



TRUSTEE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2025

SUBMITTED BY VICE-CHAIR STACIA LEECH



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR THE BOARD EDUCATION

As part of the Board’s ongoing commitment to professional growth, we are placing a strong emphasis on governance this year. In November, the Board participated in two learning sessions focused on key areas of effective governance, including the roles and responsibilities of trustees, the code of conduct, and strategies for running effective meetings. These topics will be integrated into the work of the Board’s committees over the coming year.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We recently celebrated the Sechelt Hospital’s 60th anniversary, made possible by the shísháhlh Nation’s historic gift of land. The highlight was a community Salish weaving project, which included contributions from hospital staff and the public as part of a reconciliation effort. The weaving can be viewed in the hospital’s foyer.

SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46 2025-2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick and Superintendent Kerr provided an overview of the Preliminary Budget considerations to the Board. The budget is guided by our strategic and operational plans to ensure alignment with funding for key initiatives.

Current Strategic Priorities

- ✔ Supporting mental health and well-being of students and staff.
- ✔ Improving equity and inclusion, “universal design” for learning, to ensure every student can access quality education regardless of their individual needs.
- ✔ Supporting system competency with the curriculum and implementing changes to assessment and reporting of student learning to provide parents with a clearer and more comprehensive picture of their child’s progress.
- ✔ Human resources review and implementation to ensure we attract, retain, and support the very best educators and staff.

Upcoming Strategic Priorities

- ✔ Inclusion Support Services structural review.
- ✔ Attendance & Engagement programs and addressing barriers that prevent students from fully participating in school.
- ✔ Investing in technology infrastructure, tools, and training that enhance both teaching and learning experiences.



It was also noted that in the current economic climate there will be cost pressures for the coming year. Some of these challenges may result from:

Inflationary pressures without any anticipated increase in funding.

Technology support and cyber security requirements increasing as a result of the increasing risk of data breaches due to hacking.

Student transportation cost increases.



SD 46 AND SCRD JOINT USE AGREEMENT (JUA)

This agreement is intended to maximize opportunities to increase use of resources for community benefit and recognizing that these are all public assets.

The JUA is a formal agreement between the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the Board of Education School District No. 46 that allows shared use of each organization's facilities. The intention of this agreement is to increase healthy activity options for children, families and the community.

The JUA is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of three Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) directors appointed by the SCRD, and three School District No. 46 (SD46) trustees, appointed by the School District. SCRD and School District staff serve in a liaison capacity and to provide professional advice.

In 2023 the SCRD swimming pools were used by hundreds of students for over 336 hours, community halls for 84 hours, and the ice arenas for 90 hours.

FEEDING FUTURES UPDATE

The Board of Education has long recognized the importance of addressing student hunger. Local and national surveys show that two out of five students come to school hungry, which can lead to an increase in disregulation and be a barrier to learning. At the last Operations Committee meeting of 2024, Kirsten Deasey, District Principal, and Andrea Potter, Manager of Feeding Futures, provided an update to the Board on the Feeding Futures initiative that is now supporting a systems approach and staffing to provide food for students across the district through the Central Kitchen.

In 2024, the Central Kitchen:



Delivered over 49,000 servings of food.



Prepared meals, reduced costs and increased efficiency through direct, volume purchasing for schools.



Increased healthy options for children by providing made-from-scratch meals, packaged snacks, such as milk and bread, and fresh produce.

The program is supported by collaborations with Parent Advisory Committees (PACs), Community Schools, School Gardens, Farm to Schools, and Vancouver Coastal Health. In 2024, SD46 applied to the Ministry of Education and Childcare for funding to purchase two electric vans to support the delivery of food to schools. The funding request was approved and the vans arrived in November 2024.

The Feeding Futures program has transitioned to ongoing Ministry funding, ensuring sustainability and enabling long-term systems-based planning.

The Sunshine Coast Board of Education is part of a network of sixty (60) school boards that make up the membership of the BC School Trustees Association. The advocacy and lobbying power of this group is responsible for the Ministry allocating significant funds to the Feeding Futures program that has embraced the understanding that "learning includes nutrition".



BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC MEETINGS



Parents are invited to attend the Board of Education meetings: the next public Board Meeting is February 12th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in person at the School Board Office, 494 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons.

- Board meeting schedule: [Schedule of Meetings](#)
- SD 46 YouTube Channel meeting live stream: [SD46 YouTube](#)

Board Committee meetings are scheduled January 28th at the School Board Office. Public Board meetings and Committee meetings are live-streamed to YouTube, whenever possible.