



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**Saturna Island Elementary/SEEC**  
**2023 04 12**

<b>Present:</b>	Tisha Boulter	Chairperson
	Chaya Katrensky	Vice Chair
	Jeannine Georgeson	Trustee
	Deborah Luporini	Trustee
	Nancy Macdonald	Trustee
	Rob Pingle	Trustee
	Greg Lucas	Trustee
	Scott Benwell	Superintendent of Schools/Acting Secretary
		Treasurer
	Lori Deacon	Acting Director of Corporate Services
	D'Arcy Deacon	Deputy Superintendent
	Boe Beardsmore	Associate Superintendent
	Pierrette Hodnett	Acting Executive Assistant
	Ian Mitchell	GITA President
	Adrian Pendergast	GIPVPA Representative
	Katherine Hazen	DPAC Representative
<b>Regrets:</b>	Angela Thomas	CUPE President

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Boulter. Trustee Katrensky acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territories of the of the Coast Salish Hul'q'umi'num' and SENĆOŦEN and WSÁNEĆ speaking peoples - huy tseep q'u.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Amend 10(d)v. to include Policy 410

Moved and seconded that the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2023 04 12 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED 21/23

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Remove Saltspring Island Middle School from 11. Trustees Reports

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, Public Session held 2023 02 08 be approved as amended.

CARRIED 22/23

**3. IN-CAMERA SUMMARY**

Moved and seconded that the summary of the In-Camera Meeting of 2023 02 08 be adopted.as presented.

CARRIED 23/23

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

(a) **SEEC Program**



Adrian Pendergast shared an overview of the SEEC program and structures. SEEC is attended by students from within and outside the district. The program is built around three main pillars (1) Science for our Environment, (2) Living Outdoor Education and (3) Becoming Community. The program endeavours to focus on building resilience, self reliance and interdependence within the broader community.

**7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**(a) Rise and Report**

Rise and report will become a standing item in in-camera to bring information forward to public meeting, when possible, for increased transparency.

Superintendents across the province received letters from Ministry of Education letter addressing the Aboriginal: How Are We doing? report. The letter spoke to student progress and participation rates. The district continues to see improvements for Indigenous and all students. More work needs to be undertaken and will be considered during strategic planning.

**(b) Provincial Council**

At the BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting of February 24-25, 2023, attended by Trustee Katrensky, discussions were undertaken around the format and schedule of future meetings. The Deputy Minister spoke to childcare spaces and family affordability, funding, recruitment and education. Trustees were encouraged to consider motions to bring forward to upcoming BCSTA AGM.

**(c) Spring VISTA Conference**

At the VISTA Spring Conference attended by Chair Boulter, Chief Rob Everson shared his experience working with local government and cautioned on indigenous teacher's feeling of safety within the workplace. Discussion took place on the role and participation of boards within FESL, and the incorporation of FESL when undertaking board strategic planning.

**(d) Strategic Plan Process**

Special Committee of the Whole scheduled for May 15 and again in June to continue strategic planning review if required. Will extend the current plan if additional time is needed.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**(a) Inclusive Education Outreach**

Boe Beardsmore shared the work in the district being held up across the province for practices in how student data is captured, assessed and utilized (IPASS) and the use of CBIEPs to focus on strengths and supports and the use of the newly developed progress tracking tool to impact student success. The district is also providing training to the POPFASD (Provincial Outreach Program Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) committee in PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) facilitation to support our most vulnerable, at-risk students to support students with planning and organizing their goals and aspirations now for the future.

**(b) International Program – Proposed Fees 2024/2025**

Moved and seconded that the Gulf Islands International Program fee structure for the 2024/2025 year be approved.

CARRIED 24/23



(c) **Deputy Superintendent's Report**

**i. Staffing and Enrolment**

Staffing and enrolment projections remain consistent from last year as schools begin to prepare for September. Discussion held around French Immersion funding, students and staffing. Staff were directed to explore options for delivery of French Programming at Pender Islands School consistent with the current configuration of the district.

Moved and seconded that the Board directs staff to explore options, consistent with the current configuration choices in the district, of providing French programming at Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School.

CARRIED 25/23

**ii. Automated Dispatch**

The district is moving to an automated dispatch system to be implemented in May. Training is being provided to help with the transition.

**iii. K-12 Reporting**

The Ministry's new Reporting Policy Framework will be fully implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. Many of the reporting requirements are already in practice across the district. Of specific note, students in Grades K to 9 will no longer receive letter grades, but instead be assessed on the provincial proficiency scale. Communication with parents and involvement with DPACs will take place.

9. **SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

(a) **Monthly Financial Report**

The monthly operating expense report summary for February/March indicates that expenses are currently 1.5% under budget. Labour, maintenance and operating costs are increasing.

(b) **Capital Plan Bylaw 2022/2023**

Scott Benwell shared the Capital Bylaw No. 2022/2023 CPSD64-02 . The amended agreement includes an additional \$70,900 for HVAC upgrades at SSE and \$80,000 in supplemental funding for the purchase of electric buses.

