




Sooke School District
3143 Jacklin Road, Victoria, BC V9B 5R1
(250) 474-9800
www.sd62.bc.ca

Public Notice – Board of Education Public Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) will be held on **March 31, 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:
 - Select the **Q&A**  function at the top of your Teams window.
 - 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.**
 - You will be notified that your question was received and will be published after a moderator approves it.
 - 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

March 31, 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, SCÍÅNEW (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 MÁLEXEŁ (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 March 31, 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 6)**
 - 3.1 Call for corrections to minutes. As per direction by the Chair at the February Board meeting, minutes will be adopted by unanimous consent.
4. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - 4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy
5. **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS** – no presentations
6. **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL**
 - 6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – Michelle Thut and Jo-Ina Young

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy (page 13)

1. Email from Erik L. Dated February 20, 2026 RE Review of Kindergarten Placement
3. Email from Savory PAC Dated March 4, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
4. Email from Colette M. Dated March 5, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
5. Email from Gail L. Dated March 5, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
6. Email from Heather G. Dated March 5, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
7. Email from Sherry D. Dated March 6, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
8. Email from Alisha C. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
9. Email from Amanda W. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
10. Email from Beverly T. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
11. Email from Chris W. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
12. Email from Danielle V. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
13. Email from Dora S. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
14. Email from Kim K. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
15. Email from Matthew D. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
16. Email from Michele N. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
17. Email from Sarah S. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
18. Email from Shauna S. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
19. Email from Tanya S. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
20. Email from Teresa M. Dated March 7, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
21. Email from Angela B. Dated March 8, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
22. Email from Bev S. Dated March 8, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
23. Email from Shannon R. Dated March 8, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
24. Email from Skye L. Dated March 8, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
25. Email from Tiff & Chris C. Dated March 8, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
26. Email from Alexa G. Dated March 9 & 10, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
27. Email from Amy S. Dated March 9, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
28. Email from Gina & Cameron B. Dated March 9, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
29. Email from Leanne W. Dated March 9, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
30. Email from Katlin C. Dated March 10, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
31. Email from Sarah. G. Dated March 10, 2026 RE Savory Bridge
32. Email from Tyler G. Dated March 10, 2026 RE Savory Bridge

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

7.3 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting March 10, 2026 – CANCELLED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of March 3, 2026 – Trudy Spiller (page 72)

Recommended Motion: That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve a new Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School to begin in September 2026.

Recommended Motion: That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of March 3, 2026.

10. STUDENTS

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

- 11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education
- a. Vancouver Island School Trustee Association (VISTA) March 6-7, 2026 – Amanda Dowhy
 - b. BCPSEA – Trudy Spiller

12. ADMINISTRATION

- 12.1 Board of Education Work Plan: April to June - Amanda Dowhy (page 88)

13. PERSONNEL

- 13.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block (page 89)

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Good Friday – April 3
- Easter Monday – April 6
- Education-Policy Meeting – April 7
- Resources Committee Meeting – April 14
- SPEAC monthly meeting – April 15
- Non-instructional Day – April 20
- Earth Day – April 22
- Administrative Professionals Day – April 23
- Next Public Board Meeting – April 28
- National Day of Mourning (Workers) – April 29
- Education Committee of the Whole – May 19

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



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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

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 SCÍANEW_STELIṬKEṬ, 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 SCÍANEW_STELIṬKEṬ 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.



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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

Jenny Seal

From: Erik [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Trustees
Subject: Request for Review of School Placement

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 Trustees,

I am writing to formally request reconsideration of my child's [REDACTED] placement in an overflow school, rather than at our catchment school, Pexsisen Elementary.

Our family resides [REDACTED] from Pexsisen Elementary, well within the designated catchment area. One of the primary reasons we purchased our home 4-years ago was because of the close proximity to the new school and our ability to have our child walk safely to and from school each day. This was an important consideration for us, not only for convenience but also to build a sense of community with nearby families.

Unfortunately, our child has been placed in an overflow school farther away. This situation presents several hardships for our family:

Lack of accessible after-school care: The available childcare option connected to Pexsisen Elementary is within walking distance of our home and is also [REDACTED] which would mean one destination and time for drop-off and pick-ups. The overflow school placement now removes access to these services, and there are no comparable care options within a reasonable distance.

Work-related challenges: I am a [REDACTED] with unpredictable hours and my wife is a [REDACTED] working 12-hour shifts, so we rely heavily on family and friends for school drop-offs and pickups. Without after-school care close to home, coordinating this support becomes extremely difficult and uncertain.

Community and safety impact: Our [REDACTED] is the only child out of eight children on our street who was not placed in Pexsisen Elementary. The families in our immediate neighborhood had planned to walk together and support one another during the school year. Being separated from this network not only isolates our [REDACTED] but also adds unnecessary transportation and safety concerns.

Age and school bus concerns: Our child is [REDACTED] too young to take the school bus at [REDACTED] years old. This arrangement would be stressful and developmentally inappropriate at this stage.

I understand the pressure that rapid growth in the City of Langford has placed on the school district. However, given our proximity to Pexsisen Elementary and the significant personal, logistical, and emotional impacts this placement has on our family, I respectfully request that our child be reassigned

to their rightful catchment school.

We are hopeful that the district can review this decision and make an accommodation based on the circumstances outlined above. Please let me know if there is any additional information or documentation I can provide in support of this request.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration, and dedication to supporting families in our growing community.

Sincerely,

Erik [REDACTED]

--



Jenny Seal

From: Savory PAC [REDACTED]
Sent: March 4, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Trustees
Subject: Fwd: Savory Bridge Closure

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 SD62 Trustees

We are writing to you on behalf of the affected families of Savory Elementary School.

We have recently learned that School District 62 and the City of Langford, possibly including the Island Corridor Foundation, have decided to close the pedestrian overpass that connects Atkins Avenue to Savory School, the E&N rail trail and beyond. We are beyond disappointed in the decision not to repair or rebuild the bridge.

The alternate proposed route is a 1.5km round trip detour/walkaround for parents to drop off and pick up their child each day. Walking with [REDACTED], this could add 15 minutes to the walk to school. This route also brings safety concerns. In the morning, with the new permanent DST, it will be dark on the walk to school and this route is not illuminated. In addition, there are unhoused and drug users that frequent this area, including in the underpass we are supposed to use. For these reasons most parents will be forced to drive to the school directly on the already congested Veterans Memorial Parkway and Goldstream Avenue and into the already congested school parking lot.

We would ask that the City of Langford and SD62 come together and reconsider repairing and/or building a new bridge. The Savory PAC would be willing to fundraise and spearhead a community campaign to help cover some of the costs of the bridge. That aside, we ask you to implement a solution to this matter that does not make access to the school and E&N rail trail more difficult for the families and residents of this neighborhood. There is a much easier and substantially less expensive pedestrian connection that could be made fairly quickly. We are suggesting a direct connection to the E&N rail trail around the 580-600 block of Atkins Avenue. As the road is level with the railway at this location and it's not currently active, the connection could be made with a culvert and some gravel. This new connection would be virtually the same distance to the school for pedestrians as the overpass was.

For your additional consideration, many other families and residents in the area use this overpass to access the school grounds outside of school hours, the E&N rail trail, Goldstream Avenue, Mill Hill Regional Park, the Westshore Primary Care Center, and beyond in both directions. I know from talking to the community that it is more than just Savory families that are disappointed in this decision.

Thank you for your consideration,



Savory PAC President

Jenny Seal

From: Colette [REDACTED]
Sent: March 5, 2026 12:23 PM
To: Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Christine Lervold (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Removal of the Bridge at Savory Elementary

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.

To the Sooke School District,

I am writing to express my strong concern and disappointment regarding the decision to remove the pedestrian bridge providing access to Savory Elementary School and the surrounding trail network.

