



Present:	Chaya Katrensky	Chairperson
	Deborah Luporini	Vice Chairperson
	Gregory Lucas	Trustee
	Tisha Boulter	Trustee
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Jeannine Georgeson	Trustee
	Jill Jensen	Superintendent of Schools
	Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
	Lori Deacon	Director of Corporate Services
	Boe Beardsmore	Associate Superintendent
	Lyall Ruehlen	Director of Instruction
	Shauna Klem	Executive Assistant
Guests:	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Angela Thomas	CUPE President
	Katherine Hazen	DPAC Representative
Absent:		GIPVPA Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Chaya Katrensky. Trustee Nancy Macdonald spoke to the privilege and gratitude of living on the sacred traditional territory of the Coast Salish communities, specifically the Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples – huy tseep q'u.

Chair Katrensky read the opening statement: With the intention of holding a safe, caring, and orderly meeting for all, we pledge to do our best to maintain a respectful and inclusive working environment. We will hold this meeting to the highest standard of civility and appropriate conduct so that we may attend to our business effectively and productively.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session, held 2025 05 14 was adopted as presented by consensus.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2025 04 09 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 38/25



4. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARIES**

Moved and seconded that the Summary of the Regular In-Camera Meeting for 2025 04 09 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 39/25

5. **DELEGATIONS**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

a. **BCSTA AGM K D B U**

Trustees and staff attended the BCSTA AGM in Vancouver. Chair Katrensky shared highlights of the meeting held April 24-26. District attendees found value in learning about the work happening in other provincial school districts.

b. **Draft 2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule**

The 2025-2026 meeting schedule was presented. Regular Board meetings will take place at the school board office on Salt Spring Island and broadcasted for public viewing. Committee Day meetings will take place online. School visits are built into the schedule.

Moved and seconded that the 2025-2026 Board Meetings Schedule be approved as presented.

CARRIED 40/25

c. **Bill 15 Infrastructure Projects Act**

Chair Katrensky reported that the Provincial government has tabled an infrastructure projects act aimed at streamlining the approval process for construction of critical major capital projects, including schools.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **Superintendents Report K D B U**

Superintendent Jensen appreciated witnessing the gifting of a map to Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School. Elders and members of the WSANEC nation travelled to S,DÁYES to participate in the celebration. Chief Eric Pelkey from the Tsawout First Nation presented the map.

The Feeding Futures update reveals that more than 180 students receive free lunches every day, while over 150 students benefit from daily breakfast and snack offerings.

The Inclusive Education update informed that due to significant improvements in learning outcomes for students with disabilities and diverse abilities, our district has been invited to share our practices with other districts as part of the Enhancing Student Learning Framework. The five-year completion rates for students in our District have shown significant increases.



A District team attended the Mental Health in Schools Conference on May 5 and 6. The conference focused on promoting mental health and well-being in B.C.'s K-12 education system, highlighting school-based mental-health and substance use education.

b. **IEC update** **K D**

A summary of the April 17 Indigenous Council Meeting, at Khowutzun Heritage Center, was presented. Trustee Georgeson attended the meeting and shared how meaningful it was to be in a room together with rights holders working towards change. The report indicated that rights holders were invited to join the Indigenous Education Council, with the intention to have an IEC in place for the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Terms of Reference will be created by the IEC using a template provided by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). The next meeting will be held on May 23, 2025, at Khowutzun Heritage Centre with rights holders from Cowichan, Halalt, Lyackson, Malahat, Penelakut, Tsartlip, Tsawout and the WSANEC School Board asked to be present.

c. **Annual Anti-Racism Review** **K D B U**

Associate Superintendent Beardsmore prepared the annual review of District efforts to dismantle racism and exclusionary practice. Boe Beardsmore noted that there are several anonymous avenues available for reporting incidents of racism as outlined in Policy 2.30. From September 2025 to this date, six incidents have been reported. Superintendent Jensen provided information about on-going District staff professional development initiatives focused on anti-racism/anti-oppression.

Superintendent Jensen and Chair Katrensky acknowledged that racism does occur, and continued efforts are necessary to address it.

d. **Student Council Update** **K U**

Representatives of GISS Student Council were unable to attend.

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

a. **Monthly Financial Report** **D**

The monthly operating expense report reveals that expenses are within 0.43% of the amended budget.

b. **2025-2026 Annual Budget Bylaw Discussion** **D**

The draft 2025-26 Annual Budget is categorized as a status quo budget, except for reductions in revenue and expenses from the cessation of the International Program. Schools have been configured for teaching staff based on the projected class sizes. Inflation in the cost of materials and supplies, as well as three years of partially funded and unmatched labour settlement agreements are sources of budget pressure which led staff to consider six specific areas for potential reductions or inclusions and one time funding investment options. Secretary Treasurer Guy reviewed the four expense functions and their operating budgets, as well as revenue sources. An analysis of comparative districts and multi-year functions was explained.



Chair Katrensky recessed the meeting at 2:04 pm. The meeting resumed at 2:10 pm.

Trustees, with responses from staff, discussed AFG and capital funding, transportation, accumulated surplus, district owned land, and Function 1 spending goals.

c. Draft 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw D

Secretary Treasurer Guy presented the draft 2025/2026 Annual Budget and the total budget bylaw amount of \$30,971,370 for the Board's consideration. Chair Katrensky relayed that British Columbia ranks as the second lowest province in education funding, and school districts across the province are facing significant challenges as a result.