Unanimous agreement that the 2022/2023 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw receive all three readings at this time.

CARRIED 26/23

Chair Boulter read the 2022/2023 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw, prepared in accordance with the *School Act*.

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a first time and passed.

CARRIED 27/23

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a second time and passed.

CARRIED 28/23

Moved and seconded that the 2022/2023 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a third time, passed and



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION  
Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)  
Saturna Island Elementary/SEEC  
2023 04 12

approved.

CARRIED 29/23

(c) **Capital Plan Bylaw 2023/2024**

Scott Benwell shared Capital Bylaw No. 2023/2024 CPSD64-01. Approved minor capital projects include accessible washrooms at GISS, Pender, and Saturna school, and an accessible playground at Fulford.

Unanimous agreement that the 2023/2024 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw receive all three readings at this time.

CARRIED 30/23

Chair Boulter read the 2023/2024 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw, prepared in accordance with the *School Act*.

Moved and seconded that the 2023/2024 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a first time and passed.

CARRIED 31/23

Moved and seconded that the 2023/2024 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a second time and passed.

CARRIED 32/23

Moved and seconded that the 2023/2024 Amended Capital Plan Bylaw be read a third time, passed and approved.

CARRIED 33/23

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) **Committee of the Whole**

The Committee of the Whole summaries 2023 02 08 and 2023 03 15 were received.

(b) **Education Committee**

The Education Committee summaries 2023 02 08 and 2023 02 22 were received.

(c) **Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**

The FAF Committee summary 2023 02 22 was received.

(d) **Policy Committee**

The Policy Committee summary 2023 02 22 was received.

i. Procedure 120 Board Committees

The amended procedure was circulated for feedback. No feedback was received.

Moved and seconded that amendments to Procedure 120 Board Committees be approved.

CARRIED 34/23

ii. Policy 525 Residential Catchment (attendance) Areas

The policy was amended to reflect current catchment areas.



Moved and seconded that amendments to Policy 525 Residential Catchment Areas be approved.

CARRIED 35/23

iii. Procedure 525 Residential Catchment (attendance) Areas

The Board presented Notice of Motion to adopt amendments to Procedure 525 Residential Catchment Areas at the June 14th public meeting of the Board. The Procedure will be circulated and posted on the district website for feedback.

iv. Policy Development and Currency Policy

The Board presented Notice of Motion to adopt Policy 1.50 Policy Development and Currency. The policy will be circulated for feedback and considered by the Policy Committee on May 10, 2023. The Board will consider adoption of the motion at the June 14, 2023 public meeting.

The Board presented Notice of Motion to repeal Policy Development Policy 135 and Procedures 135, 135-1, and 135-2. The motion will be considered following adoption of new Policy 1.50 Policy Development and Currency. The Board will consider adoption of the motion at the June 14, 2023 public meeting.

v. Policy and Procedure 410 Student Transportation

The Board presented Notice of Motion to adopt amendments to Policy and Procedure 410 Student Transportation at the June 14, 2023 Board meeting. These will be circulated and posted on the district website for feedback.

**11. TRUSTEES REPORTS**

Trustee school reports were received. Trustee Katrensky shared her school report for the Saturna Elementary School.

Topic: What are your school's strengths and best practices around environmental protection? What could we be doing more of or better at? (Objective 2.1 Encourage connection to and individual responsibility for the natural environment.)

***Fernwood Elementary School***

***Fulford Community Elementary School***

Fulford School continues to have a strong focus on sustainability and the environment. All members of the community strive to uphold the values and understanding that these topics are essential for the health of the community and the planet.

- Outdoor learning is just a regular part of the curriculum at Fulford School.
- Work parties have been established for the revitalization of the garden.
- Fulford School has an "Eco" club.
- Recycling is a natural part of the school's culture, with students encouraged to minimize and reduce the use of single use products. Lunch waste is taken home.
- Efforts are made to support composting at school and at home.
- Many "nature" based games are taught and supported.



- Parent support is paramount in the belief in sustainable practices.
- The quote goes: “It’s Fulford!”, you don’t have to worry about awareness and action, it is just a way of life.

Beyond the notion of environmental sustainability, is the notion of sustaining an ethos of support, interconnectedness and community values. It is a place where parents and families meet and gather. It’s a place where families attend events with gusto. There is an active PAC. When help is needed people support the staff and the school. Teachers and EA’s support each other. It is a community that comes together as needed.

### *Galiano Community School*

### *Gulf Islands Secondary School*

GISS- The GISS earth club was started up again this year with a focus on improving the recycling systems at the school site. This is a student led initiative that has 12 committed members. The group has held 2 fundraisers thus far with a bake sale and a bottle drive. Some of these funds are helping design and implement a more robust recycling plan with bins available in the multi for collection. The long-term goal is a washing sorting ‘bay’ with a row of containers for metal, plastic, etc. as well as cans/bottles, and paper. The school is encouraging a ‘Pack it in, pack it out’ model that students will be familiar with from elementary school.