For many families in the area, the bridge has been a critical and safe access point for students walking or cycling to school. Its removal raises significant safety concerns for children and parents who rely on this route daily.

The proposed alternative route through the tunnel is not a viable or safe option for students. The tunnel area is frequently used for shelter by unhoused individuals, which raises legitimate safety concerns for children travelling alone or in small groups. In addition, the trail leading to and through this area is often not cleared during snow or icy conditions, making it hazardous and unreliable during winter months.

Without the bridge, families will be forced to drive their children to school instead of allowing them to walk or bike. The existing parking lot and drop-off area at Savory Elementary already experiences congestion during peak hours, and the additional traffic will only worsen safety issues for students, parents, and staff.

Removing a safe pedestrian crossing while directing children toward a route that is less visible, poorly maintained in winter conditions, and perceived as unsafe is deeply concerning to many parents and community members.

I urge the district to reconsider the removal of the bridge or provide a safe, well-maintained, and practical alternative that truly meets the needs of students and families who rely on this access point.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope the district will take these concerns seriously and work with the community to find a safer solution.

Sincerely,

Colette [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Gail [REDACTED]
Sent: March 5, 2026 12:01 PM
To: Trustees
Cc: Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Christine Lervold (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee)
Subject: Fwd: Student safety concerns raised over planned closure of Savory Elementary pedestrian bridge in Langford
Attachments: Proposed Atkins Westwind Sidewalk and Multiuse Path.png

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 Sooke School District 62, City of Langford, Capital Regional District, MLA Ravi Parmar, and CHEK News,

I am writing as a Langford resident to raise serious safety concerns about the planned permanent closure of the pedestrian bridge near Savory Elementary School scheduled for March 30, 2026. This bridge is widely used by students and residents on both sides of the railway corridor and provides one of the safest and most direct walking routes to the school.

This bridge is not simply an outdated structure — it is a heavily used and essential connection for residents and families on both sides of the railway corridor. For many students walking to Savory Elementary from the Atkins and surrounding neighbourhoods, the bridge provides the most direct and safest route to school.

I am also concerned that no consultation with local residents appears to have taken place prior to this decision. Much of the information circulating about the closure has come through community-led Facebook groups rather than through direct communication or engagement with those most affected. Given the importance of this infrastructure to the neighbourhood, meaningful community consultation should have occurred before such a significant decision was made.

This issue directly affects my household. My property is located on the corner of Atkins Avenue and Westwind Drive, meaning the proposed changes will impact my home from both sides. The removal of the bridge and redirection of pedestrian traffic and school routes will significantly alter traffic patterns, pedestrian movement, and daily activity around our property.

Closing the bridge and redirecting students along Westwind Drive and the E&N Trail creates several serious concerns:

- A much longer route for children walking to school, which discourages active transportation and adds unnecessary time to their commute.
- Increased traffic congestion around Savory Elementary, as more parents will feel compelled to drive their children to school rather than send them on a longer route.
- Additional traffic pressure on Westwind Drive, a residential street not designed to handle increased school traffic.
- Safety concerns for students, as many parents will understandably be reluctant to drop children off along Westwind rather than directly at the school.

- Lighting and safety concerns in winter months. If British Columbia moves to permanent daylight saving time as planned, winter mornings will be darker and students using the trail route could be walking to school in darkness.

In addition, the removal of this bridge appears to conflict with widely supported Safe Routes to School and active transportation goals promoted by municipalities, school districts, and the Province of British Columbia. Eliminating a direct pedestrian connection to a neighbourhood school will inevitably result in more vehicles on the road, more congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times, and fewer students walking to school safely.

While the City of Langford's plan to construct a sidewalk and multi-use path is appreciated, it is not an equivalent replacement for the bridge. Instead, it shifts pedestrian and traffic pressures into residential streets and changes how students and residents move through the neighbourhood.

I understand that the bridge is owned by School District 62 and that the land beneath it belongs to the Island Corridor Foundation. Given the impact on student safety and safe routes to school, I respectfully request that the proposed removal of the Savory Elementary pedestrian bridge be **placed on the agenda for discussion at an upcoming public Board of Education meeting**, so that the community can better understand the decision and whether alternatives such as repair or replacement have been fully considered.

Specifically, I would ask that the following be considered:

- Providing the community with an estimated cost to repair or replace the bridge.
- Exploring partnership opportunities between SD62, the Island Corridor Foundation, the City of Langford, CRD, and the Province.
- Considering grant funding, infrastructure programs, or community fundraising initiatives that could support rebuilding the bridge rather than eliminating it.
- Temporarily maintaining the bridge while longer-term solutions are explored.

This bridge is a vital piece of neighbourhood infrastructure that supports safe routes to school, community connectivity, and reduced vehicle traffic. Losing it will have lasting impacts on Savory Elementary students, families, and the surrounding neighbourhood.

I hope all levels of government and local partners will work collaboratively to find a solution that preserves safe and direct access for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gail [REDACTED]

Langford Resident

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gail [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Mar 5, 2026 at 11:14 AM

Subject: Student safety concerns raised over planned closure of Savory Elementary pedestrian bridge in Langford

To: <info@sd62.bc.ca>, <Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, <info@langford.ca>, <news@cheknews.ca>, <crd@crd.bc.ca>

Cc: <mayor@langford.ca>, <transportation@crd.bc.ca>, <info@islandrail.ca>, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <publisher@goldstreamgazette.com>

Dear Sooke School District 62, City of Langford, Capital Regional District, MLA Ravi Parmar, and CHEK News,

I am writing as a Langford resident to raise serious safety concerns about the planned permanent closure of the pedestrian bridge near Savory Elementary School scheduled for March 30, 2026. This bridge is widely used by students and residents on both sides of the railway corridor and provides one of the safest and most direct walking routes to the school.

This bridge is not simply an outdated structure — it is a heavily used and essential connection for residents and families on both sides of the railway corridor. For many students walking to Savory Elementary from the Atkins and surrounding neighbourhoods, the bridge provides the most direct and safest route to school.

I am also concerned that no consultation with local residents appears to have taken place prior to this decision. Much of the information circulating about the closure has come through community-led Facebook groups rather than through direct communication or engagement with those most affected. Given the importance of this infrastructure to the neighbourhood, meaningful community consultation should have occurred before such a significant decision was made.

This issue directly affects my household. My property is located on the corner of Atkins Avenue and Westwind Drive, meaning the proposed changes will impact my home from both sides. The removal of the bridge and redirection of pedestrian traffic and school routes will significantly alter traffic patterns, pedestrian movement, and daily activity around our property.

Closing the bridge and redirecting students along Westwind Drive and the E&N Trail creates several serious concerns:

- A much longer route for children walking to school, which discourages active transportation and adds unnecessary time to their commute.
- Increased traffic congestion around Savory Elementary, as more parents will feel compelled to drive their children to school rather than send them on a longer route.
- Additional traffic pressure on Westwind Drive, a residential street not designed to handle increased school traffic.
- Safety concerns for students, as many parents will understandably be reluctant to drop children off along Westwind rather than directly at the school.
- Lighting and safety concerns in winter months. If British Columbia moves to permanent daylight saving time as planned, winter mornings will be darker and students using the trail route could be walking to school in darkness.

In addition, the removal of this bridge appears to conflict with widely supported Safe Routes to School and active transportation goals promoted by municipalities, school districts, and the Province of British Columbia. Eliminating a direct pedestrian connection to a neighbourhood school will inevitably result in more vehicles on the road, more congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times, and fewer students walking to school safely.

While the City of Langford's plan to construct a sidewalk and multi-use path is appreciated, it is not an equivalent replacement for the bridge. Instead, it shifts pedestrian and traffic pressures into residential streets and changes how students and residents move through the neighbourhood.

