



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Regular Board Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, May 27, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, Karin Kwan, Vice-Chair, Natalie Baillaut, Mavis David, Emily Mahbobi, Rob Paynter

Trustee Regrets: Angela Carmichael, Derek Gagnon, Diane McNally

Administration: Deb Whitten, Superintendent, Treasurer,
Director of Facilities Services, Sarah Winkler, VPVA

Partners: Darren Reed, CUPE 382, Winona Waldron, GVTA

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Duncan recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

A.2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee David
Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the May 27, 2024 agenda be approved.

Amendment

Moved by Trustee Duncan
Seconded by Trustee Mahbobi

Add a motion at C.1.b.

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Board Chair to write to the Victoria Police Board to make a formal request for the following information:

- any and all data pertaining to gang recruitment or other criminal activity involving youth, between 2015 to date;

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1. Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the May 6, 2024 meeting – information only
- b. Recommended motion from the May 13, 2024 meeting:

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi
Seconded by Trustee David

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

Solar Panels

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee David

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to work with the District's Manager of Energy to provide the Board of Education with a report detailing the cost/benefit and feasibility of investing in solar panels at SD 61 schools.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. DISTRICT

A2: Chair Duncan stated that they reviewed the program over a two and a half-year period and the Board decided to end the program last year. The Board has since done its best to clarify the basis of its decision. The Board wants to make it clear that all of the District's safety protocols remain in effect. The Board continues to meet with Police partners to look at communication protocols. Police will continue to be utilized in appropriate ways when there is a policing matter that arises. There are assumptions about the nature and volume of feedback that the Board has received. There are differing perspectives.

Q3: Can a safe space/outpost be allocated, specific days and times for an officer to be available for students and parents to address their issues?

A3: Chair Duncan stated that is something that could be considered. If a student or a parent wants to interact with the police around a certain matter, there is nothing preventing them from reaching out. We do have police who interact with students and parents at their request.

Q4: Can Administrators and Trustees in SD61 seek counselling if they feel unsafe with police presence? Psychologist and counsellors would never advise anyone to stay away from police officers because they feel uncomfortable and unsafe in their presence.

A4: Chair Duncan stated the Board is trying to create a safe space and have services delivered by appropriately trained, certified and regulated professionals. That does not preclude and certainly has not in the last year precluded the Board from reaching out to the police to ask for support when it is a policing matter. What the Board's decision does mean is that we would not be using police to be involved in behavioral reprimand and discipline of students. We would not want to see police be involved in a quasi-counselling function. We want to be noticeably clear that if a matter comes up and it is a policing matter we would continue to liaise, and we will continue to consult with woulii163 0 Tnot02 Tw 0 -1.A0.002 Tdl a polt

A6: Chair Duncan stated that was an assumption and she does not see the Board as refusing to engage. There are appropriate channels to engage, we have tried to refer folks to professionals that can assist and support them. We have also connected directly with individuals who have expressed an interest and a concern. The Board has issued numerous statements and provided a FAQ on the district website. We would encourage anyone who is having issues or is unclear how to access supports and resources to reach out to their school principals or to reach out to counselling support in schools. If you are having trouble, there are appropriate resources available to utilize. If there is a situation that requires police, they will be called.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 29, 2024

G.2. Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 29, 2024

G.3. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – April 30, 2024

G.4. Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2024

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1. New Business

None.

H.2. Notice of Motions

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Mahbobi

Seconded by Trustee Kwan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer