

SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 (SAANICH)
EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Report to the Board of June 19, 2024

Committee Members:	Trustee Silzer, Chair Trustee Vandall Trustee VanWell
Staff Support:	Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent - Regrets
Partner Representatives:	Kelly De Klerk, SAA - Secondary Leila Sinclair Wise – SAA Elementary - Regrets Don Peterson, STA Candace Whitney, CUPE - Regrets COPACS – Regrets
Other Attendees:	Chair Dunford, Trustee Elder, Trustee VanWell, Trustee Hickman, Superintendent Dave Eberwein, Director of Instruction, Diversity and Inclusion, Peter Westhaver, Community Outreach Director, Roger Young, Student Advocates, Ronata Pama, Leo Holdstock, Amanda Hoffman, and Claremont student Mary.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024
3:00 pm

A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1. The Committee received a presentation from Peter Westhaver, Roger Young, Ronata Pama, Leo Holdstock, Amanda Hoffman and Claremont student Mary on the vast variety of supports available for Saanich students.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No Items.

C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMEDATION

1. The Committee received the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Local Calendars from Carly Hunter for Paul McKenzie.

Recommendation to Board:

The Committee recommends and I, Trustee Silzer, move that the Board approve the local calendars for 2025-26 and 2026-27 as presented by the Director of Instruction, Learning and Innovation for Assistant Superintendent, Paul McKenzie.

D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. The Committee received the 2024-25 Non-Instructional, Early Dismissal and Exam Dates Schedule from Carly Hunter for Paul McKenzie.

2. The Committee received the 2024-25 School Activity and Supply Fees Schedule from Carly Hunter for Paul McKenzie.

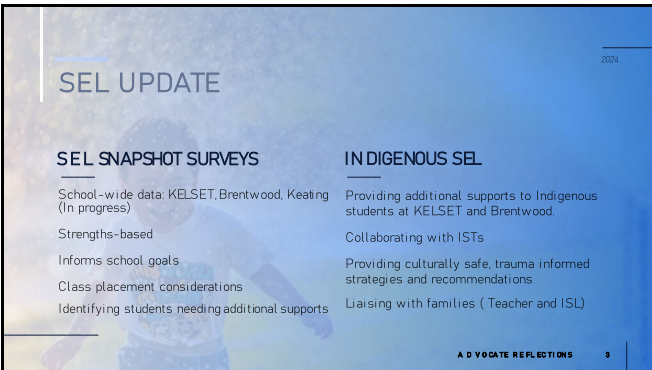
E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

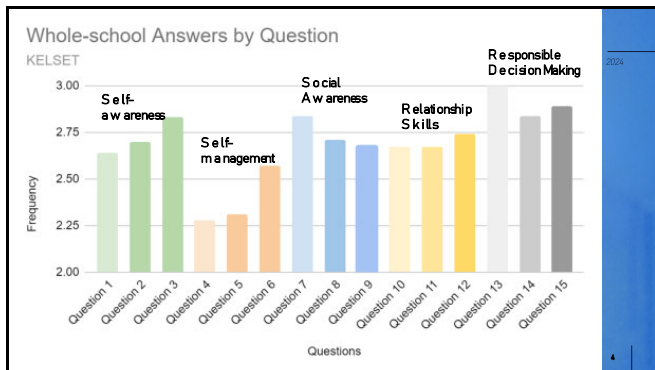
Data sharing around Strategic Plan goals – ongoing

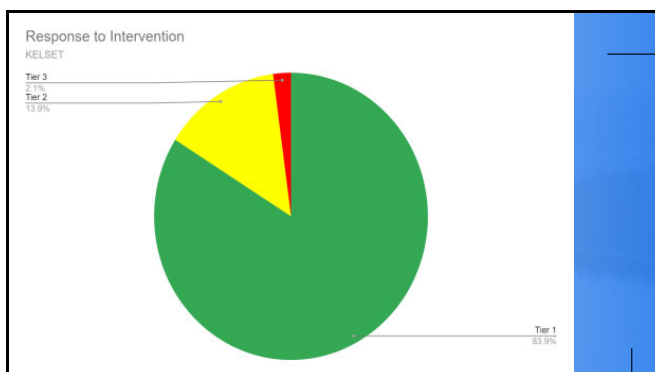
Student Voice Feedback – ongoing














CONTINUING RELATIONSHIPS

- Value and impact of longer-term relationships through Advocacy
- Students and families feel understood
- Relationship acts as through-line
- External to school-specific context
- Ability to track students through times of transition
- Relationships with community partners and school teams

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TWO STORIES

"Emily"

- Struggled in Gr. 9 at neighborhood school
- Advocate supported transition to other neighborhood school.
- Designation/IEP support implemented in transition. DM built relationship with student and family.
- Emily and family experienced more hardship, attendance halted and Covid happened.
- After some time away from school, DM/Advocate supported transition to ILC. Site chosen due to proximity home and prior relationships.
- Highlights anchoring effect of Advocate relationships.

