

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
May 28, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**TRUSTEES:** Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair  
Russ Chipps (virtual)  
Ebony Logins (virtual)  
Allison Watson  
Cendra Beaton, Vice Chair  
Christine Lervold  
Trudy Spiller

**STAFF:** Paul Block, Superintendent  
Harold Cull, Secretary-Treasurer  
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent  
D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent  
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, HR  
Farzaan Nusserwanji, Executive Director, IT  
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, IT Operations

**REGRETS:** David Strange, Associate Superintendent

**SECRETARY:** Kristina Ross

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**  
The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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
    65. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of May 28, 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**

66. MOVED Christine Lervold/Allison Watson  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of April 30, 2024, as amended.  
CARRIED

**4. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUCEMENTS**

**4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy**

The Board Chair indicated that the B.C. government has approved the development of a business case for a new secondary school in the City of Langford. Staff are busy planning and anticipate the completion of the business case within six months. The Board of Education is moving into a busy month ahead with several trustees attending year end graduation events. The Board Chair thanked her colleagues for their attendance at these events, in celebration of these students’ achievements. Further, she provided an update to the Royal Roads University Westshore Campus. Once complete, the West Shore Campus will better serve the educational needs of students from communities within the Territories of the Songhees, Malahat, Pacheedaht, SC’IA NEW, and T’Sou-ke, including the municipalities of Sooke, Langford, Colwood, and View Royal, and the Districts of Metchosin and Highlands.

**5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 School Trip to Greece, Spring 2026 – Stephanie Vink/Corey Vink**

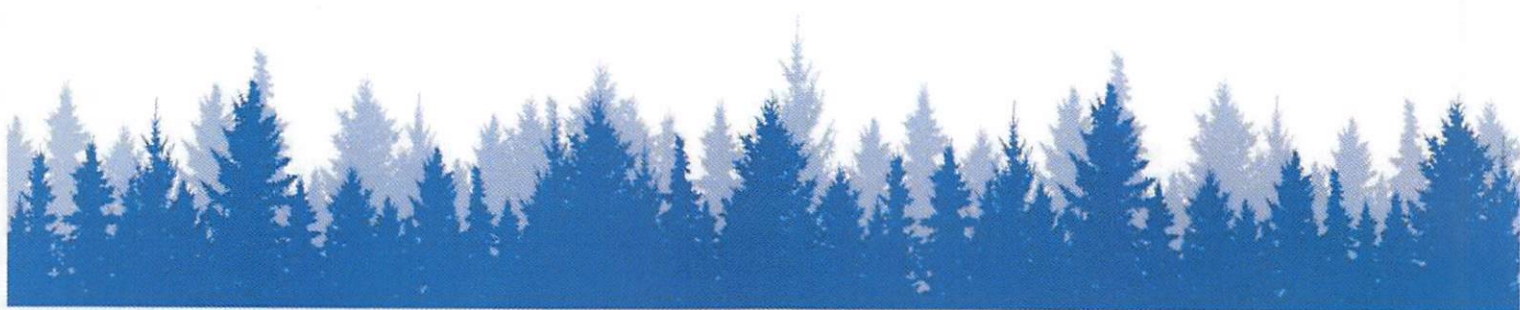
Staff provided an overview of the school trip to Greece, in the Spring of 2026.

67. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold  
That the Board of Education approve the joint Royal Bay Secondary School and Edward Milne Community School Trip to Greece, Spring 2026, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent’s Office.  
CARRIED

**6. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

None.



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

STA – Rita Zeni

Acting President, Rita Zeni, had the pleasure to attend the Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Education Graduation. She thanked the staff for their hard work and contributions. The STA thanked the HR department for its work on Spring Staffing and looks forward to collaborating with them on several long-standing items. Further, the STA looks forward to working in partnership with CUPE, for the betterment of the District.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

CUPE 459 shared reflections on two calls to Action (27, 28) from the National Truth and Reconciliation Report, and spoke about the importance of school staff receiving similar training. Amber Leonard shared an update on the recent CUPE PRO D, and thanked staff for the budget process and the level of consultation with partner groups.

PVP – Gord Johnson

Gord Johnson provided the Board of Education an update on activities around the District. Highlights included: a wheelchair basketball game event at Spencer Middle School, a Harm Reduction Seminar for Grade 10 students at Royal Bay Secondary School, a gender inclusive track meet for all Sooke based Elementary Schools at Edward Milne Community School, and Belmont Secondary School hosted its annual international week. Further, John Stubbs Memorial School hosted a parent appreciation event, and Ruth King Elementary recently hosted four spring concerts.

