

**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, SĆÍÁNEW (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.

**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.

