

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
March 12, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**TRUSTEES:** Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair  
Russ Chipps (virtual)  
Ebony Logins  
Allison Watson  
Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair (virtual)  
Christine Lervold  
Trudy Spiller

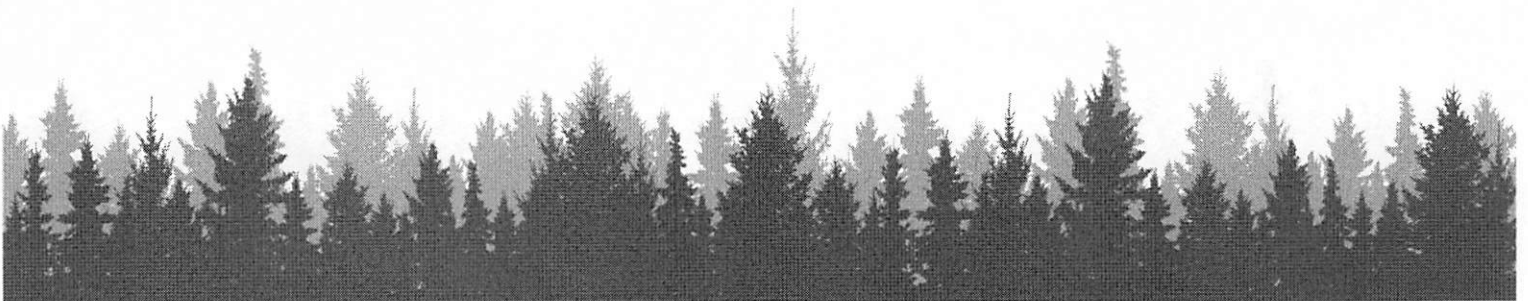
**STAFF:** Paul Block, Superintendent  
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer  
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent  
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent  
David Strange, Associate Superintendent  
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, HR  
Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, IT  
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, IT Operations

**REGRETS:**

**SECRETARY:** Kristina Ross

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- 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 traditional territories of the First Nations.
  
- 2. AGENDA**
  - 2.1 Call for amendments and additional items
    41. **MOVED** Allison Watson/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of March 12, 2024, as amended.  
**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 amendments to minutes

42. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of February 27, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The City of Langford officially opened its Progress Pride Flag Crosswalk on February 29<sup>th</sup> near Spencer Middle School. While it was disheartening to witness the repeat vandalism of this crosswalk, the District will continue to advocate strongly for all of our students regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, cultural or ethnic ancestry. Partners in the community were on hand to support and help celebrate this crosswalk including the RCMP, trustees and staff and students.

On Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> the B.C. Government announced that Sooke-Westshore will receive a Foundry Centre which services young people aged 12-24 and gives access for mental health and well-being care, substances use, social support and services, and helps navigate assistance and self-care. The District welcomed this announcement and looks forward to working with its partners in the community.

On Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> the B.C. Government announced \$12M rebuild of the Port Renfrew Elementary School; the new school expected to open in 2025 will have a 50-student capacity. The District and Pacheedaht First Nation Chief Arliss Daniels welcomed the news and look forward to furthering its partnership as the school progresses from plans to reality.

5. **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Correspondence

Email from Vickie Heist, dated March 5, 2024, RE: PA System Usage at Ruth King



## Elementary School

43. **MOVED** Ebony Logins/Allison Watson  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the email from Vickie Heist, dated March 5, 2024, RE: PA System Usage at Ruth King Elementary School.  
CARRIED

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

#### STA – Christina Kempenaar

Christina Kempenaar reported that there were 150 instances of violence reported by its members to the District in February; this is the highest number of instances reported ever in one month. It looks forward to working with the Employer in making schools safer. The STA noted that Human Resources is hiring a record number of TTOCs however, the District is still having an issue with failure to fill; teachers are being pulled from positions to backfill enrolling classes. The STA has a PRO D Day scheduled for April 19, 2024, featuring keynote speakers Anthony Johnson and Dr. James Makokis.

#### CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

Amber Leonard acknowledged International Women's Day held March 8, 2024, a global day to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' achievements. CUPE is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and is running local radio ads to acknowledge this milestone. CUPE 459 will host a PRO D Day on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Royal Bay Secondary School and is currently planning its programming. The President acknowledged the budget pressure of between \$1.424 to \$2.442M for the upcoming school year. CUPE 459 acknowledges that mitigation strategies looking at transportation fees and/or transportation service reductions may be required, in addition to walkable routes.

#### PVP – Kendra Laidlaw

Kendra Laidlaw thanked members of the Facilities Team who kept school grounds clear of ice and snow. The President of BCPVPA, Brian Leonard, was recently hosted by SD 62 at Centre Mountain Lellum Middle School and praised SD 62 for its valuable working relationships with its Indigenous Partners. PVP are currently developing 2024/25 school timetables and working through registration requests. She provided her thanks to Digital Solutions for their support in this.



SPEAC – Nevada Kaludjar

SPEAC indicated that they are fielding questions from parents on what the transportation fee model will look like for the upcoming year. Feedback from the community on the current transportation survey indicates that parents need specific fee amounts to properly provide comments. The Superintendent, Board Chair and Secretary-Treasurer are attending the SPEAC meeting on March 13, 2024, to help answer any questions.

**7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

**7.1 Resources Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024 – Christine Lervold**

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024, to the Board of Education.

44. **MOVED Ebony Logins/Trudy Spiller**  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct staff to bring back transportation service ~~reduction~~ models during the 2024/2025 budget development process.  
CARRIED

45. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Ebony Logins**  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Ethical Decision-Making Framework as presented at the Resources Committee meeting of March 6, 2024.  
CARRIED

46. **MOVED Christine Lervold/Cendra Beaton**  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024.  
CARRIED

**8. EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**8.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of March 5, 2024 – Cendra Beaton**

Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of March 5, 2024, to the Board of Education.

47. **MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson**



That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Policy and Regulations C-211 “Challenge and Equivalency”.

CARRIED

48. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of March 5, 2024.

CARRIED

## 9. STUDENTS

### 9.1 School Calendar – Monica Braniff

The Deputy Superintendent indicated that the District is working in coordination with SD 61 and SD 63 in the development of a rolling three year School Calendar. The calendar will be presented to the Education-Policy Committee in May, coming to the Board of Education for approval in June.

## 10. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

### 10.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

Trustee Lervold and the Board Chair attended the First Nations Regional Emergency Management Planning Gathering hosted by MLA Dean and Parmar on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The initial meeting was an opportunity to bring stakeholders together in the affected communities (Port Renfrew to Esquimalt) and speak about the purpose of developing a community emergency strategic plan.

### 10.2 Na'tsa'maht Education Council Meeting of February 28, 2024 – Paul Block

The Superintendent congratulated newly elected Chief Arliss Daniels of Pacheedaht First Nation and Chief Lawrence Underwood of T'Sou-ke First Nation. He thanked outgoing Chief Jeff Jones and Chief Gordon Planes for their leadership and contributions to their communities. Joe Heslip, the Equity in Action Liaison for the Ministry of Education, provided a presentation to the Na'tsa'maht Education Council, in addition to a presentation on the Proposed Elementary Blended Learning Program, by Heather Lait, Principal SD 62 Online & Continuing Education.

## 11. ADMINISTRATION

### 11.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the work plan to the Board of Education.

## 12. PERSONNEL

### 12.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block





The Superintendent provided the Board of Education an update on Learning, Engagement and Growth. The District is supporting its students while they access and apply for the numerous scholarships that are available. A recap of previous scholarship awards for the school year will be made available to the Board of Education in June and September. The Superintendent will engage with students around the topic of transportation and budget concerns.

**13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**14. FUTURE ITEMS**

March 18/April 2 – Spring Break  
March 31- Transgender Day of Visibility  
April 3 – Schools Reopen  
April 9 – Education-Policy Committee Meeting  
April 16 – Resources Committee Meeting  
April 17/21-BCSTA AGM  
April 18 – Early Dismissal  
April 19 - Non-Instructional Day  
April 23 – Education Committee of the Whole Meeting  
April 30-Public Board Meeting

**15. 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.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**


The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Certified Correct:



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Chairperson of the Board



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Secretary-Treasurer

