

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETING

January 27, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES: Amanda Dowhy, Board Chair
Cendra Beaton
Ebony Logins
Allison Watson (online via MS Teams)

Christine Lervold, Vice Chair
Russ Chipps (online via MS Teams)
Trudy Spiller

STAFF: Paul Block, Superintendent
Brian Jonker, Secretary-Treasurer
Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent
D’Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent
Lisa Leclerc, Associate Superintendent
Fred Hibbs, Executive Director, Human Resources
Steve Tonnesen, Manager, Information Technology - Operations

REGRETS:

SECRETARY: Jenny Seal

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Board Chair who acknowledged the territories of the First Nations. The Chair provided instructions for presenters and reviewed the Q&A function.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Call for amendments and additional items

The Chair called for amendments. No amendments were brought forward.

65. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting agenda of January 27, 2026, as presented.

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

The Chair called for amendments to the minutes. No amendments were brought forward.

66. MOVED Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) adopt the public meeting minutes of December 16, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Board Chair Update – Amanda Dowhy

The Chair reflected on Trustees' role as leaders who have the opportunity to shape youth by ensuring all youth are supported by fostering a sense of belonging. In January, Kindergarten registration opened and transition planning began. This being an election year, draft elections bylaws have been circulated to Board and staff.

5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 International Program Student Trip to Carcross, Yukon, February 21-23, and March 16-18, 2026 – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided clarity around the two trips to the Yukon and the short timeframe for approval.

A friendly amendment was proposed to add, “notwithstanding Policy and Regulation C-329”.

67. MOVED Ebony Logins/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve two International Program Student Trips to Carcross, Yukon, February 21-23, and March 16-18, 2026 *notwithstanding Policy and Regulation C-329* and subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's office.

CARRIED

5.2 International Program Student Trip to Rocky Mountains March 23-26, 2026 - Paul Block

68. MOVED Ebony Logins/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the International Program Student Trip to the Rocky Mountains, March 23-26, 2026, notwithstanding Policy C-329, subject to the oversight and direction of the Superintendent's Office.

CARRIED

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Indigenous Education Council Update – No Report

7. CORRESPONDENCE & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – Amanda Dowhy

- a. Email from Student Dated Dec 12, 2025 RE: Request for app
- b. Email from B. Yates Dated Dec 17, 2025 RE: Space for CISV use
- c. Email from Chandra Dated Jan 8, 2026 RE: EAs and Inclusive Education Support

69. **MOVED** Christine Lervold/Trudy Spiller

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the above noted correspondence as outlined in items 7.1 a-c.

CARRIED

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

SPEAC – Tom Davis

The President of SPEAC spoke to the new semester course change and excitement around kindergarten registration. In two days SPEAC hosts their leadership event where Royal Bay Secondary School Culinary students prepare dinner. The next SPEAC meeting is February 18, 2026.

STA – Christina Kempenaar (ONLINE)

January is a really hard month for teachers; it feels long. As February approaches, things are looking brighter. The STA expressed gratitude to Trustee Watson for her hard work over almost two terms as a trustee. The STA felt valued by her actions, and appreciated her strong advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Teachers & CUPE staff have been wearing red on Mondays. By wearing red, we are showing solidarity with the bargaining team and showing support for public education.

SPVPA – Frances Krusekopf

The District Principal of Early Learning and Childcare echoed the words of the STA Vice President and thanked Trustee Watson for her commitment and engagement. A slideshow of events taking place in schools across the District was shared.

CUPE 459 – Amber Leonard

The CUPE President opened by reading articles #3 to #7 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and invited reflection. While CUPE is *always* learning and unlearning, members are looking forward to the Pro-D day on May 11th. Some of the day's offerings were listed. The CUPE President expressed appreciation for solidarity and its positive effect on the school community.

- 7.2 Other Delegations – 5 minutes each
There were no other delegations.

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- 8.1 Resources Committee Meeting of January 13, 2026 – Cendra Beaton
Acting Committee Chair Beaton provided an overview of the Resources
Committee Meeting of January 13, 2026.

70. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) allow all three
readings of the 2025/26 Amended Budget Bylaw at its February 24, 2026
meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
71. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Trudy Spiller
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke)
receive the report from the Resources Committee Meeting of January 13,
2026.
CARRIED

9. EDUCATION PROGRAM

- 9.1 Education-Policy Committee Meeting of January 6, 2026 – Cendra Beaton
Trustee Beaton provided a summary of items discussed at the meeting. The
Superintendent highlighted the learning agenda in the Operational Plan and
acknowledged the important work done by Associate Superintendents D’Arcy Deacon
and Lisa Leclerc around literacy and numeracy.
72. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed
BAA Course “Athletic Leadership 10”, effective September 2026.
CARRIED
73. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed
BAA Course “Athletic Leadership 11”, effective September 2026.
CARRIED
74. MOVED Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) approve the proposed
BAA Course “Athletic Leadership 12”, effective September 2026.
CARRIED

75. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the Mid-Year Operational Report as presented at the Education-Policy Committee meeting of Jan. 6, 2026.
CARRIED
76. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations B-132 “Career Education”.
CARRIED
77. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Ebony Logins
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) receive the report from the Education-Policy Committee Meeting of January 6, 2026.
CARRIED

9.2 Adoption of revised Policy and Regulations – Paul Block

The Superintendent provided the revision timeline and feedback received, acknowledging the support from partner groups, parents, and Trustee Watson for helping bring this policy forward.

78. **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 and Regulations C-114 “Sanctuary Schools”.
CARRIED

10. STUDENTS

There were no student presentations.

11. FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

11.1 Trustee Resignation – Brian Jonker

As per section 51(2) of the School Act, the Secretary Treasurer provided formal notification to the Board of the resignation of Trustee Watson, effective January 31, 2026. As stated in Section 36 (2) of the School Act, The Board is not required to fill the vacancy because it occurred after January 1st of an election year. Staff recommended the vacancy be left open until the general election in October 2026.

Trustees Beaton and Logins expressed their gratitude for Trustee Watson and the work she has done.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Lervold regarding inappropriate comments. The chair did not make a ruling and Trustee Logins continued.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Lervold regarding discussion straying from the agenda item. The Chair ruled the point well taken.

The Chair reviewed the business at hand; does the Board wish to hold the vacancy until the election in October?

A point of order was raised by Trustee Beaton.

The chair called a recess at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened at 8:31 p.m. Trustee Chipps joined the meeting.

The Chair ruled that comments made by Trustees Beaton and Logins were out of order in accordance with Trustee Code of Conduct under section 5, Working Relationships, and Roberts Rules of Order for decorum as statements were not aligned to a pending question, comments were not addressed to the Chair and trustees did not refrain from speaking adversely on a prior action that is not currently pending.

Trustee Logins spoke out of turn and the Chair ruled her out of order. Trustee Logins left the room at 8:33 p.m. and did not return.

The Chair returned the discussion to the motion.

79. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
That aligned with Section 36(2) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) hold the trustee vacancy starting February 1, 2026, open until the October 2026 general school election.
CARRIED

11.2 Trustee Liaison Reports – Board of Education

Trustee Lervold provided an update on the Victoria Youth Justice Committee regular and annual general meeting of January 22, 2026. Mayor Marie-Térèse Little was elected as Chair. Trustee Lervold will share materials with all Trustees containing information about an opportunity for boards to provide advocacy around policy changes to support youth and justice.

Trustee Beaton requested an update on the Village Initiative, the French Advisory Committee, and the Edward Milne Community School Society.

The Chair noted that updates from the Edward Milne Community School Society are shared as part of her Board Chair update.

11.3 Canadian School Boards Association Conference July 5-8, 2026 – Amanda Dowhy

The Chair provided an overview of the CSBA Conference being held in Whistler this year.

Discussion weighed the benefits trustees of attending the conference against the cost

incurred against the next fiscal year before that budget has been developed. The motion was put forward out of fiscal caution; however, discussion is open, and a friendly amendment is an option.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Lervold regarding decorum; comments are not in line with our Code of Conduct. The Chair ruled the point not well taken.

Trustee Beaton requested details regarding trustee professional development funds. The Secretary Treasurer provided the balance of Trustee professional development funds and an estimate of the cost to attend.

80. **MOVED** Trudy Spiller/Russ Chipps
That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) designate the Board Chair to attend the Canadian School Boards Conference in Whistler July 5-8, 2026.
CARRIED with 4 votes FOR AND 2 OPPOSED.

11.3 Proposed BCSTA Substantive Motion – Cendra Beaton

The Chair, noting the time and that rationale was provided in the package, requested Trustee Beaton read the motion. Trustee Beaton proceeded to provide background for the proposed motion.

A point of order was raised by Trustee Spiller regarding the request from the Chair to read the motion. The Chair ruled the point well taken and requested the motion be read.

81. **MOVED** Cendra Beaton/Allison Watson
That the Board of Education of the School District 62 (Sooke) submit the following substantive motion to the 2026 BCSTA AGM:

That BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Education and Childcare and the Ministry of Children and Family Development for the establishment of targeted funding to provide appropriate English Language Learning (ELL) and French Language Learning (FLL) supports for school-district-operated childcare and before/after school programs.

The motion was **DEFEATED** with 2 votes FOR and 4 votes OPPOSED.

Discussion ensued, acknowledging the high level of consultation and information provided with this motion proposal. Concerns raised included no Indigenous input, advocacy being too specific, no funding allocation, tracking process or distribution mechanism was included.

Trustee Beaton left the meeting at 9:46 p.m. and did not return. The Chair recessed the meeting at 9:47 p.m. and reconvened at 9:54. The Chair confirmed quorum.

12. ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Board of Education Work Plan – Amanda Dowhy

The Chair provided an overview of the Board Work Plan and changes as discussed.

13. PERSONNEL

13.1 Superintendent's Report – Paul Block

The Superintendent invited Deputy and Associate Superintendents and the Secretary Treasurer to share highlights from the January report. On behalf of the Executive Team the Superintendent acknowledged Trustee Watson for her work.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- SPEAC Leadership Dinner – January 29
- BCPSEA AGM – January 29
- Education-Policy Meeting – February 3
- Board/Sooke Council Meeting – February 5
- Resources Committee Meeting – February 10
- Board/Langford Council Meeting – February 12
- Non-Instructional Day – February 13
- Stat - Family Day (Schools closed) – February 16
- Partner Group Presentations 2026/27 Budget – February 17
- SPEAC February Meeting – February 18
- BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting (rep only) February 20 online
- Next Public Board Meeting – February 24

15. RISE AND REPORT

16. QUESTION PERIOD

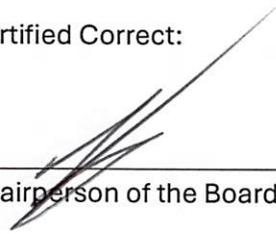
Members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at tonight's meeting.

A question was received from Ashley Andexser. The question was not related to an agenda item, and the Superintendent indicated he would respond to the question via email.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chairperson of the Board



Secretary-Treasurer