SPEAC – Nevada Kaludjar

SPEAC hosted its Annual General Meeting on May 15; congratulations to the newly elected 2024/25 SPEAC Executive. President Tom Davis, Vice President Sandra Arnold, and Treasurer Pam Miller. Further, they thanked their outstanding volunteers at their annual PAC Summit. The Superintendent thanked Melissa Da Silva, outgoing President, for her service to the District for the last two years

7. **FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

7.1 Resources Committee Meeting of April 16, 2024 – Christine Lervold

Trustee Lervold provided an overview of the Resources Committee Meeting of May 14, 2024, to the Board of Education.



68. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of May 14, 2024.  
CARRIED

- 7.2 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw – Harold Cull  
Harold Cull provided an update on the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw to the Board of Education.

69. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give second and third reading to the 2024/25 Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total of \$221,481,692.  
CARRIED

## 8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 8.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of May 7, 2024 – Cendra Beaton  
Trustee Beaton provided an overview of the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of May 7, 2024, to the Board of Education.

70. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) accept and endorse the 2024-25 School Codes of Conduct.  
CARRIED

71. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Strategic Plan Quarterly Report as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of May 7, 2024.  
CARRIED

72. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of May 7, 2024.  
CARRIED

- 8.2 Adoption of Policy & Regulations – Paul Block  
The Superintendent provided an overview of the Policy and Regulations.



73. 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 new Policy and Regulations C-114 “Sanctuary Schools”.  
CARRIED
74. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller  
Given that the required period for Notice of Motion has been served, that the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt new Policy and Regulation F-329 “Records Management”.  
CARRIED
75. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) rescind Policy and Regulations C-220 “Student Records” and remove them from the District Policy Manual.  
CARRIED
76. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) rescind Regulations F-330 “Document Retention” and remove them from the District Policy Manual.  
CARRIED

9. **STUDENTS**

9.1 Student Valedictorians

Trustee Beaton requested that the Board of Education consider the following motion:

77. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) request the Chair to send congratulatory letters to all 2024 Valedictorians on behalf of the Board of Education, recognizing their unique contribution to school culture and their graduating class.  
AMENDED
78. MOVED Allison Watson/Cendra Beaton  
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) request the Chair to send congratulatory letters to all 2024 Valedictorians and **all other graduating**



award winners in the district on behalf of the Board of Education, recognizing their unique contribution to school culture and their graduating class.

CARRIED

10. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

10.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

- EMCS Society – Allison Watson
  - No grant funding to cover wages for summer engagement coordinator.

79. MOVED Allison Watson/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) request staff to investigate if the district has year end funds to cover the donation request from Edward Milne Community School Society for the Play & Learn Camp and report back to the Board of Education.

CARRIED

- Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee – Christine Lervold  
Trustee Lervold provided an update to the Board of Education on this item. More information including resources for youth and families can be found via [www.victoriafamilycourt.ca](http://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca). Meeting highlights included an update from Mia Golden; Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) who works directly with youth and families across the region. Importance of continued advocacy and awareness related to use of social media and other online platforms was emphasized. Annual Open House held April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 36 people attended. 16 from committee, 20 Agency Reps (e.g., Victoria Youth, Indigenous Justice, MYST, Single Parent Resources, Legal Aid BC, Big Brothers and Sisters, Boys and Girls Club). Round Table update from all members re: events and key issues within their respective communities. Next Meeting: June 27<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30pm.

11. ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Board of Education 90 Day Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the work plan to the Board of Education.

12. PERSONNEL

12.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided the Board of Education an update on Learning, Engagement and Growth. Specifically, he spoke about digital literacy for staff, the recent Pacheedaht SD 62 Community Dinner, SD 62's Bus Driver Appreciation Day, and the Business Continuity Planning Exercise that the district recently completed.



**13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**14. FUTURE ITEMS**

June 4-Education-Policy Committee Meeting  
June 11-Resources Committee Meeting  
June 21-National Indigenous Peoples Day  
June 25-Public Board Meeting  
June 27-Last Day of School  
June 28-Year End Administrative Day  
July 7-Pride Parade


**15. QUESTION PERIOD**

Members of the public can 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 9:06 p.m.

Certified Correct:



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Chairperson of the Board



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Secretary-Treasurer