I understand that the bridge is owned by School District 62 and that the land beneath it belongs to the Island Corridor Foundation. Given the importance of this connection to the community, I respectfully ask that all involved parties work together to explore alternatives before permanently removing the bridge.

Specifically, I would ask that the following be considered:

- Providing the community with an estimated cost to repair or replace the bridge.
- Exploring partnership opportunities between SD62, the Island Corridor Foundation, the City of Langford, CRD, and the Province.
- Considering grant funding, infrastructure programs, or community fundraising initiatives that could support rebuilding the bridge rather than eliminating it.
- Temporarily maintaining the bridge while longer-term solutions are explored.

This bridge is a vital piece of neighbourhood infrastructure that supports safe routes to school, community connectivity, and reduced vehicle traffic. Losing it will have lasting impacts on Savory Elementary students, families, and the surrounding neighbourhood.

I hope all levels of government and local partners will work collaboratively to find a solution that preserves safe and direct access for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gail [REDACTED]
Langford Resident

Jenny Seal

From: Heather [REDACTED]
Sent: March 5, 2026 9:50 AM
To: hello@langford.ca; planning@langford.ca; Paul Block; Trustees; facilities; goose@crd.bc.ca; debbiemann@islandrail.ca; Mayor@langford.ca; ravi.parmar.mla@leg.bc.ca; Tips@checknews.ca; newstips@goldstreamgazette.com; kguiry@langford.ca; charder@langford.ca; mmorley@langford.ca; lszapak@langford.ca; mwagner@langford.ca; kyacucha@langford.ca; administration@langford.ca; pleross@langford.ca; Brian Jonker; transportation@crd.bc.ca; crdreception@crd.bc.ca
Subject: Savory Pedestrian Overpass
Attachments: Information about Pedestrian Bridge Closure.pdf; City of Langford - Letter to Residents - Notification of Construction.pdf

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.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding the pedestrian bridge connecting the Mill Hill neighbourhood to Savory Elementary School. I believe the school district and city officials have made an egregious error in the way they have decided to move forward with this dilemma. I understand the complex nature of the situation; however, this does not excuse the dismissal of the community's need to rush a solution for a problem that should have been planned for.

The bridge is owned by the school district, yet is on the land of the railway, and is used daily by the entire Mill Hill community to connect to the CRD's trail system. Although the use and location of the bridge are collaborative, I am bewildered to see that the solution is not. How is it that the city and the CRD can possibly claim no responsibility for this bridge? I challenge you to come and count the people utilizing this crossing, and you will see that this is absolutely not just a school district problem. I do not fault the school district for their decision to simply tear it down; they have very limited funding to work with, and the future use of the railway is yet unknown. My ire is at the fact that decades of community use have contributed to the bridge's degradation, and yet no community funding is being offered to help maintain it properly.

Having safe and walkable communities is a goal, is it not? Redirecting us to go down Westwind Ave and through that underpass is not a viable solution for the school community. That street is not equipped to handle the parking needs and is not large enough to build a suitable lot. That underpass has been a known place for people to use as shelter in the night, and there have been multiple instances of police intervention for unsafe individuals. Then we are expected to walk up a hill as it winds around a blind corner with morning cyclists whizzing by. There are already multiple near accidents between cyclists and children on the flat area going towards Goldstream, and now you are directing even more children onto a section of path with a blind corner on a hill, which will surely cause harm. And all of this will be done in complete darkness every morning for at least half of the school year with the new permanent daylight savings time. Our other option is to drive all the way around to Grainger Ave, where the parking lot is already packed and has a single lane for in and out traffic.

As a parent [REDACTED], the proposed detour will change our 15 min walk to school to a 25 min walk. I have [REDACTED], and I was looking forward to [REDACTED]. This detour makes it feel impossible as a busy parent. Many families will stop walking and drive around to the already packed main lot. I don't want to do that. I like walking to school; it helps my children regulate and gives them an opportunity to feel more connected to their community. It keeps traffic off the road and avoids the environmental impacts of driving. It teaches them healthy habits and discipline, as we walk no matter

the weather.

I love this community. I love that we are so central and are not dependent on driving everywhere. I love the fresh air and helping my kids develop a strong connection to the outdoors. I love our little school and the dedicated teachers and staff who work tirelessly to help our kids. I love our bridge. My kids love our bridge.

Please, I urge you to reconsider the decisions that have been made and to help us find a more viable solution for the community. This is a complex issue that requires community consultation and collaboration with different organizations to find the best way forward. Not a rushed teardown and a directive to small children to take a dangerous 10 min detour. Personally, I would absolutely choose the steep grade of that bridge, fixed up, of course, over this proposed detour. Even a stroller and bike accessible crossing at the flat area of the tracks towards Goldstream would be preferable to this.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Heather [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Sherry [REDACTED]
Sent: March 6, 2026 10:53 AM
To: Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Christine Lervold (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee)
Subject: Opposed to the Closure of Pedestrian Overpass near Savory Elementary School (Atkins Avenue across the rail corridor)

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:

I am responding to the letter dated March 2, 2026 from School District 62 to Savory Families regarding the closure of the pedestrian overpass near Savory Elementary School and I am opposed to the closure.

As a grandmother of one of the younger students of Savory School, I frequently utilize the overpass as well as his parents to get to the school, I want to advise that there is no safe alternate route for the students or parents. A great majority of parents, grandparents and children who live on the Atkins Avenue side of the overpass get to Savory School via the pedestrian overpass and there would be no safe alternate route if the overpass is closed. Redirecting students and parents to Westwind Drive as proposed is not a solution. The street is not well lit and there are no sidewalks - increased traffic would also be a safety concern for all. Several people including those with disabilities also use the bridge to get to and from Goldstream Avenue so using an alternate route to Westwind Drive would not be a safe option.

What are the safety concerns of the overpass which has been utilized for many years?
 Has the engineering assessment done in December 2025 been made available to the public?
 If it was determined that the structure of the overpass does not meet seismic design standards - why has it taken until now to determine that?
 Why was the pending closure and dismantling of the bridge not brought to the attention of the general public sooner?
 Why was this matter not part of the ongoing surveys of the City of Langford?
 As mentioned in the letter from School District 62, the decision to close the overpass permanently was in consultation with the property owners - why was there no consultation or discussion with the community and those in the vicinity of the overpass before a decision was made?

The overpass may no longer serve its original purpose but it serves an alternate purpose of a SAFE ROUTE to school.

Thanks for your time.
 Sherry [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Alisha [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 5:07 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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 School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford, I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community. This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Alisha [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Amanda W [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 3:36 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

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Recent reporting has indicated that a **seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards**. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore **practical and cost-effective solutions**, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a **new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily**.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
 Langford Resident

Amanda [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Beverly [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 3:40 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee)
Subject: Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

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The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Beverly [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Jenny Seal

From: Christopher [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 3:37 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

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The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
 Langford Resident

--

Chris



Jenny Seal

From: Danielle [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 6:30 PM
To: editor@goldstreamgazette.com; pleross@langford.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Trustees; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community. This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

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Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

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The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Jenny Seal

From: Dora [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 8:38 AM
To: SD62 Information; hello@langford.ca; planning@langford.ca; Trustees; Parmar.MLA, Ravi; info@islandrail.ca
Subject: Savory School Bridge

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.

Good Morning,

I am a homeowner in the Mill Hill/Selwyn area of Langford. Amongst many other local residents, I use the bridge at Savory School to access the E&N trail to/from Atkins. This bridge is very important to the community and I implore the School District not to remove it until such time as another bridge can be built to replace it.

This bridge provides the safest access to the E&N trail in Langford along Atkins Road. I understand the bridge has accessibility issues, I personally struggle walking my bike "down" its steep slopes. However, it is an important and well used route helping to keep children off of roadways and everyone from crossing through the fence and into the brambles and train tracks.

