



# TRUSTEE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025

SUBMITTED BY VICE-CHAIR STACIA LEECH



## CYBERSECURITY IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Sunshine Coast School District is part of a larger network of School Boards in the province as members of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and the South Coast Branch of School Districts. Every year, the BCSTA holds an AGM, where school districts have the opportunity to make motions requesting the BCSTA Board of Directors advocate for programs, services, and funding from the Ministry of Education and Childcare (MECC).

This year, our South Coast Branch of the BCSTA has submitted a motion that the BCSTA Board request the MECC allocate additional funding to enhance school district cybersecurity. There is an urgent need for increased funding to strengthen cybersecurity measures across school districts in BC. Funding has not been provided to address the risks associated with technology in the modern world. School District 46 trustees will be speaking to the motion at the AGM.

As there is no District Parent Advisory Committee meeting during the March spring break, this report covers the months of February and March.

## LEADERSHIP DURING A PANDEMIC

The five-year anniversary of the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic impact on education is February 22, 2020, when BC had its first school exposure to the coronavirus. Our fledgling school board was only one year into a four-year term when we faced the collective crises of the global pandemic. This became a time of uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, requiring high-impact decisions to be made quickly. The resiliency of our leadership was tested. It was not until September 10 that students fully returned to the classroom, with staggered start times and wearing masks in areas where physical distancing could not be maintained. It was a transformative time that we are still learning from and an experience that reinforced our commitment to leadership training for trustees, students, and staff.

The Sunshine Coast Board of Education is passionate about nurturing resilient future community leaders.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Elementary students began their leadership journey at the first-ever DELI (District Elementary Leadership Initiative) Youth Conference. Trustee McClelland attended on behalf of the Board. Chatelech Secondary Grade 10 students and senior leadership students, with considerable support from their teachers, planned the event. Students led the group learning sessions on a variety of themes. It was an incredible day of connection and learning.



## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

This Ad Hoc committee was convened in the fall of 2024. Trustee Girard is the chair, with two appointed Trustees. The committee is following up on the process begun in 2023. The mandate/purpose of the committee is to explore and recommend strategies to enhance parent engagement and strengthen relationships in alignment with the strategic plan.

The committee met in January to develop the Terms of Reference. Work on identifying current practices and challenges was the focus of the February meeting. Notes from the meetings and the Terms of Reference are available on the SD46 website.



### PRO COOK TRAIN IN TRADES PROGRAM

On January 22, Trustees, senior management and students' families were in attendance to celebrate the graduates of the program and cheer them on as they received their certificates of completion, earning 16 credits toward their graduation. This is a favourite event in the Trustees' calendar, not least because it involves a delicious gourmet lunch. This time we enjoyed steak and roasted vegetables, or gnocchi - a type of pasta dumpling - in a flavourful sauce ("nocca" means knuckle in Italian). There were also delicious sweets.

Congratulations students, support staff, and chefs!

### SD46 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Check out Student Trustee Alexis Proust's February Regular Board Meeting report to stay up to date with Sunshine Coast Secondary activities.

[Student Trustee Report - February 2025](#)



### SCHOOL TOURS

In February, Trustees commenced annual school tours and had a hands-on opportunity to review school growth plans. Tours will take place from February to June. Trustees will review the growth plans and explore how the strategic plan is being applied and supported in each school. Thanks to the principals, teachers, staff, and students who put thought, care, and attention into hosting us. These visits provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes, acknowledge challenges, and offer support where needed.



### POLICY WORK AND TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At the February 12 Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved changes to Bylaw 58 – Motions. We are continuing our review of the District Bylaws and Policies as part of the Board's commitment to professional growth.



### THE THRONE SPEECH

On February 18, the Minister of Education and Child Care, Lisa Beare, attended the opening of the First Session of the BC Legislature 43rd Parliament. March 15 is the deadline for the minister to establish and announce the amount of provincial funding to be allocated to boards in the next fiscal year for the delivery and support of educational programs. We look forward to the announcement.

### VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH - LOCAL GOVERNANCE LIAISON MEETING

Vice-Chair Leech and Director of Instruction Rive attended the February 21 meeting, which provided a rare opportunity to hear from community health professionals and for SD46 to share the incredible health initiatives happening in our schools. We learned that a high percentage of children on the coast are immunized against diseases that could be life-altering if left unchecked. The discussion also explored the importance of early, proactive public health initiatives—such as preventive care, education, and wellness programs—that help reduce the need for later medical interventions and treatments when health issues have already developed.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETINGS

Parents are invited to attend the Board of Education meetings. Meetings are held in person at the School Board Office, 494 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons and whenever possible, live-streamed to YouTube.

The next Regular Board Meeting is March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting schedule: [Schedule of Meetings](#)

Meeting agendas and minutes from previous meetings: [Agendas and Minutes](#)

SD46 YouTube Channel meeting live-stream: [SD46 YouTube](#)

Board Committee meetings are scheduled April 22:

Education Committee	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Committee of the Whole	11:15 AM to 1:30 PM
Operations Committee	1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

IF YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT ANY OF THE ARTICLES IN THIS REPORT OR TO ASK QUESTIONS YOU CAN EMAIL [QUESTIONS@SD46.BC.CA](mailto:QUESTIONS@SD46.BC.CA)

