

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

November 25, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton
Trudy Spiller
Christine Lervold, Vice Chair
Russ Chipps (online via MS town hall)

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Brian Jonker, Secretary-Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
Vanessa White, Acting Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Information Technology - Operations

REGRETS: D'Arcy Deacon, Ebony Logins, Allison Watson

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Board Chair who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations. The Chair notified the public that this meeting is being conducted via Microsoft Town Hall, instead of Live Event. Instructions were provided to the public about participating in the question-and-answer session at the end of the meeting.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

The Board Chair amended the agenda to address item 10.1, Governor General Awards, after item 4.1, the Board Chair Update.

41. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of November 25, 2025, as amended.

CARRIED unanimously

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

The Chair called for amendments to the minutes.

42. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of October 28, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED unanimously

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair acknowledged the two Governor General award recipients present. The Chair congratulated the recipients and the many people involved in their journeys. The Board Chair encouraged students and their families to take advantage of scholarship opportunities.

The Chair provided information about the Regional Youth Coordinator position, a proposed role through the Municipal Leaders Advisory Team (MLAT) requested to be jointly funded by the MLAT municipalities. The Chair attended to show support for the delegation made to the District of Sooke during their council meeting on November 24th.

43. MOVED Cendra Beaton/

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the board Chair to write a letter to Cindy Andrew congratulating her on her retirement.

The Chair called for a seconder, hearing none, the motion failed.

In closing, the Board Chair reported reported legislation updates to the School Act though Bill 19, that will enable further opportunities for childcare on school sites.

10. STUDENTS

Governor General Awards – Paul Block/Amanda Dowhy

The Board extended its appreciation to the students for their commitment to academic excellence. Principals Laura Fulton, Melissa Horner, Vice Principal Tanya Phillips and Teacher Stephanie Torbohm spoke to the attributes of each student recipient. The recipients for 2024/25 are:

- a. Edward Milne Community School – Madison Riddell
- b. Belmont Secondary School – Roberta (Robbi) Iuvalé
- c. Royal Bay Secondary School – Matteo Snider

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

There was no IEC report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy

a. Email from Parent Dated Oct 23, 2025 RE Dialogue at School.

44. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Email from Parent Dated Oct 23, 2025 RE Dialogue at School.

CARRIED unanimously

7.2 Correspondence Framework - Paul Block

The Superintendent outlined the framework developed in consultation with the Board Chair and Secretary Treasurer using models from Surrey and Nanaimo school districts as well as other considerations. The framework will guide the development of a policy through the Governance committee.

7.3 Standing Delegations (CUPE, SPEAC, SPVPA, STA) – 5 minutes each

SPVPA – Krista Leaky

The Principal of Sangster Elementary presented a slide show highlighting events taking place in schools this month.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

The CUPE President read an overview of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Rita Zeni, President of the STA and Tom Davis, President of SPEAC stood with the CUPE President for a shared delegation speech. Each expressed concern about the time spent at Board meetings discussing governance issues, leaving no time for collaborative discussions about student centred concerns. A request was made to refocus meetings on student and worker needs; concern was noted that contracting out takes away from CUPE positions. It was noted that there is normalization of violence in classrooms and that students are being forced to make do, without needed supports. The partners ended their joint delegation with an offer to provide their comments and concerns to the Board in writing.

Trustees thanked the partner groups for bringing this forward and stated a desire to get back to a place of focus on students first and foremost.

7.4 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each

There were no other delegations.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of November 18, 2025 – Cendra Beaton

The Acting Committee Chair provided an overview of the Resources Committee meeting. A correction to the report was noted; Amanda Dowhy should be listed as acting committee member.

45. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

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 18, 2025.

CARRIED unanimously

46. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed 2026/27 budget principles, assertions and process as outlined at the November 18, 2025, Resources Committee meeting.

CARRIED unanimously

47. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Quarter 2 Minor Capital Report as presented at the Resources Committee Meeting of November 18, 2025.

CARRIED unanimously

48. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of November 18, 2025

CARRIED unanimously

8.2 Indigenous Education Council Participation in 2026/27 Budget Development – Amanda Dowhy

49. MOVED Amanda Dowhy/Cendra Beaton

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) direct the Chair to respond to the Indigenous Education Council and explore next steps to facilitate their participation in the 2026/27 budget deliberation process.

CARRIED unanimously

8. EDUCATION PROGRAM

9.1 Education Policy Committee Meeting of November 4, 2025 – Cendra Beaton

The Committee Chair provided an overview of the Education Policy meeting.

50. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed BAA Course "Care Economy Career Sampler 11", effective September 2026.
CARRIED unanimously
51. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed BAA Course "Health Career Sampler 12", effective September 2026.
CARRIED unanimously
52. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised policy and Regulations C-114 "Sanctuary Schools".
CARRIED unanimously
53. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Christine Lervold
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of November 4, 2025.
CARRIED unanimously

9.2 Adoption of Draft Revised Policy and Regulation C-314 and New Policy F-499 – Paul Block

The Superintendent expressed appreciation for the substantive feedback received on the revision of Policy and Regulation C-314.

54. 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 draft revised Policy and Regulation C-314 "Substance Use Prevention and Intervention".
CARRIED unanimously
55. 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 F-499 "Unexpected Health Emergencies".
CARRIED unanimously

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

11.1 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

No Trustee reports were submitted.

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair provided an overview of the Board Work plan.

13. PERSONNEL

13.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided an overview of the written report on Learning, Engagement and Growth.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Career Education Week - November 24-28
- BCSTA Trustee Academy November 26-29
- Education-Policy Meeting – December 2
- Resources Committee Meeting – December 9
- Next Public Board Meeting – December 16
- Winter break – December 22 to January 2

15. RISE AND REPORT

Signed Memoranda of Understanding with Municipalities – Amanda Dowhy

The Board Chair outlined the process undertaken to renew the Memorandums of Understanding with municipalities.


16. QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at tonight's meeting. There were no questions.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Certified Correct:


Chairperson of the Board
Secretary Treasurer