Although well intentioned by the city, providing an alternative route off of Westwind would not improve accessibility nor improve safety. What it would do is increase accidents, traffic congestion with cars turning and re-turning along this small road and we would see more "active" transportation routed directly across the train tracks, as people, like water, try to use the most direct route to their destination. Westwind is a steep road and not easy for all to use. I would have much preferred my tax dollars (provincial as well as municipal) go toward a better bridge solution than other things, including the few meters of sidewalk installed very recently near the intersection of Selwyn and Mill Hill.

I understand the School District suggests it is not responsible for community issues, as a grandmother who picks up grandchildren from other schools in this district, I would like to differ, that my access and my grandchildren's access to the schools is an important issue which supports families and children's access to school. The school is always a large part of the community.

In closing I would like to thank you all for reviewing this letter, and the many other letters that I am sure you will receive. I think jointly the city, the School District, the Province and the Island Rail Corridor Foundation can work with the community and jointly come up with a much better solution than what has currently been suggested.

--

Thank you,

Dora [REDACTED]

I gratefully acknowledge and thank the Lekwungen speaking peoples and all Coast Salish on whose traditional territories I live, work and play. I endeavour to honour and respect these peoples, their teachings and recognize their relationships with the land.

Jenny Seal

From: Kim [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 8:39 PM
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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.

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The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Kim [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Matthew D [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 4:01 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore **practical and cost-effective solutions**, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a **new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily**.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
 Langford Resident

Jenny Seal

From: Michele [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 3:52 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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 School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Michele [REDACTED]

I am privileged to live & work in the traditional unceded and present-day homelands of the lək̓ʷəŋəns and WSÁNEĆ peoples.

Sent from my iPhone

Jenny Seal

From: Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 5:49 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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 School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Jenny Seal

From: Shauna [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 4:27 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Trustees; editor@Goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Savory Pedestrian Bridge - a bridge connecting our community

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 School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, bus routes, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.



Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Shauna 


[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Jenny Seal

From: Tanya [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 4:02 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca
Cc: editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, bus routes, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a

simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Jenny Seal

From: Teresa [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2026 6:04 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Parmar.MLA, Ravi; pleross@langford.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee)
Subject: Re: Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am concerned after hearing about the closure of the Savory pedestrian bridge. The Bridge is used daily by many in the community as well as the students of Savory Elementary.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. As a community member we use it to access the express busline to downtown, or other bus routes along goldstream into Langford. It is also important for older people to access St. Anthony's urgent care center and the other medical services on Goldstream. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. I have personally encountered this when walking with my children and the encounter was scary for my children. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily. As a woman it is very important to have a route to walk where you are staying visible in a public area and have a good sight line of your surroundings. This route is not that.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community. Winter conditions are also a concern for the E&N trail as it can get very icy and is not cleared of snow properly.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents. Perhaps explore prefabricated trail bridges?

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Langford Resident and concerned parent of family with young kids.

Teresa [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Angela [REDACTED]
Sent: March 8, 2026 5:33 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com; pleross@langford.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Trustees; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge
Importance: High

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Angela [REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

Jenny Seal

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 8, 2026 5:06 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com; pleross@langford.ca; catspiller@sd62.bc.ca; rchipp@sd62.bc; Ebony Logins (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee)
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to

explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents. Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Bev 

Sent from my Galaxy

Jenny Seal

From: Shannon [REDACTED]
Sent: March 8, 2026 7:02 PM
To: Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian)
Cc: Trudy Spiller (Trustee); board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a

simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
Langford Resident & Savory Parent

Jenny Seal

From: Skye [REDACTED]
Sent: March 8, 2026 11:34 AM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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 School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,
 Langford Resident

Jenny Seal

From: Tiff and Chris [REDACTED]
Sent: March 8, 2026 9:44 AM
To: editor@goldstreamgazette.com; pleross@langford.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Cendra Beaton (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); Trustees; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Dear School District 62 Trustees, Superintendent, MLA for Langford–Juan de Fuca, and City of Langford,

We are writing as concerned Langford residents regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community. This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, parks, and the regional trail network. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision. This also poses issues for individuals with mobility issues who may not be able to tolerate longer distances and have to make a detour to get on the path. The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

Parents are also aware that police are occasionally called to incidents along sections of this trail, and there have been times when unhoused individuals have been staying in the bridge area. These factors understandably raise concerns for families when considering a route that children would need to use daily.

Additionally, with the upcoming changes related to daylight saving time next year, many students will be walking longer distances in darker morning conditions for part of the school year. Requiring children to travel farther along isolated trail sections in low-light conditions raises further safety concerns for the community.

Recent reporting has indicated that a seismic assessment of the bridge conducted in 2025 found that it does not meet current standards. If upgrades or replacement are required, we understand the need to address structural safety concerns. However, simply removing an important pedestrian connection without providing a safe alternative would significantly impact both students and the broader community.

We respectfully ask that School District 62, the Province, and the City of Langford work together to explore practical and cost-effective solutions, such as repair, reinforcement, or replacement with a simpler pedestrian bridge structure that maintains safe access for students and residents.

Before removing this important connection, we ask that a new and transparent safety review be completed that reflects current conditions and the real impact on children and community members who rely on this crossing daily.

The safety of students travelling to and from school, as well as the accessibility of our community pathways, should remain a top priority.

Sincerely,

Tiff and Chris 

We humbly acknowledge that we work, live, and play on the unceded and ancestral territories of the ləkʷəŋən speaking Peoples (Songhees and xʷsepsəm/ Esquimalt) and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples. We are grateful towards the Peoples who have and continue to steward these lands.

Jenny Seal

From: Alexa [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 2:38 AM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca
Cc: superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: :Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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Hello,

I am writing as a concerned Langford resident regarding the potential closure of the pedestrian bridge used by many Savory Elementary students, families, and members of the surrounding community.

This bridge provides a direct and established route not only for children walking to school and high school but also for residents who use it daily to access neighbourhoods, work, parks, the regional trail, medical clinic and care homes as well as small businesses. It is an important connection point for the community as a whole. Removing it would force students and residents to take a significantly longer alternate route along the nearby trail.

Many families have serious safety concerns about this alternative. The increased distance means younger students would be walking much farther to school, often without direct supervision.

The trail is also heavily used in the mornings by cyclists, e-bikes, and electric scooters travelling at higher speeds without bells, creating additional safety risks for elementary-aged children sharing the path.

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Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Alexa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Alexa [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 9:37 PM
To: hello@langford.ca; Trustees
Subject: Atkins ave bridge to Savory Elementary

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,

ATKINS Ave to Savory School / Goldstream Ave

This bridge is used by everyone in the area of Mill Hill and Goldstream Ave. Hundreds of people use it and the school children for pick up and drop and commuting to work. It's the walking high way for Atkins Ave Mill Hill and Goldstream Ave. This bridge needs to stay and be updated. The alternate route is not safe for night or for children walking alone and the extra time is for the commute is expensive. Please find away to replace the bridge.

I feel there needs to be an open meeting about the discussion of the future of the bridge and the time frame for its replacement.

Alexa [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Amy [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 1:36 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); Phillip Le Ross; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
Subject: Student Safety Concerns – Savory Elementary Pedestrian Bridge

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 Langford Resident

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 1:00 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
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Sincerely,
 Langford Resident

Gina and Cameron [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Leanne [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 12:36 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
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Jenny Seal

From: Katlin [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 10:05 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Allison Watson (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); Russell Chipps (Custodian); Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
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Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Jenny Seal

From: Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 6:55 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); rchips@sd62.bc.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
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Sarah [REDACTED]

Jenny Seal

From: Tyler G [REDACTED]
Sent: March 9, 2026 7:02 PM
To: board@sd62.bc.ca; superintendent@sd62.bc.ca; Ravi.Parmar.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Trustees; Amanda Dowhy (Trustee); clevoid@sd62.bc.ca; Cendra Beaton (Trustee); Ebony Logins (Trustee); rchips@sd62.bc.ca; Trudy Spiller (Trustee); pleross@langford.ca; editor@goldstreamgazette.com
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Sincerely,
Langford Resident

Tyler [REDACTED]

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE**

School Board Office

March 3, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Acting Chair)
Cendra Beaton, Trustee (Committee member)
Russ Chipps, Trustee (Acting Committee member)
Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Dana Savage, CUPE
Amanda Culver, STA
Corrinne Kosik, SPVPA
Ash Senini, SPEAC
Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO
D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Sean Pollitt, Kim Cobb, Mike Huck, Heather Lait, John Mennie, Jon Carr, Connie Swan

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

2. Opening Remarks from Acting Chair

Acting Chair Spiller welcomed everyone and asked for patience as this is her first time as Acting Committee Chair. She noted important upcoming dates in the District and spoke specifically to the end of daylight savings time. Acting Chair Spiller also spoke about her family's Houses coming together to recognize their lands and culture.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT of Jan. 6, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the January 6, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting was received by the committee. No errors or omissions were noted.

4. BAA COURSE PROPOSALS

There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation - YEP! Program – Sean Pollitt and Kim Cobb
Sean Pollitt, Dunsmuir Counsellor, and Kim Cobb, Dunsmuir teacher, spoke about the Youth Engagement Project 2025 (YEP!). The project was created from the desire of school counsellors for a responsive and supported youth mental health conference.

The presentation was well received and the committee engaged with Mr. Pollitt and Ms. Cobb with questions and comments.

- b. Presentation – John Horgan Campus – Educational Programs Update – Mike Huck and Heather Lait
Mike Huck, District Principal – Pathways & Choice and Heather Lait, Principal – SD62 Online School, Continuing Education & MyEdBC, spoke about the SD62 education programs operating at the Royal Roads University John Horgan Campus in Langford. The district has some designated spaces within the building, including an office, large classroom and smaller classroom-type space. Shared, bookable spaces are also available. SD62 programming includes Continuing Education, Online School, and Careers.

The presentation was well received and the committee engaged with Mr. Huck and Ms. Lait with questions and comments.

- c. New Academy Proposal – Journey Soccer – Mike Huck
Mike Huck, District Principal – Pathways and Choice, and John Mennie, Principal – Journey Middle School, presented a proposal for a new Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School to begin in the 2026 – 27 school year. It would be open to grades 7 and 8 students and would accommodate thirty students per grade in the first year of the program. The expected cost would be \$890 per student. He reviewed the details of the proposed soccer academy and noted that it has the support of the Journey Parent Advisory Council. He noted that it would be a conduit to the EMCS Soccer Academy.

The presentation was well received and the committee engaged with Mr. Huck with questions and comments.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) approve a new Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School to begin in September 2026.

- d. NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement Report – Jon Carr and Connie Swan
Jon Carr, District Principal – NA'TSA'MAHT Indigenous Education Department and Connie Swan, District Vice-Principal – NA'TSA'MAST Indigenous Education Department, presented the NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement Report. The NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement is a five-year working agreement developed collaboratively by the Sooke School District, local First Nations rightsholders, Indigenous partners, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The purpose of the agreement is to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students and to build safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environments grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning. This report draws on the Ministry of Education and Child Care's 2024/25 *How Are We Doing* data and the Sooke School District's Equity in Action Survey results. They reviewed the strengths and stretches of each goal.

The presentation was well received and the committee engaged with Mr. Carr and Ms. Swan with questions and comments.



Sooke School District
3143 Jacklin Road, Victoria, BC V9B 5R1
(250) 474-9800
www.sd62.bc.ca

6. REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS

There were no policies/regulations for this meeting.

7. FOR INFORMATION

a. Research Project Approval – Paul Block

“Considerations in Teacher Adoption of Screening and Progress Monitoring in Middle Schools”

- Meaghan MacDonald, VIU

Superintendent Block reviewed the details of the research project as approved.

8. FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

9. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE: Apr. 7, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.





Information Note
Education-Policy Committee
March 3, 2026
Agenda Item 5c – Proposed New Soccer Academy
At Journey Middle School

ISSUE: Proposed new Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School 2026/2027

BACKGROUND/FACTS: Academy Application: Journey Middle School Soccer

Academy Sponsors:

Mr. John Mennie – Principal, Journey Middle School
 Mr. Conar Hart – Vice Principal, Journey Middle School
 Ms. Kelly Dvorak – Vice Principal, Journey Middle School
 Mr. Mike Huck – District Principal of Pathways and Choice SD62

1) General description of the program

- Open to Grades 7 – 8 students.
- Two blocks in a student’s timetable; the blocks occur every Monday & Wednesday.
- Bus transportation can be provided, if needed, to and from sports facilities at no cost to the Board.
- Receive credit/recognition for PHE at the appropriate grade level 7 & 8.

2) Goals and Objective: Journey Middle School Soccer Academy

- Improve physical athletic skills through movement training (Bodyweight, Manipulatives, and Locomotives) and implementing team game strategies.
- Improve mental athletic skills through micro-blogging and journaling.
- Improve both individual and team soccer specific skills.
- Application of strategies and rules specific to soccer.
- Provide nutritional and personal development courses to improve general health and well-being.
- Give students the opportunity to be actively involved in the development of the local youth community and their sport.

Timeline for Implementation:

March 2026: Approval of the 2026/27 Academy at Journey Middle School

March 2026: Information out to students and parents.

Late March 2026: Academy registration opens.

September 8, 2026: Start of New Soccer Academy Program.

3) Education value of the program and comparison to other programs in the SD62.

The objective of the Journey Middle School Soccer Academy is to develop the individual athletically as a soccer player, academically as a student and personally as a growing and maturing student-athlete. The soccer academy provides up to 3 hours per week of on-field training, soccer specific strength and conditioning program, and participation in high caliber game/practice play. In

addition, there will be coursework to educate the students in the areas of nutrition and personal growth.

It is our expectation that all students in the Journey Middle School Soccer Academy program are committed and dedicated to achieving both academically and athletically.

4) Identification of the students to be served, including grade number of students.

- Open to Grades 7-8 students.
- Thirty students per grade 7-8 for the first year of the program.

5) Clear description of qualifications and teaching support staff required to offer the program.

- PHE Qualified teacher, NCCP Certification (preferred).
- Coaching Theory Level 1 and preferably 2 completed.
- Experience playing Varsity or equivalent level soccer (preferred).

6) Clear description of facilities required for program to be offered:

- Access to Journey Middle School Fields and Fred Milne Park facilities and turf.

7) Impact analysis of other schools in the district:

- No other middle school in the Milne Landings (Sooke) area of SD 62 is offering soccer as a middle school academy.
- May draw some home-schooled students.
- Conduit to EMCS Soccer Academy.
- Supported by Sooke Soccer Association and community member.

8) Evidence of PAC support which will demonstrate parents understand the proposal:

PAC Meeting was completed on Dec 9, 2025, and supported by Journey Middle School PAC. Survey of Journey middle school parents completed with tremendous support. Minutes provided upon request.

9) Registration guidelines process on how students will be selected.

Pending approval, registration will begin in late March 2026 (after March Board meeting). This will be an online registration process and will be limited in space. No selection process other than a student will need to be in good standing in SD 62.

10) Evidence of similar programs (both in and out of district) operating successfully:

There are several soccer academies on South Vancouver Island, both in Secondary and Middle School. These programs have been highly successful and are considered a compliment for the hosting school and community. Currently, Dunsmuir Middle School has a long standing and successful middle school soccer academy, as does Royal Bay Secondary and Edward Milne Community School (EMCS) for grades 9-12. Currently, all existing soccer academies are full and experience waitlists.

