

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC MEETING
November 26, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

TRUSTEES:	Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair Allison Watson Christine Lervold (virtual via MS Teams) Ebony Logins	Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair Trudy Spiller Russ Chipps (virtual via MS Teams)
STAFF:	Paul Block, Superintendent Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent David Strange, Associate Superintendent Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Digital Solutions Operations	
REGRETS:	Farzaan Nusserwanji	
SECRETARY:	Jenny Seal	

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Board Chair, who acknowledged the traditional territories of the First Nations.
2. **AGENDA**
 - 2.1 Call for amendments and additional items
 34. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of November 26, 2024, as amended.
CARRIED
 - 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

3.1 Call for amendments to minutes

35. MOVED Trudy Spiller/Allison Watson
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of October 22, 2024, as presented.
CARRIED

4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair paid tribute to former BC premier John Horgan. He was an inspiring leader and a strong advocate for youth. There is a book of condolences available for the public to sign at the BC Legislature. On Thursday night, there was a fire at Carihi Secondary School in Campbell River. The blaze was quickly contained and the community pulled together to minimize the impact on students.

Amanda Dowhy offered congratulations to the recently elected MLAs, all of whom have been appointed cabinet positions. She spoke to the shifts in roles in the provincial government and looks forward to working with Honourable Lisa Beare as Minister of Education and Child Care, and Honourable Jodie Wickens as Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs.

A reminder that with less sunlight over the winter months, it is important to reach out to peers and maintain connections throughout these darker months.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1 Dunsmuir School Trip to South Africa, March 16-26, 2026 – Fabian Duque-Park
Staff provided an overview of the school trip. The Board expressed appreciation for the early application. Discussion ensued around price and attendance changes, given the trip is over a year away. The price is locked after a specific date and attendance changes are covered by the cancellation insurance. While both middle and secondary students may attend, joint activities will be encouraged before the trip so the students will get to know one another. The Board questioned the risks posed to students while travelling in South Africa, given the current travel advisory. The Superintendent added that the travel itinerary has been reviewed and weighed against the travel advisory. There is currently similar travel advisories issued for France, UK, and parts of the USA.



The advisory will be monitored regularly and should risk escalate to an unacceptable level; staff will work with EF Tours who will provide alternate travel options if necessary. There was further discussion around the 'moderate risk' form and ensuring parents are informed. The need for review of the District's travel policy was reiterated.

36. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Dunsmuir School Trip to South Africa March 16-26, 2026, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.

CARRIED

5.2 New Logo for Belmont Secondary School – Laura Fulton

Laura Fulton provided a PowerPoint presentation listing the steps involved in the development of the logo and the groups of people consulted for input into the design. Credit goes to artist Weyla Chipps-Roy in collaboration with student Vienna Wigg and teacher Danny Martin. The new logo will launch in January.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Letter from Bob Beckett dated November 19, 2024, RE: PACE "Stand with Ukraine" performance.

37. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the letter from Bob Beckett dated November 19, 2024, RE: PACE "Stand with Ukraine" performance.

CARRIED

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

STA – Rita Zeni

The STA President expressed gratitude for the great things happening in this District. However, the STA is hearing concerns around the high volume of complex needs in classrooms. Some teachers feel this work is unsustainable. Some teachers are experiencing bullying by students when they impose rules in their classrooms. Can more money be spent on supporting vulnerable students, so teachers are freed up to manage their classrooms better?



PVP – Gord Johnson

Gord Johnson expressed his appreciation for the STA President and recognized the struggles teachers face. He then updated the Board on events taking place in a number of schools. John Muir honoured families who have members serving in the Armed Forces. Poirier has students earning coloured 'recorder' belts as they progress through songs. After the windstorm, students were helping staff clear branches off the school property. The intraschool elementary handball games are wrapping up this week. Cree dancer Jared Jinai performed at Spencer and their Cricket Club is expanding. PEXSISEN applauds teachers for the many extra-curricular activities offered there. Sangster hosted a book fair during their winter conferences. Dunsmuir held their Annual Night Market, complete with a 4-piece brass band. Centre Mountain Lellum hosted Cree dancer Jared Jinai who also led workshops. Saseenos had a 'Falloween' concert, enabling the students to wear their costumes one more time. The Gaga pit has been installed and when music is added, it becomes a Gaga pit/dance party.

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The SPEAC President listed upcoming events. The next SPEAC meeting is December 18, 2024.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

The CUPE President sends a shout-out to CUPE members for the work they are doing across the District. She acknowledged the fire at Carihi Secondary in Campbell River and noted the fire doors saved a portion of the school. Training took place at the recent CUPE Pro-D day including NVCI (Non-Violent Crisis Intervention), Indigenous teachings, working alone procedures and rodent control. Throughout the day, valuable conversations and connections took place. A morale issue was identified due to workload, among other factors, for which supports and resources are needed. Childcare struggles are an issue for some CUPE members. CUPE will be donating to the 3 high schools for their 10,000 Tonight drives.

In response, the Superintendent conveyed his gratitude to the partner groups for their work. The Strategic Plan engagements have been well supported. During recent weather challenges, the partner groups have worked hard to continue to provide services to students. Monthly meetings with the Superintendent take place with each partner group as well as with other members of the Leadership team. Concerns are being heard and work is being done to find solutions.



7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

7.1 Resources Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024, to the Board of Education.

38. MOVED Christine Lervold/Ebony Logins

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Quarter 1 Financial Forecast Report as presented at the Resources Committee meeting of November 12, 2024.

CARRIED

39. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Quarter 1 Minor Capital Report as presented at the Resources Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024.

CARRIED

40. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the Sustainable Rental Strategy as presented at the Resources Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024.

