



Present:	Tisha Boulter	Board Chair
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice-Chair
	Gregory Lucas	Trustee
	Deborah Luporini	Trustee
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Jill Jensen	Superintendent of Schools
	Jesse Guy	Secretary Treasurer
	Boe Beardsmore	Associate Superintendent
	Lyall Ruehlen	Director of Instruction
	Lori Deacon	Director of Corporate Services
	Anna Szul	Executive Assistant
Guests:	Amy Dearden	Principal of Early Learning and Child Care
	Adrien Pendergast	GIPVPA Chair
	Clare Hoffman	DPAC Representative
Regrets:	Jeannine Georgeson	Trustee
	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Angela Thomas	CUPE President

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m. by Chair Boulter. Vice-Chair Katrensky spoke to the privilege and gratitude for 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 Boulter 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

Addition: 2024 Student Graduation Fees under the Chairperson’s report (8f)

Removal: 2024/25 Board Meeting Schedule (8b) and 2024/25 Annual Budget Spending Plan (10b) moved to the afternoon in-person Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22, 2024.

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2024 05 08 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 46/24



3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2024 04 10 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 47/24

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting, Public Session held 2024 04 24 be approved as presented.

CARRIED 48/24

4. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARIES**

The Board of Education received the Regular In-Camera Summary for 2024 04 10 by consensus.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

7. **DELEGATIONS**

8. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(a) **BCSTA AGM**

Chair Boulter shared insights from her participation at the BCSTA AGM, emphasizing the impactful presentation by indigenous youth who highlighted that the responsibility for Truth and Reconciliation lies with the colonizers, not the oppressed. Trustee Macdonald was inspired by the youth's plans and career aspirations. Trustee Lucas appreciated the Strategy presentation, finding the mechanism for generating ideas particularly beneficial.

(b) **2024/25 Board Meeting Schedule**

Moved to the in-person Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22, 2024.

(c) **Saltspring Challenge Cup – Request to Serve Alcohol**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education waives the 60-day notice prescribed in Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances and approves the Saltspring Challenge Cup's request to serve alcohol at the May Long Weekend Soccer Tournament on May 17-20, 2024, on Gulf Islands Secondary School grounds.

CARRIED 49/24

(d) **Galiano Activity Centre – Request to Serve Alcohol 1**

Moved and seconded that in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board of Education approves the request from the Galiano Activity Centre to serve alcohol at the Todd Wolfe Memorial soccer tournament on August 24, 2024.



CARRIED 50/24

(e) **Galiano Activity Centre – Request to Serve Alcohol 2**

Moved and seconded that in accordance with Policy 3100 Controlled and Intoxicating Substances, the Board of Education approves the request from the Galiano Activity Centre to serve alcohol at the Active/Passive Music Festival's Rave the Roof on August 9, 2024.

CARRIED 51/24

(f) **2024 Graduation Fees**

Trustee Pingle expressed concerns regarding the \$60 Student Graduation Fee. Jill Jensen noted that these fees were not included in the annual fee schedule approved by the Board in June of 2023, and these fees are standard across the province. It was suggested that schools could potentially cover these fees with their flex budgets. Trustees discussed clear separation of access to graduation ceremony tickets from any request to student to pay for additional expenses related to graduation.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education cover the costs of the GISS grad fees for the 2024 graduation ceremonies.

DEFEATED

Staff will communicate with the high school to send out a bulletin clarifying that five grad tickets are given out to each student at no cost and that the graduation fee is a request for cost recovery of the incidental costs for the ceremony and reception. Moving forward, if the school wishes to request a grad fee from students, the amount must be included on the school's fee schedule approved by the Board each year.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(a) **Staffing**

Lyall Ruehlen announced the appointment of Ben Desrosiers to the role of Vice Principal at the Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC), effective August 1, 2024. Regarding staffing teachers for the 2024/2025 school year, discussions will be held with a small number of teachers whose positions may not be required for the upcoming year. Anticipated layoffs by May 15th are expected to be minimal, and temporary positions will soon be advertised. Boe Beardsmore confirmed that the Education Assistant (EA) selection committee convened on May 7th. EA Selection Day will be scheduled for June, and multiple postings are expected. It is emphasized that the District's staffing decisions are based on specific needs rather than a fixed formula.