No similar SD 62 program exists in Milne's Landing Zone for middle school students. The EMCS Soccer Academy provides a pathway for continued participation for Journey students once they transition to high school.

11) Expected costs of the program and sources to fund and sustain program without school district funding:

- Academy Fee: \$690 per student.
- Admin Fee: \$200 per student.
- Total Costs: \$890 per student

12) Sample of program registration and any promotional material:

- Information package and registration materials are available online.

Recommendation:

Recommended Motion for the proposal of the Journey Middle School Soccer Academy

That the Board of Education for School District 62 (Sooke) approve a new Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School to begin September 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Huck, District Principal Pathways and Choice

SD62 Academies

District Principal – Mike Huck
District Vice Principal – Ryan Dube
Clerical – Jackie Mugford
Clerical – Lauren Smith

January 29, 2026



Academy Information Fees and Registration

We are pleased to offer a wide range of academy programs at the middle and secondary school levels. These choice programs are either hosted at schools during the regular school day or offered by the District Academies Team outside the regular school day. We encourage families to review the academy offerings below and determine whether any of these exciting opportunities are well suited to their student-athlete and family.

Please note: When registering for an academy program, **do not** complete a school change request form. If you are accepted, this step is already included as part of the academy application process.

Note: Updated academy program fees will be posted in February 2026.

Academy registration opens on **February 25 at 8AM**. It remains open until an academy reaches capacity

Current Status

- 1500 Student Currently Enrolled
 - Middle, Secondary & District Level
- 23 Academy Programs offered
- High level of engagement and participation

Journey

↓
Hockey
Blake Roney

Spencer

↓
Hockey
Brian Majic

Dunsmuir

↓
Dance
Danica Anderson

Soccer
David Vavala

SD62 Academies & Academy Teachers 2025-2026

EMCS

↓
Hockey
Mark Barrie

Soccer
Aja Choy-Halo

Softball
Kayla Natarelli

Belmont

↓
Hockey
Evan Rinald

Climbing
Claudia Pampin

Baseball
Kris Walushka
Ashton McFarland

Royal Bay

↓
Golf – Learn to Compete
Randy Dunbar

Lacrosse – Girls
Jacob Wheating

Lacrosse – Boys
Lucas MacNiel
Cody Cook

Soccer
Andrew Fello
Dylan Pagnotta

Dance
Madeleine Rich
Jocelynn Richards

Mountain Biking
Kirk MacRae

District Academies

↓
Mountain Biking
Kirk MacRae

Equine
Kristina Miller

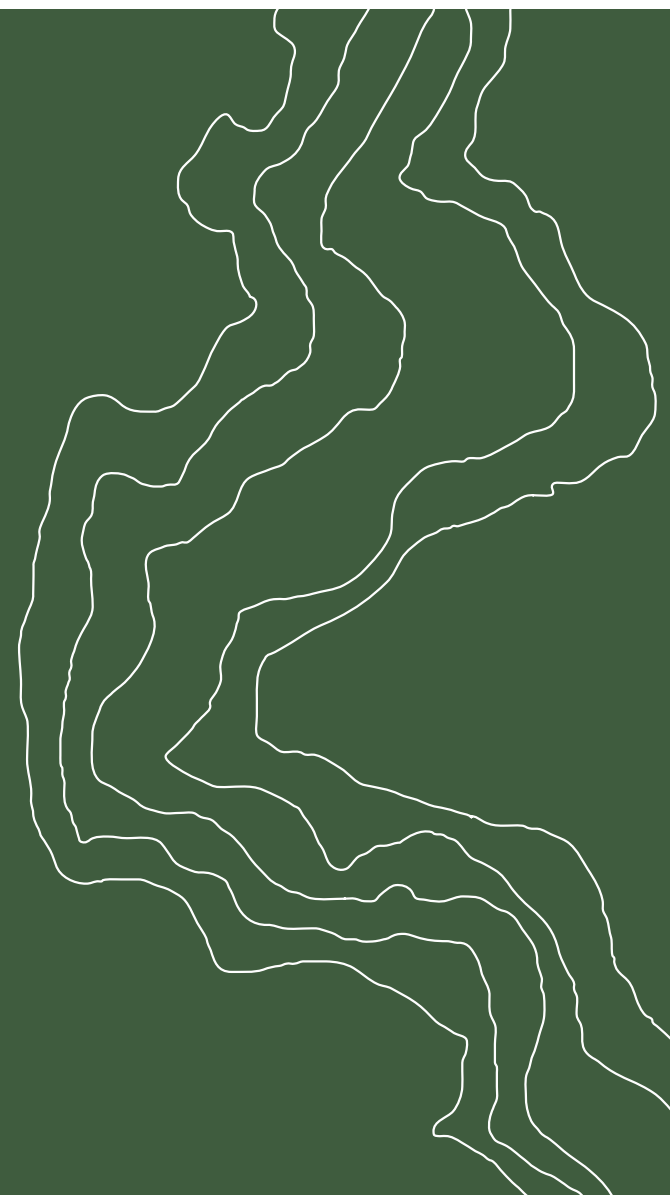
Golf – Learn to Play
Randy Dunbar

Middle School Field Lacrosse
Lucas MacNiel
Cody Cook

PACE
Duey Wright
Sandy Webster Worthy

Areas of Strength

- ◆ Consistently strong student engagement and success.
- ◆ High transition rates—for all students in 9-12, closing the gap between student engagement and graduation.
- ◆ Improvement in Human & Social Development—student cohorts reporting positive results that meet or surpass provincial averages.
- ◆ Strong 5-year completion rate—for both Dogwood and Adult Dogwood pathways, aligning with provincial averages.
- ◆ Education of the person as a whole - instilling lifelong passions for sports, arts and community engagement.



Journey Middle School Soccer Academy

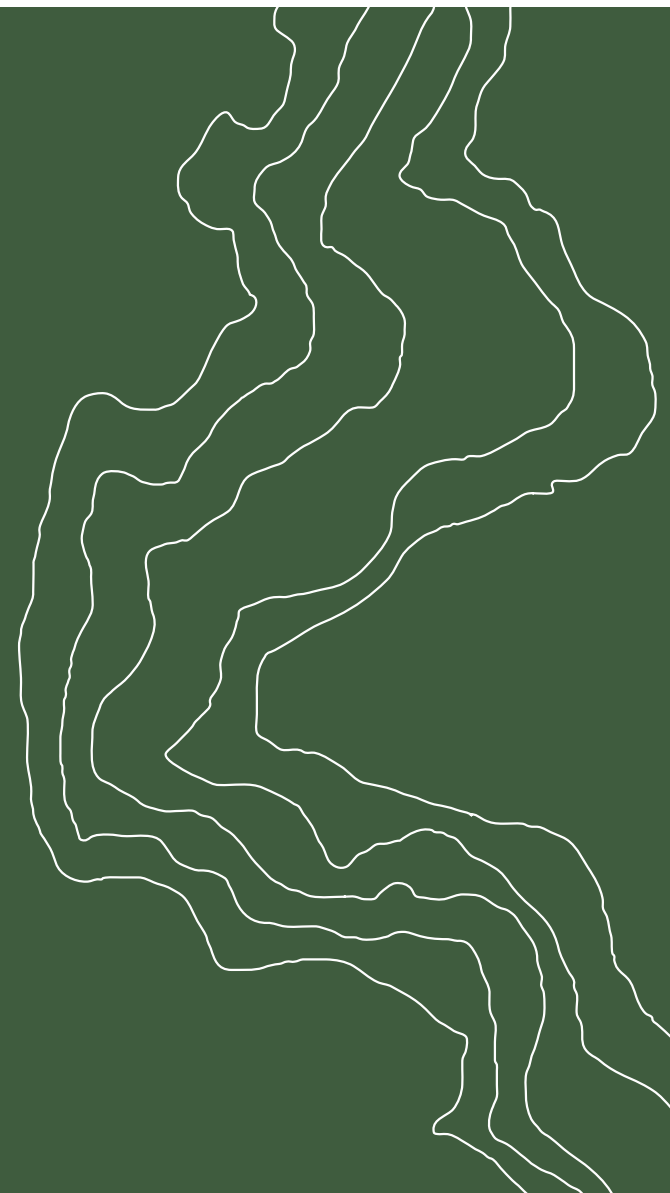
Proposed start date – September 2026 (2026/2027 school year)

