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

COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE
School Board Office
September 15, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Chair)
Cendra Beaton, Trustee (Committee member)
Russ Chipps, Trustee (Committee member)
Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair (Ex-Officio)
Dana Savage, CUPE
Amanda Culver, STA
Mike Huck, SPVPA
Ash Seneni, SPEAC
Paul Block Superintendent/CEO
D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Cam Smith
Hazel Harris
Alice Boltsmith

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

2. **Opening Remarks from Chair**
Committee Chair Trudy Spiller expressed appreciation to district and school-based staff who contributed throughout the summer to ensure a successful start to the school year. She shared observations from school visits conducted with MLA Ravi Parmar, noting that schools were clean, well-organized, and welcoming for students, staff, and families.

Chair Spiller acknowledged Trustees' participation in numerous community events and celebrations over the summer and early fall. She also recognized the strong sense of community engagement and the positive connections being fostered across the district.

3. **COMMITTEE REPORT** of June 2, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting
The committee report for the June 2, 2026 Education-Policy Committee meeting was received by the committee.

4. **BAA COURSE PROPOSALS**
There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

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5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Committee Terms of Reference Update – Paul Block
Superintendent Paul Block said the Board is currently revising Policy A-340, and the updated Terms of Reference will form part of those revisions. Review of the new Terms of Reference will be deferred until the October meeting, following the Board's approval.

b. Presentation – Student Voice - Equity Retreat – Cam Smith, Hazel Harris & Alice Boltsmith
Vice-Principal Cam Smith introduced students Hazel and Alice, who shared their experiences of belonging, culture, and learning at Belmont Secondary. They emphasized the importance of authentic student engagement, Indigenous language learning, experiential and outdoor learning, culturally connected programming, and opportunities to share knowledge and strengths developed at home. The presentation also outlined Belmont's annual Equity Retreat model, established in 2022-2023 to support student-led dialogue about equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Committee members thanked the students for their perspectives and discussed expanding authentic student voice opportunities across grades and schools. The students highlighted positive changes in school culture and encouraged trustees to participate in future Equity Retreats and student-led discussions.

c. Student Voice Engagement Plan 2026 – 27 – D'Arcy Deacon
Associate Superintendent Deacon presented the 2026-27 Student Voice Engagement Plan, developed through a review of district practices and aligned with the Strategic Plan. Progress will be monitored through district reporting, including FESL measures.

Committee members supported the plan and discussed how student feedback informs school and district planning, Board decisions, budgeting, and resource allocation. Discussion emphasized providing varied, safe, and meaningful opportunities for students to exercise voice and agency from an early age.

d. District Operational Plan 2025 – 26 – Final Report – Paul Block
Superintendent Block presented the 2025-26 Annual Operational Plan Progress Report, describing how strategic priorities were translated into district action. Committee members supported the report and recognized progress in literacy screening, numeracy planning, and student attendance. Superintendent Block credited teachers and staff for advancing the district's literacy framework and continuous improvement work.

Recommended Motion:
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the 2025/26 Operational Plan Final Report as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of September 15, 2026.

6. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS**
There were no Policies/Regulations for this meeting.

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7. **FOR INFORMATION**

8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**: The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. Next meeting - Oct. 6, 2026