"Ava"

- Struggled in transition from middle to secondary
- Advocate involved, transition to ILC end of Gr. 9.
- Ava left home, struggled in personal relationships and dropped out of school in Gr. 10 year (left town, exited)
- Reached out this year to comeback. Advocate re-connected and supported re-entry.
- Advocate supported student in self-advocacy and YAG
- Students often cycle back within district, and relationships allow us to better utilize windows of opportunity to build momentum.

Advocate Reflections

THE POWER OF THE GRADE 9 COHORT MODEL (2018 to 2024)

What is the model?

Early Years, Community, Engagement, Mentorship, Belonging, Resources, Parental Connection.

Transitions and Advocacy

Vertical family connections. Early connections in middle school or elementary. Attendance as a gate keeper. Strong relationships. Different pathways.

Trends over time

Repairing lost learning. Attendance barrier. Trust. Exposure therapy. Future X-enrollment. Work on skills opportunities. Full, full school.

Impacts on Graduation

Enrollment since 2018. Retention. Dual Graduation. Career Programs.

Growth towards X enrolment

Start small. Exposure Therapy. Build confidence and skills. Perfect partnership. The numbers.

A Personal Story

A special guest who embodies the magic of starting in cohort. Her journey.


ADVOCATE REFLECTIONS 8

A Student's Journey

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Another layer in the safety net... COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR




The risks that many of our vulnerable youth are facing - toxic drug crisis, housing crisis, gang recruitment, human trafficking, and online predation - require an elevated response



Intensive Case Management	Programming & District Capacity Building	Community Connection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District wide referrals facilitate school transitions Support through the summer helps to mitigate vulnerability Co-occurring disorders and complex scenarios require significant time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying gaps in out of school programming Enhanced support for summer programming Professional development on provincial trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tri-district collaboration Enhanced law enforcement relationship Community center and agency liaising Continued First Nations community bridge building

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CAPACITY-BUILDING

Partnership	Education and Resources	Data-Informed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and parents Colleagues across districts Beacon Community Services Take a Hike Foundation Island Health Indigenous Child and Youth Mental Health Discovery Youth and Family Services BC Children's Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Snapshot Resource hub for parents and students Healthy Schools Teams Capacity Cases for Counsellors/YFCs Counsellor/YFC Handbook Responding to Disclosures Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance Tracking Graduation Numbers Intervention Tracking Island Health data interpretation McCreary Centre Society Adolescent Health Survey Student Voice

ADVOCATE REFLECTIONS 11

THE PATH FORWARD



- The future is not the past.
- Relationships, relationships, relationships
- Attendance.
- Early intervention is best.
- A systems approach versus focusing on the youth.
- Brick and mortar only meets the needs of some.
- The larger purpose of life and finding purpose for youth.

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To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Paul McKenzie
Assistant Superintendent

Subject: School Calendars 2025-26 and 2026-27

Date: June 4, 2024

Context

School districts are required to submit approved school calendars to the Ministry of Education by March 31st of each year for the following school year. As per the School Calendar Regulation, the proposed school calendar schedules must be made available for public feedback at least one month before the date of submission. As a review, the draft calendars were developed to meet the following objectives and obligations:

- As per the Collective Agreement with the Saanich Teachers' Association, Spring Break must begin on the third Monday in March;
- For the 2013-2014 school year, the Board adopted a calendar with one week of spring break and a week of closure time and subsequent Boards have maintained this model;
- The three local school districts (61, 62, and 63) try to align the school calendars as much as possible, in particular the spring break and closure weeks; and
- The number of non-instructional/professional development dates are balanced between semesters.

The proposed school calendars for the years 2025/26 and 2026/27 were presented to the Education Directions Committee on April 16, 2024 and, as per a Motion at the Board Meeting on April 24, 2024, were made available for public consultation between April 26, 2024 and May 28, 2024.

School Calendar Public Feedback Details:

As of May 28, 2024, two responses were gathered:

- Two comments were received regarding the timing of Spring Break.

Recommendation

Based on the feedback we have received, I recommend the following:

That the Board approve the school calendars for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as presented.

Submitted with respect,



Paul McKenzie
Assistant Superintendent

Saanich School District 2025/2026 DRAFT CALENDAR

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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JUNE						
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Instructional
 Non-Instructional
 Vacation

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 Stat Holiday



Saanich School District (63)

DRAFT School Calendar 2025-2026

September 2, 2025	Schools Open
September 22, 2025	Non-Instructional Day
September 30, 2025	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving
October 24, 2025	Non-Instructional Day
November 11, 2025	Remembrance Day
November 21, 2025	Non-Instructional Day
December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026	Winter break
January 5, 2026	Schools reopen after winter break
February 13, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
February 16, 2026	Family Day
March 16-20, 2026	Spring break
March 23-27, 2026	School closure
April 3, 2026	Good Friday
April 6, 2026	Easter Monday
April 20, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
May 15, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
May 18, 2026	Victoria Day
June 25, 2026	Last day of instruction
June 26, 2026	Administrative Day