- Open to Grades 7 – 8 male and female students.
- 30 students per grade 7-8 for the first year of the program
- Two blocks in a students' timetable; the blocks occur every Monday & Wednesday. The soccer academy provides up to 3 hours per week of on-field training, soccer specific strength and conditioning program, and participation in high caliber game/practice play. In addition, there will be coursework to educate the students in the areas of nutrition and personal growth
- Bus transportation can be provided if needed to and from sports facilities.
- Receive credit/recognition for PHE at the appropriate grade level 7 & 8

Goals and Objectives

The objective of Journey Middle School Soccer Academy is to develop the individual athletically as a soccer player, academically as a student and personally as a growing and maturing student-athlete.

- Improve physical athletic skills through movement training (Bodyweight, Manipulatives, and Locomotives) and implementing team game strategies
- Improve mental athletic skills through micro-blogging and journaling
- Improve both individual and team soccer specific skills
- Application of strategies and rules specific to soccer
- Provide nutritional and personal development courses to improve general health and well-being.
- Give students the opportunity to be actively involved in the development of the local youth community and their sport.



JMS Parent Survey Results

- 88 parent responses to survey sent out early November

Question:

Would you be interested in having a Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School for Grades 7 & 8 beginning in the 2026/2027 school year?

Yes – 96%

No – 4 %

Questions:

Would you prefer an academy as a half year option or a full year option for Grades 7 & 8?

Full year – 76%

Half year – 24%



Journey Middle School Parent Advisory Council

January 28, 2026

RE: Soccer Academy at Journey Middle School

To Whom It May Concern,

The Journey Middle School PAC is extremely supportive of creating a new soccer academy at our school. Sooke has a strong soccer community and parents are very eager to give our students more opportunities to learn the sport and increase their skill level. We are confident that student and parent engagement in this opportunity will be very high. Most importantly, there is excitement and positivity growing in our community. I believe impactful opportunities like the Soccer Academy, create this energy. We are very appreciative of Mr. John Mennie for pursuing this program for our students, and look forward to seeing our community transform for the better.

Thank you,

Emma Shehan

PAC President

Journey Middle School

journymiddleschoolpac@gmail.com



JMS Soccer Academy Proposed Budget 2026/2027

ACADEMY NAME :		JOURNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER	
SCHOOL:		JMS	
BUDGET YEAR:		2025/26	
# OF STUDENTS	50	\$	800.00 per student
	0	\$	- per student
REVENUES:			
CARRY FWD			
	FY26 ACADEMY FEES	\$	40,000.00
	ADMIN FEE (\$200)	\$	(10,000.00)
	BURSARY (5%)	\$	(2,000.00)
TOTAL		\$	28,000.00 A
EXPENSES:			
		\$	
	CONTINGENCY	\$	2,000.00
	SALARIES - TOC'S		
	BENEFITS - TOC'S		
	SERVICES	\$	4,500.00
	TRAINING & TRAVEL	\$	1,500.00
	TRAVEL-FIELD TRIPS	\$	1,500.00
	HONOURARIUMS		
	RENTALS		
	SUPPLIES	\$	8,000.00
	SUPPLIES - PLAYER KIT	\$	10,500.00
	SUPPLIES - EQUIPMENT/COSTUMES		
	NEW (If needed)		
	NEW (If needed)		
	NEW (If needed)		
TOTAL		\$	28,000.00 B



SD62 Academies

Secondary and Middle School Registrations opens February 25th @ 8am

Online Registration Portal: WWW.sd62.bc.ca/programs-services/academies

REGISTER EARLY AS SPACES ARE LIMITED IN SOME PROGRAM

Financial Assistance Available – Please visit our website for more information

www.sd62.bc.ca/programs/academies

Financial Assistance Programs:

- KidSport – Local Victoria chapter provides up to \$400-\$600 per child to assist with academy fees.
- Jumpstart – Local Victoria chapter can provide up to \$300-\$400 per child to assist with academy fees
- Sport Assist – Provides assistance for students living Sooke School District. Up to \$1,000

Board of Education 2025-26

90 Day Work Plan

MARCH TO MAY 2026

Font Colour Legend:
Blue – Education Policy
Green – Resources
Red – Ad Hoc/District Partners
Black – Board of Education

ACTION	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Approve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1st reading of Capital Plan Bylaw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1st reading of Budget Bylaw (if available) – Final readings of Capital Plan Bylaw (if available) – Financial auditor engagement/plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annual Plan Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Na'tsa'maht Enhancement Agreement Annual Report – Superintendent Annual Growth Plan Report – Final readings of Budget Bylaw (if available)
Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Student Code of Conduct Review – District Operational Plan for 2026-2027 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 3rd Quarter Report Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Financial forecast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of all Board Motions for the school year
Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BCSTA AGM (Apr 9-11) – Governance Committee (Apr 2 & 13) – Audit Committee (Apr 15) – Personnel Committee Meeting (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Governance Committee (May 21) – Host Retirement/Long Service Event (May 27) – Board Annual Self-Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Governance Committee (Jun 11) – Audit Committee (Jun 16)
Engage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ECOW – Budget 2026/27 (May 19) – Host Retirement/Long-Service Event (May 27) – Municipal Partner Meeting (Langford CAO/ST/Mayor/Chair & Supt – May 7) – Municipal Partner Meeting (Colwood CAO/ST/Mayor/Chair & Supt – May 7) – Municipal Partner Meeting (Sooke CAO/ST/Mayor/Chair & Supt – May 28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Grad/Year End Ceremonies – Acknowledgement Letters to Partner Groups – National Indigenous Peoples Day (Jun 21) – Acknowledgement letters to Valedictorians



Board Information Note

Public Board Meeting

March 31, 2026

Agenda Item 13.1: Superintendent's Report



Upcoming Critical Incident Response Training

This spring, our Safe Schools Department will partner with Safer Schools Together to deliver specialized training for principals, vice-principals, and counsellors focused on critical incident response. This professional learning will strengthen our leadership teams' capacity to respond effectively to emergencies, support students, and staff, and maintain safe, supportive school environments.

ERASE Reporting Tool

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and caring school community, students and families are reminded that there are several ways to reach out if they have concerns. In addition to speaking with a trusted adult at school, the [ERASE Reporting Tool](#) is available for students and families across British Columbia to report safety concerns or situations that may require support. Reports can be made online through the ERASE Report It website. This tool helps ensure concerns are addressed and students feel safe and supported at school and in the community. Messages are monitored during school hours only. If this is an emergency, please call 911. If you have an urgent concern that cannot wait until school hours, please contact the RCMP non-emergency line.

Recent Athletics Achievements

Congratulations to:

- Belmont Secondary Junior Boys Basketball Team for winning the B Bracket at the Provincial Championships in February.
- EMCS Boys 3A Basketball Team for making it to the quarterfinals at the Provincial Championships in Langley.
- the Senior Girls Basketball Teams from Royal Bay Secondary and Belmont Secondary, who placed 4th and 5th respectively at the Provincial Championships.



Scholarships

As secondary students approach graduation, I strongly encourage them to research and apply for scholarship opportunities. There are countless scholarships available to match a wide range of interests, backgrounds, achievements, and future plans. A common misconception is that scholarships are too competitive to bother applying for, but there are often far more scholarships available than students who take the time to apply. By putting in the effort, students significantly increase their chances of receiving financial support for their next steps.