The Earth club also will be in introducing Bob McDonald when he speaks at Art spring for a SS transitions event. Student volunteers will also be involved with the Electrification of buses presentation in connection with David Denning who is a naturalist and science educator. A student member of the Earth club spearheaded a talk on zoom on Old Growth forests.

GISS is completing its 2nd year offering Environmental Science 11/12 courses, and Ryan is hoping the continued interest will potentially increase the class offerings. Wish lists for GISS include the Ministry requiring a Climate or Environmental Science class for Graduation, a better recycling system and to have a clear picture of our districts current Carbon footprint.

### *Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School*

At the forefront of all environmental learning for Mayne School is the work they do in partnership with the Mayne Island Conservancy. The overall focus for the students is the protection of the earth. They follow these guiding principles: connection: with the land, themselves and each other, nurture: the land and their connection to it, observer: always being astute to what is in the natural environment, and look after: our world/the land. The entire school population recently planted 100 trees and 40 native plants at St. John Point. This location on Mayne Island is a 26-hectare waterfront regional park.

The students see themselves as environmental stewards. Along with the projects they participate in, in partnership with the conservancy, the students also participate in the Miner’s Bay annual beach clean-up. Being environmental stewards reminds students of important life-long learning skills such as: staying on the trails when out wandering in the forest and leaving the plants alone so the plants can keep growing and keep our planet alive! Being a part of nature’s balance is a part of each students’ responsibility, and in turn each individual’s responsibility. The more we know about our environment, the more we like! The students really look forward to their time with the Conservancy representatives. This is a vital part of the relationship between learning and environmental protection, and this connection should continue into the future.



*Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School*

*Phoenix Elementary School*

Phoenix- Environmental protection has become embedded in all curriculums where applicable at Phoenix Elementary. It is a natural fit in science classes, yet also finds its way into Math with Analysis and graphing. The students are frequently outside engaging with nature in the school garden as well as forest play, which has fostered a deep connection with land, and where food originates. Phoenix enjoys a partnership with the SSI Conservancy through the stewards in training program. "Climate awareness is everywhere at Phoenix; one could say that it is a pillar of how we do business"-Dan Sparanese

*Salt Spring Elementary School*

*Saturna Elementary School/SEEC*

Connection to and individual responsibility for the natural environment are fundamental elements to the success of our future educated citizens. We have the privilege and the opportunity through our schools, communities, and homes to learn, grow and share how we protect our environment and influence a sustainable future. Here on Saturna we see this work happening in our schools in different ways and in varying levels.

In our elementary class the focus is on appreciation of nature and environmental awareness. Our elementary students have participated in virtual field trips this year. Exploring regions in Antarctica and the polar bear habitats, coral reefs and Sealife and investigating how these areas relate to our environment. They have also participated in citizen science projects such as the annual Sea Star count. The staff just recently brought in chicken eggs and they quintessentially hatched the day before the Easter long weekend began. It was very magical for our excited and engaged students.

The elementary class has also been planting in our school garden and learning about local food security. In the classroom they practice a pack-in and pack-out approach with lunches and waste. There is also recycling and composting that is active in the school, community and homes.

Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC) is appropriately positioned as a program that focuses on environment and nature at its core. Grade 10 to 12 students are welcomed into a net-zero living environment. They learn about how the SEEC site operates with water wheels, solar panels, and battery reserves for energy. They have a wood stove for cooking and heating, with the addition of propane heat for the coldest season. They are not permitted to charge any devices on the living site as they learn to utilize the energy for essential living purposes.

The SEEC students also practice a zero-waste procedure. Learning to recycle at the local facility, compost on the site and create as little waste as possible. This year, there has been note of food waste at the end of the week. Staff have worked to label food brought in and involve parents to ensure students are effectively planning and using resources without waste.

On a larger scale, SEEC students are learning about the affects of resource harvesting, carbon impacts and environmental restoration. The students have been invited this year to a new building site on Saturna where they are learning how a high efficiency home is built. They are also planning a field trip to York Island



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION**  
**Board of Education, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)**  
**Saturna Island Elementary/SEEC**  
**2023 04 12**

where they will work with BC Parks on a retired military base that will be restored into an environmental information centre for data collection.

Principal Pendergast shared that with the wealth of knowledge that the SEEC students are accumulating it may be an interesting project over the next few years to look to the SEEC students for how they may upgrade our 13-year-old SEEC site with new technology to create an even more efficient living and learning environment.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Chair Boulter answered questions from delegations and the public.

**14. NEXT MEETING DATES**

- (a) Committee Day: April 26, 2023
- (b) Regular Board Meeting: May 10, 2023 at Mayne Island School

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved that the meeting be adjourned 3:42 p.m.

CARRIED 36/23

Date: May 10, 2023

Tisha Boulter  
Chairperson

Certified Correct:

Scott Benwell  
Acting Secretary Treasurer