

Committee Report of Resources Committee Meeting of January 14, 2025 School Board Office

Present: Allison Watson, Trustee (Committee Chair)
Russ Chipps, Trustee (Committee Member)
Christine Lervold, Trustee (Committee Member)
Paul Block, Superintendent
Brian Jonker, Secretary-Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
Wayne Kelly, Principal QELEŃSEN Á, LEN
Ceilidh Deichmann, SPVPA
Ed Berlando, STA
Tom Davis, SPEAC
Trudy Court, CUPE
Nicole Gestwa, Network Analyst, Digital Solutions

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the Committee Chair, who acknowledged that we are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation and acknowledge the three nation SD 62 works with directly in our schools; Scia'new Nation, Coast Salish, and T'Sou-ke Nation; including the West Coast Pacheedaht Nation Nuu-chah-nulth. (words gifted by the three Nations SD62 works with)

The Chair provided instruction to Trustees and attendees joining virtually on how to participate. The Chair acknowledged the service and leadership of the outgoing Chair of the Resources committee, Christine Lervold. She then provided a speaker list process outline. Partner groups speaking first has been the precedent for Committee meetings. All Trustees can join the meetings; however, Trustees who are on the committee will be prioritized in terms of speaking.

2. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Board of Education of Sooke School District 62 (Sooke) received the Resources Committee Report dated December 10, 2024, at its Public Board Meeting dated December 17, 2024.



3. PRESENTATIONS – no presentations

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Committee Mandate & Reminders – Allison Watson

The Committee Chair reviewed the Resources Committee mandate and appointments for the 2025 calendar year.

CUPE relayed that it is working with its members to support strategic plan implementation and is looking for clarity on when the new strategic plan will be released.

The Superintendent provided an update on progress and confirmed the intention of the new strategic plan going to the Education Policy Committee in February and from there through to the February 25, 2025 Board Meeting for final approval and release.

4.2 Energy Management – Mhairi Bennett

The Director of Facilities updated the committee on the Utility Navigator – Energy Data Tool, explained what data the tool collects and how it is used to inform decisions for the District. To meet CleanBC 2030 targets, staff is working with BC Hydro to seek partial funding for an in-house Energy Management specialist position.

Concerns were expressed about Belmont being a relatively new school but seeing system failures. Staff relayed that the issue was a single air handling unit that was new to market at the time of the school build. There have since been newer versions of the same unit installed at other sites which are not having the same issues. Staff provided clarity that it was a single unit that was the issue and not multiple equipment failures.

Questions arose regarding data at Edward Milne. Staff responded that the data shows we need to look deeper at the energy consumption at the school and potential mitigations.

A question was raised as to whether portables were included in the calculations. Staff will confirm if the data relates to the primary building or includes ancillary buildings (portables).

4.3 2024/25 Amended Budget Update – David Lee-Bonar

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer explained the process behind the annual Budget recalculation and amended budget. Typically, staff would bring forward the recalculated grant amounts based on the Ministry announcement and potential impact on the District going forward. However, this year, the province is delayed in releasing the update until mid-late January. The *School Act* requires the Board to pass the amended budget bylaw by the end of February. Clarity was provided around legislated requirements for the Board to submit



their amended budgets. In response to concerns raised about the delay, the Superintendent indicated that this strategy (the Motion), was recommended to all superintendents and there is a level of confidence from the Ministry, that the recalculated grants won't be further delayed. To pass all 3 readings on February 25th, the Committee supported the following motion going forward to the Board:

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three reading of the 2024/25 Amended Budget Bylaw at its meeting of February 25, 2025.

4.4 2025/26 Academy Fees – Wayne Kelly

Wayne Kelly reviewed the process for setting the fees for the academies within the District. Academy programs deploy a 5% holdback to mitigate risk as contingency. This strategy protects against inflationary pressures. This year, forecasts indicate that the full contingency will be used and as such, this supports looking to a fee increase for some academies for next year. The proposed fees for 2025/26 were presented. The fee payment schedule and financial assistance programs were reviewed.

Following discussion, the committee supported the following motion going forward to the Board:

Recommended Motion: That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed Academy Fees for the 2025-26 school year as presented at the Resources committee Meeting of January 14, 2025.

5. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** February 11, 2025