To parents, I encourage you to support your child in reaching out to their school-based career or education team, reading school newsletters carefully, and actively researching scholarship opportunities. Failing to apply can mean leaving valuable financial support on the table, money that could help reduce the cost of post-secondary education, apprenticeships, or trades training. School teams are there to help students navigate the process, offer advice on strengthening applications, and in some cases, serve as references where appropriate. Taking initiative now can make a meaningful difference in easing the financial burden of the future. Reach out to your child's school for more information or assistance.

Health Care Day

On Thursday, March 6, students from all four of our secondary schools had the opportunity to participate in Health Care Careers Day, hosted at the John Horgan Campus. The event was organized by our district careers team in partnership with Island Health, Camosun College, and the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

Representatives from Island Health shared insights into a wide range of health care careers, outlining the educational pathways, the skills required, and what a typical day in their roles looks like. Students explored careers spanning pediatrics, neurosciences, nutrition, pharmacy, social work, emergency services, and food services.

The event was extremely well attended and provided students with valuable opportunities to learn directly from professionals working in the field. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our district and school-based careers teams for organizing impactful experiences like this and for working closely with our partners to help students explore the many possibilities available to them after graduation. One of the best pieces of advice I can offer our secondary students is to get to know your school-based careers teams. They are there to support you, help you succeed, and guide you in understanding the steps you can take now to reach the goals you have for your future.

Bridges to Service: Career Pathways for Indigenous Youth

On Tuesday, March 10, 75 of our students attended a district careers event at the Langford Legion. Students were provided with lunch and participated in a series of career presentations from representatives of the Canadian Forces, Canadian Coast Guard, the RCMP, and the Western Canadian Marine Response Corporation. Following the presentations, students had the opportunity to visit employer exhibition booths, where they could learn more about career pathways, training requirements, and employment opportunities within each organization.



Culinary Collaboration with EMCS

Students from the EMCS culinary program will collaborate with chefs from West Coast Grill to host a six-course culinary experience at the Prestige Hotel on April 10. This event will provide students with an opportunity to apply their culinary training in a professional setting while working alongside experienced chefs. Tickets are priced at \$50.00 each, with \$10.00 from every ticket supporting the school's ongoing food security programming. This program currently provides 50–80 breakfasts and over 100 lunches daily to help ensure students are nourished and fueled for learning. Reservations can be made by calling West Coast Grill. Also, the EMCS Annual Grade Fashion Show is also on April 10. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the school, or via School Cash Online or at the door with cash.

Grade to Grade Transitions

At this time of year, we often receive questions from parents of students in Grades 5 and 8 about transitioning to middle or secondary school and whether they need to register their child. If your child is currently attending one of our schools, they will be automatically registered at the designated feeder school for the next level. No action is required on your part for this transition. If you have recently moved or will be moving and your school catchment has changed (with proof of residency), and you would like your child to attend their new catchment middle or secondary school, please contact your child's current school principal to discuss next steps.

Celebrating Literacy & Numeracy



In early March, our elementary schools celebrated both Literacy Week and Numeracy Week. From celebrity readers and reading in the dark, to estimation stations and dressing up as your favourite number, schools found creative and inspiring ways to engage students in learning. Literacy and numeracy are key priorities in our Strategic Plan and are reflected in our School Plans, which outline each school's goals and focus areas for student success. If you would like to learn more about your child's School Plan, they are available on our district website under the [Student Success](#) section.

 **ENGAGEMENT**

Transportation Registration is Open

This is a reminder that registration for school bus transportation is open until April 30. If your child is eligible for transportation, we encourage you to register before May 1, 2026. Registrations submitted on or after May 1, 2026, will be considered late and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please visit [our website](#) for detailed information about eligibility, fees, financial hardship options, and the registration process. We encourage families to register during the window as it helps us plan our routes for the upcoming school year and determine service level needs.

T'Sou-ke Family Dinner



On Thursday, March 5, the NA'TSA'MAHT Indigenous Education team hosted a family dinner in partnership with T'Sou-ke First Nation at John Muir Elementary. The event was open to all families across the school district. The evening featured traditional seafood chowder, tea, and welcoming remarks from members of T'Sou-ke Council. Families also had the opportunity to participate in early learning activities, visit community information tables, and view displays of student artwork.

It was a wonderful evening that brought families, community members, and staff together in a welcoming and inclusive environment. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to attend one of our family dinners, I strongly encourage you to do so. These gatherings provide a meaningful opportunity to connect with members of the community, meet district staff, and share a meal together.



Parent Handbook

In late February, I met with SPEAC to review the first draft of a comprehensive Parent Handbook. The concept for this handbook emerged from community engagement during the development of our Strategic Plan and reflects our shared commitment to strengthening communication and support for families. This is a collaborative initiative between the Superintendent's Office and SPEAC. The initial review meeting confirmed that we are well on track to finalize a Kindergarten to Grade 12 Parent Handbook in time for the upcoming school year.

While much of the information included in the handbook is already available through individual schools and on our website, this resource will consolidate key information into a single, accessible digital reference. It is designed to provide families with clear guidance on a wide range of topics they may encounter throughout their child's educational journey. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the SPEAC Executive particularly Tom, Melissa, and Meghan for their time, leadership, and collaboration on this important project.

Honouring Elder Lavina Charles

I would like to take a moment to honour the life and legacy of respected Elder, teacher, and knowledge keeper Lavina Charles, known as "Grandma Lee" by many throughout our school district, who passed away last month.

A proud member of Sc'ianew First Nation, Grandma Lee was the last living person to learn SENĆOTEN as her first language. Throughout her life, she devoted herself to ensuring that the language would live on and be shared with future generations. Today, students across our school district are learning SENĆOTEN, a lasting testament to Lavina's knowledge, generosity, and commitment to revitalization efforts.

As a survivor of Indian Day School, she courageously spoke out about the harms of forced attendance at day and residential schools for Indigenous children, as well as the separation of Indigenous children from their families and communities. Her voice and advocacy contributed to greater understanding, truth, and reconciliation within our broader community.

Lavina spent countless hours with our students and staff over the years, sharing her wisdom, stories, and teachings. Our district is stronger and more connected because of her presence. We raise our hands in gratitude for her life, her leadership, and the many gifts she so freely shared.

We continue to extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and the Sc'ianew community.

Her legacy will remain forever intertwined with our school district. On behalf of Sc'ianew First Nation, she led the gifting of the name SĆI'ANEW STĒLITĶĒL to our newest elementary school. This stands as a lasting reminder of her leadership and the relationship we are honoured to share.



2026-27 Budget Survey

The District's 2026–27 Budget Survey opened on March 11 and will remain available until April 2 at 4:00 p.m. We encourage broad participation from across our school community including students, staff, families, and community members to help us better understand your priorities and perspectives as we develop next year's budget. Feedback gathered through this survey plays an important role in informing our planning and decision-making. The survey link is available on the homepage of the District website.

In addition, a student survey is being conducted this month at the secondary level. While this survey targets a specific group of students, the public survey is open to everyone. Any students who were not part of the focused survey group are encouraged to participate and share their perspectives.

Hans Helgesen Child Care Centre Update



We are pleased to see this project progressing, as it will be the District's first stand-alone child care facility. While child care spaces were incorporated into the design and construction of PEXSISEN Elementary and SĆIΛNEW SƧĒLITƧEĒ Elementary School, third-party providers currently operate those facilities. This project represents an important milestone in expanding District-operated child care services. Construction is advancing well and is currently in the plumbing, mechanical, and electrical rough-in stage. The water main civil works have been completed, and ceiling framing is now finished. Roof framing and back framing are ongoing, along with installation of the waterproofing membrane. We will see the facility quickly transform over the next few months with plans to open for September.