

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

February 24, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Russ Chipps (online via MS Teams)
Trudy Spiller

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 of Operations, Information Technology

REGRETS: Christine Lervold, Ebony Logins

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board Chair who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations. The Chair informed attendees of the loss of Elder Dr Lavina Charles and noted her contributions.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

The Chair amended the agenda to move the Superintendent’s Report after Item 7.3 - Other Delegations. The Chair specified Robert’s Rules of Order that would be adhered to more stringently going forward.

82. MOVED Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of February 24, 2026, 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.

The Chair notified attendees that in-camera, Trustee Chipps declared a conflict of interest relating to CUPE collective agreement ratification.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

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

83. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of January 27, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair expressed support on behalf of the Board for the community of Tumbler Ridge and the recent tragedy.

The following date changes and events were noted:

- The March 10th Resources Committee meeting will be held virtually this month.
- The date for Education Committee of the Whole (ECOW) has been moved to May 19th.
- Pink shirt day is tomorrow and highlights kindness.
- March 8th is International Women's Day.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Secondary School Hockey 4 Youth Trip to Ottawa, ON., May 20-24, 2026 – Doug Andrews & Sophia Pettigrew

The Board Chair noted this trip is outside the normal window of approval; however, being grant funded with no cost to the students, an exception will allow the Board to support this trip.

Doug Andrews provided an overview of the trip and the Hockey 4 Youth gathering.

84. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Secondary School Hockey 4 Youth Trip to Ottawa, ON., May 20-24, 2026, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's office.

CARRIED

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council – No report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy

- a. Email from L. Novosad Dated January 21, 2026 RE Ban Dogs on District Property
- c. Email from J. Thiessen Dated February 5, 2026 RE Child Care Access

85. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence as listed in items a and b.

CARRIED

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

CUPE 459 – Dana Savage

The Vice President of CUPE brought forward issues faced by members:

- CUPE is pushing for stronger safety protocols to address violence in the workplace.
- The union continues to push for realistic workloads and respect for custodial staff.
- The union is committed to rebuilding connection and stronger communication between Facilities staff and Management.
- CUPE continues to advocate for continued support and dignity for its members.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The President of SPEAC had the opportunity to attend the naming ceremony of SĆIΛNEW_STĒLIT̓KĒL, during which Elder Lavina Charles shared with him the importance of putting forward the effort to pronounce the name, even if you don't get it right.

SPEAC held its annual leadership dinner at Royal Bay Secondary with dinner served by the culinary students. SPEAC will be taking a break over March with no monthly meeting.

SPVPA – Camille McFarlane

Camille McFarlane, Principal of SĆIΛNEW_STĒLIT̓KĒL spoke to the loss of Elder Lavina Charles. A slideshow highlighted events that took place in schools during the month of February.

STA – Amanda Culver

The 2nd Vice president of the STA shared that union executive passed a motion for the STA to continue to attend Board meetings.

BCTF and BCPSEA have reached a tentative agreement and are working through the

stages of potential ratification.

February 25th is Pink Shirt day, the origin of which is connected to homophobic bullying.

The union is working to support members in addressing violence in the classroom. STA Pro-D and community events were shared.

7.3 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each

There were no other delegations.

8. PERSONNEL

13.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent began by acknowledging the staff, students and community of Tumbler Ridge.

The Superintendent, Deputy and Associate Superintendents each spoke to parts of the Superintendent's report.

9. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting February 10, 2026 – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the Resources Committee meeting of February 10, 2026. The Secretary Treasurer detailed revisions to the budget documents contained in the Board package.

86. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District #62 (Sooke) give first, second, and third readings to the 2025/26 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total budget of \$247,882,254.

CARRIED unanimously

87. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Quarter 2 Financial Forecast Report as presented at the Resources Committee meeting of February 10, 2026.

CARRIED

88. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the 2026/27 Academy Fees as presented at the Resources Committee Meeting of February 10, 2026.

CARRIED



89. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the District School Fee Schedules for Middle, Secondary and Adult programs for the 2026/2027 school year as presented at the Resources Committee meeting of February 10, 2026.
CARRIED
90. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of SD62 (Sooke) approve the International Student Program fee increases for the 2027/28 school year as presented to the Resources Committee of February 10, 2026.
CARRIED
91. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve an increase to transportation ridership fees from \$325 to \$355 per rider - inclusive of the \$25 safety fee for the 2026-27 school year to help address inflationary pressures.
CARRIED
92. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct staff to explore a low barrier means assessment for families requesting fee waivers.
CARRIED
93. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve submitting a request to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative program to implement the maximum allowable fees for board operated childcare for the 2026/27 school year of \$204 for kindergarten and \$399 for grade 1-3 participants.
CARRIED
94. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) request staff review participation in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative program for 2027/28 and bring back options to the Board for consideration in September 2026.
CARRIED
95. **MOVED Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps**
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of February 10, 2026.
CARRIED

- 8.2 2026/27 Enrolment Forecast Update – Monica Braniff
Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff provided an enrolment update.

10. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of February 3, 2026 – Cendra Beaton
The February 3, 2026 Education-Policy Meeting was cancelled by the chair of that committee due to lack of business to conduct.
- 9.2 Adoption of Policy and Regulations B-132, “Career Education” – Paul Block
The Superintendent reported that no feedback was received on the draft revised Policy and Regulations.
96. **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 B-132, “Career Education”.
CARRIED

11. STUDENTS

There were no student presentations.

12. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- 11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education
- a. **BCPSEA AGM** – Trudy Spiller
Trustee Spiller reported results from the recent BCPSEA elections.
- b. **Village Initiative** – Trudy Spiller
Trustee Spiller attended a workshop hosted by the Village Initiative, titled “A Critical Conversation about Children and Youth Wellbeing”. The latest data on the wellbeing of West Shore and Sooke region children and youth suggests collaboration across systems and integration of services.
- c. BCSTA – Amanda Dowhy
Professional Learning Committee was held February 14, 2026 and Trustee Lervold attended on behalf of the Vancouver Island School Trustee Association. PLC is a conduit for learning and support resources for each branch. The next PLC meeting is April 8th. The upcoming BCSTA AGM is April 9-11.
- BCSTA Provincial Council** was held February 20th. Updates were provided on emerging trustee issues, and areas of advocacy. A summary will be provided in the BCSTA Weekly. Items for action will be brought forward by Trustee Lervold at the March Board meeting.



13. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided a summary of the fluid and working document highlighting the changed date of ECOW to May 19, 2026.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Education-Policy Meeting – March 3
- Daylight savings time March 8
- Resources Committee Meeting – March 10
- Spring Break – March 16 to 27
- Next Public Board Meeting – March 31

15. RISE AND REPORT

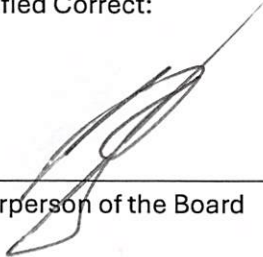
16. QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at tonight's meeting. There were no questions.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer