-open (Jan. 4)
- Education Committee (Jan. 5)
- Resources Committee (Jan. 12)
- Audit Committee (Jan.13)
- Board Learning Session #3 (Jan.19)
- SPEAC Monthly Meeting (Jan.20)
- January Board Meeting (Jan. 26)
- Governance Committee (TBD)
- Board/MLA's Meeting (TBD)
- Municipal Partner Meeting - Board/Council – Colwood (Jan 18)

Considerations:

- Board committee recommendations as required
- Review policy positions for submission to BCSTA AGM

Statutory Obligations

- Submit written Financial Disclosure Statements