CARRIED

41. MOVED Christine Lervold/Ebony Logins

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024.

CARRIED

8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

8.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of November 5, 2024 – Cendra Beaton

Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of November 5, 2024.

42. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of November 5, 2024.

CARRIED

8.2 Adoption of Draft Revised Policies E-358, E-139 and E-331 – Paul Block



No feedback was received on the above noted motions.

43. **MOVED Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson**

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 E-358 "Pension Plan Membership", E-139 "Death Benefit for Excluded Employees" and E-331 "Access and Appeal for Excluded Employees".
CARRIED

9. **STUDENTS**

9.1 Recipients of the Governor General Award – Paul Block/Amanda Dowhy

Amanda Dowhy and Paul Block provided background for the Governor General Award which is the highest academic award received in the country. The principals at Royal Bay, Belmont and Edward Milne Secondary Schools spoke to the attributes of each student recipient. The recipients for 2024 were:

- a. Belmont Secondary School - Luis Almhanna
- b. Royal Bay Secondary School - Makayla Graham
- c. Edward Milne Community School - Abbey Hayward

10. **FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

10.1 **Trustee Liaison Reports**

BCPSEA – Cendra Beaton

Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the BCPSEA Symposium on Nov 7-8, 2024 attended by herself and Fred Hibbs. Of note, Fred Hibbs was selected to be part of a panel, along with 4 other members across BC. It was well received by attendees and reflects the good work being done in this District.

BCSTA Provincial Council – Christine Lervold

Provincial Council was held October 25/26, 2024. A presentation from the Climate Action Working Group was held. Acknowledgement goes to Trustee Watson for the work she has done with this group. The retirement of CEO Suzanne Hoffman was marked and introductions made to the new CEO, Trevor Davies.

BCSTA Trustee Academy – Chistine Lervold

The BCSTA Trustee Academy is an annual academy attended by Trustees, Secretary Treasurers and Executives across BC. The new Minister of Education, Lisa Beare was in attendance and spoke at the event. Data was a key theme presented, as well as



updates on provincial bargaining, and artificial intelligence (AI). The value of sharing information at the Academy was emphasized, noting the positive work that results. As a Director with the BCSTA, Trustee Watson was very busy behind the scenes making it all happen.

10.2 Board Governance – Ebony Logins

The following motions were discussed at the In-camera portion of the Board Meeting.

44. MOVED Ebony Logins/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give First Reading of By-Law No. 1-20 “School Board Governance” at the November 26, 2024 Board meeting.

CARRIED

45. MOVED Ebony Logins/Allison Watson

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the changes to Procedural Regulation A-411 “Order of Business for Board Meetings” as presented at the November 26, 2024 Board Meeting.

CARRIED

10.3 Indigenous Education Council Update – Jon Carr/Tara Jensen

Paul Block spoke for Jon Carr’s who was absent due to illness. Clarification was provided regarding the NA’TSA’MAHT Department and the Indigenous Education Council.

11. **ADMINISTRATION**

11.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the 90 Day Work Plan. A discussion followed, articulating the need to space the workload evenly throughout the year.

12. **PERSONNEL**

12.1 Superintendent’s Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent invited Associate Superintendent D’Arcy Deacon to congratulate school teams for their successful seasons, namely EMCS Senior Boys Soccer, Royal Bay Senior Boys Soccer, Royal Bay Senior Girls Volleyball and Belmont Junior Boys Varsity Football. D’Arcy Deacon also recognized the teachers, support staff, admin staff and community coaches for the work do supporting these teams.



Three successful Strategic Plan development engagements with Students, Leadership and the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) were held in November. Students that attended the engagement were exceptional. Leadership, District partners and parents offered invaluable conversation and feedback.

Deputy Superintendent Monica Braniff spoke to the District's Accessibility Feedback Mechanism and how it was employed by a student to address a barrier at Willway Elementary. In 2 days, the student's concern was addressed thanks to collaboration among Facilities, Inclusive Education and Communications Departments. As a result of this one student's advocacy, all Gaga ball courts are now being assessed for accessibility.

Associate Superintendent Dave Strange offered congratulations to Camille McFarlane who has been announced as the principal of SCIANEW STELITKEĹ Elementary, beginning February 2025 in preparation for the school's opening September 2025. Monica Braniff celebrated Janine Brooks who is retiring from her current role as District Principal of Inclusive Education. She acknowledged her 32 years of dedicated service with the District. With Mark Johnston taking Janine's place, Corrinne Kosik will assume his current role of District Vice Principal of Inclusive Education.

Paul Block acknowledged Harold Cull's retirement at the end of December. Harold will continue to support the District into January assisting with the transition of the new Secretary Treasurer, Brian Jonker. Brian's 15 years with the provincial government in various leadership roles makes him well suited to this position. An official announcement goes out tomorrow.

The Superintendent also acknowledged the great work by PACE Musical Academy who recently performed a show in support of students in Ukraine and raised \$12,000 towards the purchase of a school bus.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

NA'TSA'MAHT Indigenous Education Family Métis Dinner – November 27
Education-Policy Meeting – Dec 3, 2024
Resources Committee Meeting - Dec 10, 2024

14. FUTURE ITEMS

15. 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

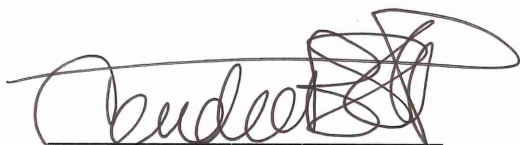


themselves and ask questions directed to the Chair. Members of the media can direct their questions to the Manager, Strategic Communications for response following the meeting.


16. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent for S/T (in transition)
Jan. 9/25