Chair Katrensky read the 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw, prepared in accordance with the *School Act*.

Moved and seconded that the 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw be read a first time and passed.

CARRIED 41/25

d. Bus Transportation Registration Update

A change in the registration process resulted in early transportation registrations tripling, which has been beneficial for fall 2025 bus route planning on Saltspring Island.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Committee of the Whole

The Board received the French Immersion and TASK program reports from Louise Doucet and Maggie Allison, the coordinators for these programs.

The Secretary Treasurer expressed appreciation for the years of dedicated service by Maggie Allison and Louise Doucet, who are retiring, and Trustees joined in extending their gratitude.

The Board received the 2025 04 23 Committee of the Whole Summary by consensus.

b. Education Committee – no report

c. Finance, Audit & Facilities Committee – no report

d. Policy Committee

The Board received the 2021 04 23 Policy Meeting Summary by consensus.

i. Policy 5.12 Annual Budget



Notice of Motion was presented to renumber and amend Policy 5.12 Annual Budget (replaces Policy 605). Once approved, the Board would repeal Policy 606 Budget Monitoring and Reporting. The draft policy will be circulated for feedback. Board will consider feedback and approval at the June 11, 2025, public meeting.

ii. *5.20 Student Fees and Financial Hardship*

Notice of Motion was presented to adopt Policy 5.20 Student Fees and Financial Hardship. Once adopted, the Board would repeal Policy 6700 Student Financial Assistance and 6750 School Fees. The draft policy will be circulated for feedback. The Board will consider feedback and adoption at the June 11, 2025, public meeting.

iii. *5.30 Reimbursement of Expenses*

Notice of Motion was presented to renumber and amend Policy 5.30 Expense Reimbursement (to replace Policy and Procedure 6500 Travel Expenses). The draft policy will be circulated for feedback. The Board will consider feedback and approval at the June 11, 2025, public meeting.

iv. *5.40 Donations and Gifts*

Notice of Motion was presented to renumber and amend Policy 5.40 Donations and Gifts (to replace current Policy and Procedure 630 Education Trust Fund). The draft policy will be circulated for feedback. The Board will consider feedback and approval at the June 11, 2025, public meeting.

v. *5.60 School Closure*

Notice of Motion was presented to renumber and amend Policy 5.60 School Closure (to replace current Policy and Procedure 635 Permanent School Closure). Once adopted, the Board would repeal procedure 635 Permanent School Closure. The draft policy will be circulated for feedback. The Board will consider feedback and approval at the June 11, 2025, public meeting.

vi. *5.61 Disposal of Land and Improvements*

Moved and seconded that the Board approves renumbering of and amendments to Policy 5.61 Disposal of Land and Improvements (to replace current Policy 616 Disposal of Land and Improvements).

CARRIED 42/25

vii. *Student Accommodation Allowance*

Trustees considered possible options and associated required actions regarding the operational practice of providing accommodation assistance. The Board has received



feedback from 4 parents. Staff recommended that decision-making be postponed to the June Board Meeting, when further feedback and adoption of draft policy 5.20 are considered.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Boulter attended the Salt Spring Elementary School PAC meeting and learned about community donations that have been received for their inclusive playground construction project. GISS student council have presented the results of their surveys to students, staff and parents. A summary of the survey results will be passed along to the incoming Student Council so the work can continue. The GISS school dance was successful and well received by students.

Trustee Lucas informed the Board that Pender Islands students are looking forward to the May 21 track & field day. He attended the gift-giving ceremony for a map of S'Days which was a very meaningful ceremony. Pender Islands primary teacher Ms. Emily shared a presentation of year-round Outdoor Learning, which Trustee Lucas summarized for the Board.

Trustee Macdonald looks forward to the special year end activities at Fulford School. Fulford School set a goal for Social Emotional learning which has been a successful initiative.

Trustee Pingle attended the Fernwood School PAC meeting and learned about upcoming activities including track & field, a school dance, and field trips. Rob Pingle shared that his observation that school schedules are full and that it feels like a positive way to close out the school year.

Vice Chair Luporini reported the BCSTA approved its final operating budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Mayne Island teacher Jess Willow and Elder Johnny Aitken wrote a children's book titled Two Tricksters Find Friendship. Mayne Island school continues with their structured literacy launch. There are several student-initiated extra-curricular activities at Mayne Island school which include tennis, baseball, crochet, and yoga. Upcoming events include a field trip to Science World, the year-end school play and June 9 Activity Day on Galiano.

Trustee Georgeson learned, at the Galiano Community Elementary School PAC meeting, that Galiano school students enjoyed a trip to Science World and Granville Island. On this trip, older students went rock-climbing. Galiano school will host students from Mayne Island and Penelakut on June 9. Funfest, on Galiano Island, will be held on June 23.

Chair Katrensky felt privileged to be able to volunteer to support school swimming lessons and especially enjoyed witnessing the interaction between older and younger students

12. OTHER BUSINESS



13. QUESTION PERIOD

The chair received questions from delegates and the public.

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- a. Regular Board Meeting – June 11, 2025
- b. Policy Committee and Education Committee of the Whole – May 28, 2025, at Mayne Island Elementary

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 3:37 p.m.

CARRIED 43/25

Date: June 11, 2025

Chaya Katrensky
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy
Secretary Treasurer