(b) **International Student Program Proposed Fee Schedule for 2025-2026**

It was explained that international student enrolment in SEEC is not feasible. Resident students in grades 11-12 who attend SEEC generate unique geographic funding, and our limited spaces are prioritized for local students.



Program enrolment has declined since pre-COVID, with only 35-38 students expected for next year. Trustees discussed the impact on the budget when costs for the program that exceed program revenue are then subsidized by local students.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education approve the International Fees Schedule for 2025/2026 school year as presented.

TABLED

This item will be brought to the May 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. The motion will be considered at the June 12, 2024, public meeting of the Board. Staff will present the international student program's annual expenditures at that time.

(c) **Early Learning Update – Amy Dearden**

The Early Learning Update highlights efforts to support early childhood education and development across the birth to age eight continuum. Key initiatives include:

- Establishing strong relationships with early years service providers and communities.
- Hosting professional learning sessions focused on social-emotional learning capacity building, attended by various stakeholders.
- Creating four new play-based learning kits (oral language kit, social-emotional learning kit, place based kit, numeracy kit, and Metis Nation kit) and story walks aligned with the Early Learning Framework.
- Collaboration with Indigenous Education departments and educators to develop resources like the Belonging Book.
- Participation in various early years' initiatives such as the Gulf Islands Early Years' Table and early learning fairs.
- Emphasizing Kindergarten transition support, including K-Play sessions and parent learning nights to help families prepare for this milestone.

Overall, the update reflects a comprehensive approach to early childhood education, emphasizing collaboration, professional development, and community engagement.

Amy Dearden showcased the Welcome to Kindergarten packages distributed to all incoming families within the district. Each package contains two books, math games, social-emotional learning cards, and two booklets: one for children, and one for parents. The books provide insights into what to expect in kindergarten.

(d) **Accessibility Plan Update**

Amy Dearden reported on the progress since the passage of the *Accessibility Act* in September. The Accessibility Advisory Group commenced its efforts in the fall by launching a baseline survey and the Feedback Tool as mandated by the BC Accessibility Act. While the survey provided one-time data, the Feedback Tool remains an ongoing resource available on the district website, promoted through school communities. Analysis of feedback highlighted key themes, leading to



recommendations for addressing barriers. Notably, the group recommended a broader environmental scan on accessibility across the district, with plans to collaborate with [BC CAISE](#) and [Untapped Accessibility](#). Membership for the advisory group is open annually, with applications for the upcoming year opening in conjunction with National Accessibility Week and adhering to *Act* requirements for diverse representation.

Boe Beardsmore reported that only a few individuals have submitted barriers into the feedback tool and emphasized the direct link between improvements and the barriers identified through the feedback tool. Without utilizing the tool, the committee cannot effectively assess issues or implement necessary changes. Barriers needing urgent attention are promptly discussed with Principals and Vice Principals, and immediate resolutions are implemented. Among the reported barriers is the need for universal washrooms, a long-term project slated for completion at GISS and Pender over the upcoming summer. Fulford and Salt Spring elementary schools are the next schools where universal washrooms are being considered. Jill Jensen noted that the province is considering efforts to improve access to special services for underserved small and rural communities.

There was discussion regarding the benefit of having a document report to accompany the update to improve transparency and awareness of existing barriers. This item will be brought to the Education Committee for further discussion.

(e) **Anti-racism Annual Review of Incidents**

This year, Cheryl Ruff's role as Equity and Anti-Racism Coordinator focused on working with schools to promote awareness and create safe spaces, reinforcing goals from previous years and clarifying roles and responsibilities. Shannon Johnston, the Principal of Indigenous Education, will continue this work starting in September. Discussions over the past year have centered on establishing a district repository of resources, now available to all staff via SharePoint.

