

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE
School Board Office**

October 7, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Cendra Beaton, Trustee (Chair)
Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Committee member)
Allison Watson, Trustee (Committee member)
Dana Savage, CUPE
Tim Hamblin, CUPE
Amanda Culver, STA
Corrinne Kosik, SPVPA
Ash Senini, SPEAC
Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO
D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent

Guest: Denise Wehner – District Principal – Curriculum Transformation

Regrets: Vanessa White - Acting Associate Superintendent

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, SCÍÁNEW (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 MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nation, and the Lək'wəŋən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

2. Opening Remarks from Chair Cendra Beaton

Chair Beaton recognized committee appointments with herself as chair and including Trustees Allison Watson and Trudy Spiller as committee representatives. Chair Beaton recognized important days in the month of October, including custodial appreciation day, national teacher day, and autism awareness month.

3. COMMITTEE REPORT of Sept. 9, 2025 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the September 9, 2025 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 (attached)

a. K – 12 Literacy Plan – Denise Wehner, District Principal – Curriculum Transformation

District Principal of Curriculum, Denise Wehner, presented the K-12 Literacy plan to the committee. She outlined that the plan is inclusive and is rooted in equity. Key elements include:

- alignment with K - 12 literacy supports and the BC K - 4 English Language Arts progressions.

- Instruction is intentionally interconnected across reading, writing, and oral language.
- Universal screening K - 8 identifies students at risk and informs timely interventions.
- There are comprehensive and responsive assessment practices including diagnostics, regular data reviews, and ongoing progress monitoring.
- Professional learning and collaborative educator planning promotes consistent literacy instruction and improved student literacy achievement on classroom assessments.

District Principal Wehner highlighted a Sooke School District Literacy Reading Reels video and shared a short clip of the video with the committee.

Discussion ensued about the supports for staff through the implementation of this Literacy plan. This included questions about and confirmation of the implementation through French Immersion. All of the screening tools have been translated and developed into K - 8 screening tools. The discussion included understandings that the Ministry of Education and Childcare has mandated Kindergarten screening, and we are supporting in every way possible. The district has had an easy transition into this work because it has been in place since 2022. The committee expressed thanks and gratitude to District Principal Wehner for her presentation and all the work she is leading.

6. REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS

- a. Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-314 “Substance Use Prevention and Intervention” – Paul Block
Superintendent Block gave background on the policy and noted it has been out for motion since May of 2025. An explanation was given that engagement with a local consortium that reviewed similar policies from across the nation took place since that Notice of Motion and it was determined that further input from the committee was appropriate.

Superintendent Block outlined that the revisions to the policy focus on education and interventions that go beyond a traditional discipline model helping students understand the impact of their substance use.

The committee expressed positive feedback that the revisions include a trauma informed lens which is reflective of a shift in perspective.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-314 “Substance Use Prevention and Intervention”.

- b. Draft New Policy F-499 “Unexpected Health Emergencies” – Paul Block
Superintendent Block provided background on the draft new policy. On June 30th, the Minister of Education announced that districts will need to have a new policy in place by Jan. 1, 2026. The focus is on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone kits in schools to support unexpected medical emergencies. AEDs must be in all secondary schools by Jan. 1, 2026 and the remaining

schools by Sept. 2026. The district is investigating various delivery systems for the naloxone kits; however, cost is a factor as school districts are not funded for the implementation of this policy.

This policy is also supported by training and guidance for staff in using this equipment during emergencies. The policy calls for this to only be in schools; however, the district will implement this in all sites to support staff in all areas. Suggested friendly amendment to ensure this is included in the language of the policy.

Discussion about the policy revolved around securing the AEDs and naloxone kits. The committee had questions about the placement of AEDs within schools and the number of naloxone kits. Superintendent Block answered questions about partnership with local community agencies for providing training and opportunities to reduce costs.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft new Policy F-499 “Unexpected Health Emergencies”.

7. FOR INFORMATION

8. FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

9. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE: Nov. 4, 2025