Semester Dates

September 2, 2025 – January 30, 2026	Semester One
February 2, 2026 – June 25, 2026	Semester Two

Days in Session (including September 2 and Non Instructional days; excluding June 26)

Semester 1 = 96 Semester 2 = 90 **Total = 186**

Days of Instruction (including September 2; excluding Non Instructional days and June 26)

Semester 1 = 93 Semester 2 = 87 **Total = 180**

Saanich School District 2026/2027 DRAFT CALENDAR

JULY						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Instructional
 Non-Instructional
 Vacation
 Stat Holiday



Saanich School District (63)

DRAFT School Calendar 2026-2027

September 8, 2026	Schools Open
September 25, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
September 30, 2026	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving
October 23, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
November 11, 2026	Remembrance Day
November 27, 2026	Non-Instructional Day
December 21, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Winter break
January 4, 2027	Schools reopen after winter break
February 12, 2027	Non-Instructional Day
February 15, 2027	Family Day
March 15-19, 2027	Spring break
March 22-30, 2027	School closure
March 26, 2027	Good Friday
March 29, 2027	Easter Monday
April 19, 2027	Non-Instructional Day
May 21, 2027	Non-Instructional Day
May 24, 2027	Victoria Day
June 29, 2027	Last day of instruction
June 30, 2027	Administrative Day

Semester Dates

September 8, 2026 – January 29, 2027	Semester One
February 1, 2027 – June 29, 2027	Semester Two

Days in Session (including September 8 and Non Instructional days; excluding June 30)

Semester 1 = 91 Semester 2 = 93 **Total = 184**

Days of Instruction (including September 8; excluding Non Instructional days and June 30)

Semester 1 = 88 Semester 2 = 90 **Total = 178**



DRAFT 2024/25 Non Instructional, Early Dismissal and Exam Dates Schedule

SCHOOL	1 Hour Early Dismissal (4)			
	Nov 6	Nov 7	Feb 26	Feb 27
Brentwood Elementary	Nov 6	Nov 7	Feb 26	Feb 27
Cordova Bay Elementary	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24	Feb 13
Deep Cove Elementary	Oct 2	Oct 3	Nov 28	Mar 5
Keating Elementary	Nov 13	Nov 14	Mar 5	Mar 6
KELSET Elementary	Oct 23	Oct 24	Feb 12	Feb 13
Lochside Elementary	Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7	Mar 12
Prospect Lake Elementary	Oct 2	Oct 3	Nov 14	Feb 27
Sidney Elementary	Sept 25	Sept 26	Nov 27	Mar 5
Bayside Middle	Sept 19	Oct 22	Oct 23	May 14
North Saanich Middle	Sept 18	Sept 19	Oct 24	Feb 13
Royal Oak Middle	Sept 18	Oct 23	Oct 24	May 8
Claremont Secondary	Sept 19	Nov 28	Feb 20	Apr 24
Parkland Secondary	Sept 12	Nov 28	Feb 6	Apr 24
Stelly's Secondary	Sept 12	Nov 28	Feb 19	Apr 24

Non Instructional Days (all schools)

1. Monday, September 23, 2024 – Ministry Priorities – Indigenous Education
2. Friday, October 25, 2024 – Province Wide
3. Monday, November 18, 2024 – School Based
4. Friday, February 14, 2025 – Individual (Tri-District)
5. Friday, April 11, 2025 – School Based
6. Friday, May 16, 2025 – School Based

Secondary School Schedules

Semester One: September 3, 2024 to January 31, 2025

Semester Two: February 3, 2025 to June 27, 2025

Provincial Exams: October 28, 2024 to November 5, 2024
 (Literacy/Numeracy) January 13, 2025 to January 24, 2025
 April 7, 2025 to April 11, 2025
 June 2, 2025 to June 6, 2025

**Saanich School District
School Activity Fees for 2024-2025**

Elementary Schools	
School Planner/Agenda (supply cost) – PACS cover cost at some schools	\$6.00
School Supplies (Optional)	\$35.00-\$45.00
Middle Schools	
Combination Lock – Grade 6 or new student	\$10.00
Secondary Schools	
Activity fee for student council, fine arts performances and clubs	\$25.00
Text Book Deposit (refundable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One time fee - fully refundable after graduation unless student loses one or more books in which case the cost is subtracted from the deposit and the remaining balance is refunded. 	\$100.00
Combination lock	\$10.00 new/\$5.00 used
Activity fee for costs associated with athletics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for optional courses/academies – varies for each program • Sports fees vary by sport and number of tournaments 	\$40 Claremont \$35 Jr / \$60 Sr Stelly's \$35 Jr / \$60 Sr Parkland
Recognition ceremony for graduation (grade 12 only)	\$55.00