[Safer Schools Together](#) mandates the reporting of any racist incidents, detailing the actions taken and support provided. From September to date, four such incidents have been reported. Efforts are underway to make this work visible while respecting privacy and confidentiality, including the development of an infographic. The process for reporting and responding to incidents of racism is outlined in the district Antiracism Policy 2.30 Section 3 Reporting and Addressing Incidents of Interpersonal Racism.

(f) **McCreary Report**

The BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 every five years since 1992. The survey covers a wide range of youth health topics, including education; family; friends; extracurricular activities; physical, mental, and sexual health; and substance use. SD64 has actively engaged in six of the seven surveys, achieving an 80% participation rate. Administered by a public health nurse, the survey includes a consent procedure



and involves a student committee in revising questions. Contrary to assumptions, mental health challenges were prevalent before the pandemic. Notably, SD64 stands out as the sole district in the province with reduced student absences, indicating the efficacy of ongoing attendance initiatives. The research underscores a direct link between student achievement and attendance, affirming the significance of these efforts.

(g) **Preventing Disruptive/Aggressive Behavior**

The proposed legislation will help protect students and staff by giving the Province the authority to prohibit behaviour that impedes access to school grounds, disrupts school programs and activities, or causes concern for physical or mental safety of students and staff. The new law will provide law enforcement the authority to arrest or issue tickets to anyone found impeding access, disrupting educational activities, or attempting to intimidate an individual within 20 metres (66 feet) of school grounds.

(h) **Personal Devices – Updated School Codes of Conduct**

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has revised the Provincial Standard for Codes of Conduct Order to restrict the use of personal digital devices during instructional time. By the end of June, all SD64 school codes of conduct will be revised to incorporate this new requirement.

(i) **AP A1 Development of Administrative Practices**

Jill Jensen presented the newly published Administrative Practice AP A1 Developing Administrative Practices. This AP is available on the district website.

(j) **Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC) Field Trip – Calvert Island, BC (attachment)**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves the SEEC/PIESS's request for ten students in grades 9 to 12 to travel to Calvert Island, BC, to connect with the Hakai Research Institute from June 2 to June 7, 2024, and participate in beach and lab-based activities with researchers.

CARRIED 52/24

(k) **Gulf Islands Secondary School Field Trip – St. Catherines, Ontario (attachment)**

Moved and seconded that the Board of Education approves GISS's request for seven students in grades 10 to 12 to travel to St. Catherines, ON, to attend the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Regatta (CSSRA) from May 27 to June 3, 2024.

CARRIED 53/24

10. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

The monthly operating expense report indicates that expenses are currently within 2.0% of the 2023/2024 amended annual budget.



(b) **2024/2025 Annual Budget Spending Plan**

Moved to the in-person Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22, 2024.

(c) **Transportation & Registration Update**

Transportation registration for the 2024/2025 school year is now open until May 31, 2024.

Registrations received after May 31 will be accepted on a courtesy rider basis. There are two proposed changes to our Salt Spring Island bus transportation service for 2024/2025, the addition of Mount Erskin on Bus route 6 and Bishops Walk on Bus route 3.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Committee of the Whole** – no report

(b) **Education Committee** – no report

(c) **Finance, Audit, and Facilities Committee** – 2024 04 10 Summary received. Trustee Lucas. Budget discussion moved to the in-person Committee of the Whole meeting on May 22, 2024

(d) **Policy Committee** – 2024 04 24 Summary received.

i. Policy 1.40 Board Committees

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education adopts Policy 1.40 Board Committees.

CARRIED 54/24

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education repeals Policy and Procedure 120 Board Committees.

CARRIED 55/24

ii. Policy 1.41 Board Liaison and Representation

In response to feedback received from DPAC, the draft policy was amended to include intentional reference to DPAC as a parent group under “the purpose of trustee liaison assignments” section.

