

SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 (SAANICH)
EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE
Agenda

Committee Members:	Trustee Silzer, Chair - regrets Trustee Vandall, Chair Trustee VanWell
Staff Support:	Helena Takhar, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation Mel Paas, Assistant Superintendent
Partner Representatives:	Leila Sinclair-Wise, SAA – Elementary Kelly deKlerk, SAA – Secondary Shannon Toronitz – STA CUPE COPACS

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025
3:00 pm**

A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1. Parkland Sailing Academy Presentation – Caroline Hassett & Christine Bennett

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No Items.

C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

No Items.

D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Hairdressing Program Update

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Data sharing around Strategic Plan goals – ongoing
- Student Voice Feedback – ongoing
- Benefits of International Students Program



SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 (SAANICH)

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To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Melanie Paas

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Subject: SD63 Studio 63 Hairstylist Program

Date: October 9, 2025

BACKGROUND

Our 15-year partnership with Vancouver Island University (VIU) in the Hairstylist Program will conclude in December 2025.

In June 2025, VIU provided confidential notice of its decision to end the program as part of its Deficit Mitigation Plan, which includes significant program reductions. Both VIU and Saanich Schools have expressed appreciation for their longstanding collaboration, which has supported many Saanich students.

Key communications:

- In early June, VIU notified its staff of impending layoffs.
- In September, VIU informed its four adult students who had been accepted into the February 2026 Hairstylist Program that they would no longer be able to offer them seats and offered them alternative options at VIU.

PARTNERSHIP TRANSITION AND EXPLORATION

Following VIU's notice, Career Programs began exploring viable alternatives to ensure continuity of the Hairstylist Program for future cohorts. The following options were considered:

1. School District accreditation as an Independent Training Provider through SkilledTradesBC.
2. Engagement with other accredited post-secondary institutions that have existing partnerships with BC school districts.

Option 1 was deemed unfeasible due to the lengthy accreditation process and lack of internal expertise in hair design.

NEXT STEPS

After extensive discussions and a site visit, we are pleased to confirm that Saanich Schools has entered a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with Vancouver Community College (VCC). VCC currently operates successful dual-credit Hairstylist programs in partnership with Vancouver, Richmond, and Chilliwack school districts, all delivered within secondary school settings.

Saanich Schools will now begin communicating the new partnership to students and the broader school communities.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Under the new partnership:

- VCC will provide and oversee 1290 hours of theoretical, technical and work-based training instruction aligned with SkilledTradesBC standards.
- VCC controls the hiring of the teacher-instructor for this program and, as such, is bound by their collective agreement obligations. We are working with them on the posting/filling requirements.
- Career Programs will continue to manage student recruitment, interviews, and student selection for the program.
- VCC's online learning platform will enhance accessibility as well as support more diverse learning needs.
- Tuition costs will remain fully covered through Ministry of Education and Child Care per-course funding and SkilledTradesBC contributions.
- No additional financial obligations will be incurred by the District.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to Principal Kelly de Klerk and Career Programs teacher Heidi Hackman for their leadership in securing this new partnership. We also wish to acknowledge VIU for their commitment to student success throughout our 15-year partnership and for their support during this transition.

Submitted with respect,



Melanie Paas
Assistant Superintendent of Schools