



March 11, 2026

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm at 2125 Keating Cross Road.

ATTENDEES

- Chair: Tim Dunford
Vice-Chair: Nola Silzer
Trustee: Keven Elder
Trustee: Susan Hickman
Trustee: Elsie McMurphy
Trustee: Joyce Vandall
Trustee: Teri VanWell
Superintendent of Schools: Dave Eberwein
Secretary Treasurer: Jason Reid
Assistant Superintendent: Melanie Paas
Director of Instruction: Helena Takhar
Assistant Superintendent: Peter Westhaver
Sr. Exec Admin Assistant: Leigh Glancie
Representative, CUPE: Marisol Verdad
Representative, SAA: Sean Kenny
Representative, STA: Shannon Toronitz
Representative, COPACS: Sean Kenny

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Dunford called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Introduction

Chair Dunford acknowledged the territory of the WSANEC people since time immemorial and welcomed members of the management team and partner group to the regular Board meeting. Representing SAA – Sean Kenny and representing COPACS – Phil Molloy.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by TRUSTEE HICKMAN

Seconded by TRUSTEE VANWELL

That the agenda be adopted.

Chair Dunford asked if there were any late items or revisions to the agenda as circulated.

14. VISTA Conference

Report on In-Camera Meeting

Chair Dunford reported that prior to the Regular meeting, the Board held an In Camera meeting and discussed personnel matters and business affairs.

3. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(i) Adoption of Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 11, 2026.

Chair Dunford asked if there were any errors and omissions to the minutes of February 11, 2026.

The Chair declared the minutes adopted, with the amendments as noted.

Add after acknowledgement: Vice-Chair Silzer acknowledged the school shooting in SD59 Peace River South and invited the assembled to stand in silence for one minute to honour those affected in the Tumbler Ridge tragedy.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. PRESENTATIONS, DELEGATIONS & QUESTIONS

(a) Presentations and Delegations:

Transportation Fee Presentation – Alicia Allen

(b) Questions:

Phil Molloy, COPACS

- How does the hardship waiver process work?
- Why are families who use bussing being targeted, rather than considering an alternative such as charging all families?

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

7. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

8. SCHOOL SUCCESSES

9. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

- (i) Board Authority Authorized Courses

Moved by TRUSTEE SILZER

Seconded by TRUSTEE VANDALL

That the Board approve the following Board Authority Authorized courses:

Care Economy Career Sampler – grade 11

Sports Performance Volleyball – grade 10

Sports Performance Volleyball – grade 11

Sports Performance Volleyball – grade 12

CARRIED.

- (ii) 2026/27 Academy and Special Program Fees

Moved by TRUSTEE SILZER

Seconded by TRUSTEE VANDALL

That the Board approve the Academy Fees for the 2026/27 School Year.

CARRIED.

11. POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- (i) Policy 21 (Student Transportation)

Moved by TRUSTEE VANWELL

Seconded by TRUSTEE HICKMAN

That having provided the required Notice of Motion on January 14, 2026, the revisions to Policy 21 (Student Transportation) be approved.

CARRIED.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES (No Report)

13. FINANCE, FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

(i) Transportation Fee

Moved by TRUSTEE ELDER

Seconded by TRUSTEE HICKMAN

That the Board implement a transportation fee of \$400 for each of the first two children in a family and \$200 for a third child, with a maximum of \$1000 per family, with no registration fee, and with retention of the \$100 late registration fee, commencing with the 2026/27 school year.

Amendment:

Moved by TRUSTEE ELDER

Seconded by TRUSTEE HICKMAN

That the main motion be amended as follows:

That the Board implement a transportation fee of \$400 for each of the first two children in a family and \$200 for a third child, with a maximum of \$1000 per family, with no registration fee, and with a \$50 late registration fee, commencing with the 2026/27 school year.

DEFEATED.

Amendment:

Moved by TRUSTEE SILZER

Seconded by TRUSTEE VANWELL

That the main motion be amended as follows:

That the Board implement a transportation fee of \$200 for each of the first two children in a family and \$100 for a third child, with a maximum of \$500 per family, with no registration fee, and with retention of the \$100 late registration fee, with the Board reviewing the fee annually every March.

DEFEATED.

Amendment:

Moved by TRUSTEE ELDER

Seconded by TRUSTEE MCMURPHY

That the main motion be amended to include the following at the end of the motion:

“with a reduction to 50% of the transportation fees for the 2026/27 school year.”

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

That the Board implement a transportation fee of \$400 for each of the first two children in a family and \$200 for a third child, with a maximum of \$1000 per family, with no registration fee, and with retention of the \$100 late registration fee, commencing with the 2026/27 school year, with a reduction to 50% of the transportation fees for the 2026/27 school year.

CARRIED.

(ii) Claremont Beach Volleyball Project

Moved by TRUSTEE ELDER

Seconded by TRUSTEE MCMURPHY

That the Board approve finalization and execution of the capital and operating agreements with the Urban Rec Society and the license agreement with the District of Saanich.

CARRIED.

14. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

- Trustees Silzer and VanWell reported on the recent COPACS meeting held March 2, 2026.
- Trustee VanWell delivered a report on the BCSTA Provincial Council.
- Trustee VanWell spoke about the recent Victoria Family Court Youth Justice Committee.

Moved by TRUSTEE SILZER

Seconded by TRUSTEE VANDALL

That the Board write a letter to the Central Saanich Police Board and the District of Central Saanich supporting funding for the MYST team and encouraging their continued support of MYST.

CARRIED.

- Trustee VanWell shared highlights from the VISTA Conference.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Bayside Parents' Advisory Council, Feb 8/2026

Letter from Minister of Education, Feb 11/2026

Late Correspondence relating to Transportation Fees

16. QUESTION PERIOD

- Phil Molloy, COPACS asked what guidance the Board or senior staff could offer on effectively advocating to the Ministry of Education regarding funding.
- A parent asked whether tax receipts could be issued to families who are paying school bus fees. They also inquired whether, now that transportation is a pay-for-use service, if any changes will be made to better accommodate students with special needs.
- Alicia Allen, parent, expressed concern that transportation fees may be contributing to absenteeism and asked whether the schools will be reporting their absenteeism data.

17. OTHER BUSINESS AS SUBMITTED

18. FOR INFORMATION

19. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked if there was any objection to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Chair of the Board

Secretary Treasurer