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education adopts Policy 1.41 Board Liaison and Representation.

CARRIED 56/24

iii. Policy 1.20 Board Authority, Role, and Responsibilities

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education adopts Policy 1.20 Board Authority, Role, and Responsibilities.

CARRIED 57/24

iv. Policy 1.21 Role of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson



Moved and seconded that The Board of Education adopts Policy 1.21 Role of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

CARRIED 58/24

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education repeals Policy and Procedure 105 Governance and Administration.

CARRIED 59/24

v. Policy 1.22 Trustee Remuneration

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education adopts Policy 1.22 Trustee Remuneration.

CARRIED 60/24

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education repeal Policy 6550 Trustee Remuneration and Expenses.

CARRIED 61/24

vi. Policy 2.30 Anti-racism

It was noted that the policy refers to an annual survey under section 4.2.

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education combine Policy and Procedure 217 Anti-Racism into a single policy, and approve renumbering and amendments to be Policy 2.30 Anti-racism.

CARRIED 62/24

vii. Policy 2.70 Use of Board Property for Child Care

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education combine Policy and Procedure 6950 Child Care and approve renumbering and amendments to be Policy 2.70 Use of Board Property for Child Care.

CARRIED 63/24

viii. Policy 2.80 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Designation of Head

Moved and seconded that The Board of Education rename, renumber, and amend Policy 130 Access to Information to Policy 2.80 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Designation of Head.

CARRIED 64/24

ix. 220 Information Systems: Acceptable Use and Protection of Privacy (Policy, Procedure, and Forms 220-1, and 220-2



Moved and seconded that The Board of Education repeal Policy and Procedure 220 Acceptable Use and Protection of Privacy, and Forms 220-1 and 220-2.

CARRIED 65/24

x. Draft Policy 2.40 Addressing Concerns and Complaints

Notice of Motion to adopt and circulate Policy 2.40 Addressing Concerns and Complaints. Once adopted, Policy and Procedure 133 Addressing Concerns and Appeals Form 133-1 will be repealed.

xi. Draft Policy 2.60 Volunteers

Notice of Motion to adopt and circulate Policy 2.60 Volunteers. Once adopted, Policy and Procedure 140 Relationships will be repealed.

Lori Deacon and Adrian Pendergast left the meeting at 3:34 pm.

12. TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Chair Boulter passed.

Trustee Katrensky reported that Saturna School's literacy initiative has been successful, with students demonstrating notable growth. Next year, teachers will focus on numeracy as a school-wide goal. The community has identified a music teacher locally. Additionally, there will be a change in the Strong Start coordinator position, which will be posted. The new Vice Principal, Ben Desrosiers, has been warmly welcomed by the community and has made a positive impression.

Trustee Lucas shared upcoming events, including a sexual health session for children and parents led by Careen Underwood on May 15-16. There will also be a focus on health and wellness, aiming for a deeper understanding of vaping and substance use. Professional Development sessions will address public health needs, nutrition, and body image. In April, students from grades 6/7 and K/1 visited the W̱SÁNEĆ village site near the Pender bridge. Pender teachers have been fostering students' deeper connection with local native plants.

Trustee Luporini discussed April's question with Adrian Pendergast, focusing on integrating Indigenous perspectives. Additionally, discussions centered on Mayne Island's efforts toward creating an age-friendly future.

Trustee Macdonald passed.

Trustee Pingle passed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

14. QUESTION PERIOD



15. NEXT MEETING DATES

- (a) Regular Board Meeting – June 12, 2024, at the School Board Office.
- (b) Policy Committee Meeting – May 22, 2024, at the School Board Office.
- (c) Committee of the Whole – May 22, 2024, at the School Board Office.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 3:44 p.m.

CARRIED 66/24

Date: June 12, 2024

Tisha Boulter
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Jesse Guy
Secretary Treasurer