



**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
LIVE MS Teams Event
October 26, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

TRUSTEES: Ravi Parmar, Board Chair Bob Beckett, Vice-Chair
 Bob Phillips Margot Swinburnson
 Allison Watson Dianna Seaton
 Wendy Hobbs

STAFF: Scott Stinson, Superintendent
 Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer
 Paul Block, Associate Superintendent
 Stephanie Hedley-Smith, Associate Superintendent
 Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent
 Dan Haley, Executive Director, HR
 Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, IT
 Sue Grundy, Manager Executive Operations
 Steve Tonnesen, Manager IT Operations

SECRETARY: Kristina Ross

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Board Chair and he acknowledged the traditional territories of the First Nations.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

145. MOVED Allison Watson/Margot Swinburnson
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the agenda of October 26, 2021 as amended.
CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

146. MOVED Bob Beckett/Dianna Seaton
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting as presented.
CARRIED

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Ravi Parmar

The Board Chair, acknowledged those District employees being recognized in the month of October; Principals and Vice Principals; Teachers; and Custodial, Maintenance and Facilities Staff and thanked them for their service and continued support. Chair Parmar, Trustee Seaton and Trustee Hobbs attended the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 announcement at Pexsisen Elementary and Centre Mountain Lellum Schools on October 22, 2021. Furthermore, the District announced a 6.9% increase in student enrolment, the largest growth in at least 30 years.

The Board Chair, provided an update on decisions which were made by the Board of Education earlier in the evening in a meeting closed to the public. The Board of Education directed staff to begin assessing the impact of a vaccination policy/mandate via a confidential survey of its employees, by employee group to determine vaccination status; directed staff to begin consultations with employee groups, SPEAC, Indigenous Rights Holders, student representation and community members to seek their perspectives on a potential vaccine mandate/policy; and write to BCPSEA and request that they expedite the process to provide policy direction on the vaccine mandate.

4.2 Strategic Plan Communications Plan – Scott Stinson

Scott Stinson provided an update on the Strategic Plan Communications Plan to the Board of Education.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

6. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside, dated October 5, 2021 RE: 2021 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education
- b. Email from Frazer Johnson, dated October 8, 2021 RE: Vaccine Mandate in SD62
- c. Email from Tamara Taggart dated October 14, 2021 RE: Supporting Inclusive Education for Learners with Down Syndrome
- d. Letter from Judy Roper, dated October 22, 2021 RE: Vaccine Mandate in SD62

147. MOVED Bob Phillips/Dianna Seaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Letter from the Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside dated October 5, 2021 RE: 2021 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education, Email from Frazer Johnson, dated October 8, 2021 RE: Vaccine Mandate in SD62, Email from Tamara Taggart dated October 14, 2021 RE: Supporting Inclusive Education for Learners with Down Syndrome, Letter from Judy Roper, dated October 22, 2021 RE: Vaccine Mandate in SD62.
CARRIED

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

STA – Rita Zeni

The STA provided an overview to the Board of Education on vaccination rates among teachers, spoke to a potential vaccination mandate, member well-being and mental health, and issues with school-based safety protocols.

CUPE – Betty-Lou Leslie

CUPE provided an overview of its support to the Seamless Day Kindergarten pilot program, spoke of the Transportation LOU, and indicated that Amber Leonard, President of CUPE Local 459, has been elected to the Provincial Bargaining Team to represent CUPE's K-12 sector in the upcoming bargaining process.

PVP – Laura Fulton

Laura Fulton provided an update to the Board of Education on outdoor learning activities in the District, the return of extra-curricular sporting activities to our schools, and District equity and reconciliation teachings.

SPEAC – Melissa DaSilva

SPEAC updated the Board of Education on the October 5, 2021 meeting with the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) and the Minister of Education and the Deputy Provincial Health Officer. SPEAC is looking for volunteers to be active participants in committees this year, and the next SPEAC meeting will occur on November 17, 2021 via MS Teams.

Canadian Parents for French – Billie-Jo Cavanaugh

No delegation.

Students

No delegation.

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

7.1 Report on the Resources Committee – Meeting held on October 12, 2021

Trustee Beckett provided the Board of Education with an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting.

148. MOVED Bob Beckett/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of October 12, 2021.

CARRIED

7.2 Enrolment and Funding Update – Paul Block/Harold Cull

The District submitted its September 2021 enrolment to the Ministry of Education. The District has grown by 6.7% (734 FTE of students) to approximately 11,665 students in the 2021/22 school year. Furthermore, the District has 258 international students. As the revenue and expenditures will increase due to the associated enrolment growth, staff are determining a list of potential spending options for the Board to consider. It was noted that there will be anticipated structural multi-year budget shortfall due to the opening of two new schools, remaining pandemic costs and a teacher salary differential from the provincial average for the District to manage.

8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

8.1 Report on the Education-Policy Committee – Meeting held on October 5, 2021

Trustee Watson provided the Board of Education with an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting.

149. MOVED Allison Watson/Dianna Seaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of October 5, 2021.

CARRIED

9. STUDENTS

10. FOUNDATIONS & GOVERNANCE

10.1 Board Work Plan 90 Day Outlook – Ravi Parmar

Ravi Parmar discussed the Board Work Plan 90 Day Outlook and the priorities of the Board.

10.2 Na'tsa'maht Education Council - Meeting of October 20, 2021 – Dianna Seaton

Trustee Seaton provided an overview of the Na'tsa'maht Education Council Meeting. Associate Superintendent Block discussed the District Principal position and indicated that all four Nations would be participating in the hiring process. Furthermore, Trustee Seaton indicated that approximately 1,220 student self-identified as Indigenous in the 2021/22 school year.

10.3 BCSTA Provincial Council Update – Allison Watson

Trustee Watson provided an update on the BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting. Three successful Provincial Council motions were passed including: a Provincial Teacher Shortage motion, a Declaration of National Opiate Death Crisis motion and an Increased Funding for the Annual Facilities Grant motion. Additionally, the Provincial Council spoke on the issue of vaccine mandates.

10.4 BCSTA Climate Action Working Group Update – Allison Watson

BCSTA has formed a Climate Action Working Group and Trustee Watson has been asked to participate on behalf SD 62. The Working Group has yet to meet and establish its mandate. Further details to follow.

11. ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Superintendent's Report – Scott Stinson

Scott Stinson provided an update to the Board of Education on the International Program Grant, the Ministry of Education Partner-Liaison Meeting, the District's Program Review, the District Student Council meeting, the West Langford Media event, and the catchment implementation for the West Langford schools. The Superintendent indicated that the District received a \$15,000 grant to help fund international education mobility programming and training for staff.

12. PERSONNEL

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween – October 31, 2021
Diwali – November 4, 2021
Remembrance Day – November 11, 2021
Student Forum - TBD

14. FUTURE ITEMS

15. QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items. All media questions can be directed to the Manager, Communications for follow-up and response.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer