



SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

TRUSTEE MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2025

SUBMITTED BY VICE-CHAIR STACIA LEECH



MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

In early May, the Board had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care. We expressed our appreciation for the government's response to student nutritional needs. Infrastructure funding has enabled the establishment of a Central Kitchen in Sechelt, allowing us to begin scaling up the provision of breakfasts and lunches to many more students. We also highlighted the need for increased funding to support students with special needs, to offset inflationary cost pressures, and to strengthen cybersecurity. Additionally, we advocated for cross-ministerial funding to support initiatives that address affordable child care and workforce housing.

In early June, Chair Amaral will speak to the Provincial Government's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to further advocate for our District's funding needs.

In recognition of the Day of Mourning, the Board observed a minute of silence at the beginning of the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 22. This moment honoured workers who have lost their lives or been injured on the job. Chair Amaral reminded attendees of the importance of workplace safety for all.

SCHOOL TOURS

Trustees and members of the Senior Leadership Team continued their annual school tours in April and May, visiting Davis Bay Elementary, Cedar Grove Elementary, Pender Harbour Secondary, Madeira Park Elementary, and Halfmoon Bay Elementary. Each school shared highlights through the lens of their School Growth Plans, offering a unique look into the learning, culture, and priorities of their communities.

Prior to the visits, Trustees had the opportunity to review the School Growth Plans with Superintendent Kerr to better understand their alignment with the district's Strategic Plan. Principals spoke passionately about their school communities and the alignment of student, parent, and staff voices.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

April's district-wide Professional Development Day offered staff and trustees a range of learning opportunities, including "A History of the shíshálh People", presented by shíshálh Knowledge Keeper Wesley Jeffries.

POLICY AND BYLAW REVIEW

The Board is continuing to review our Policies and Bylaws at Committee of the Whole. This past month we focused on Bylaws 51-Regular Meetings, 59-Debate and 60-Voting. You can view the revised Bylaws here:

[Board Policies and Bylaws](#)



BOARD PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

In April, trustees from across the province gathered at the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) to engage in professional learning and help shape the association's direction for the coming year.

A highlight of the AGM was Chair Amaral's presentation alongside two of our student trustees and our Superintendent, sharing our Board's experience of having student trustees at the table for the past 12 years. While our Board has long benefitted from student representation, the majority of boards in B.C. still do not have student trustees or formalized structures for engaging student voice in district decision-making. Feedback on the presentation was overwhelmingly positive.

This year, we were also honoured to have our student trustee join us during the AGM's business session—an invaluable opportunity to observe debates and contribute to discussions at our table.

SD46 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

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

[Student Trustee Report - May 2025](#)



REAL WORLD LEARNING AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP



At our April Regular Board Meeting, we heard a presentation from four students from Pender Harbour Secondary School and Principal Rae-dene Pednaud. The students shared highlights from their year, focusing on the core competencies of Personal Responsibility and Critical Thinking, and provided many examples of Real World Learning.

At our May Board Meeting, we welcomed three students from Elphinstone Secondary School who participated in the Vancouver Model United Nations Conference with their teacher, Mr. Cvasin. The students explored Real World Problems, proposed solutions, and advocated for their ideas within the assembly.

The Sunshine Coast Board of Education remains committed to providing students with opportunities to learn and practice the tools of democracy, and to encouraging future pathways of service and leadership.

IMPORTANCE OF LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION

You may have read about the B.C. government's new Infrastructure Projects Act (Bill 15), which aims to streamline and accelerate infrastructure development across the province. While the legislation is broad in scope, it may have specific implications for public education and school districts.

Locally elected Boards of Education are uniquely positioned to provide feedback on the Act's potential impact through their Board Chairs and the B.C. School Trustees Association. Under the new legislation, the province may designate school capital projects as "provincially significant," which could allow for expedited approvals and permitting. In some cases, these designated projects may bypass or modify local government zoning and planning requirements if such requirements are viewed as barriers to timely completion.

Boards of Education continue to play an important role in ensuring local perspectives are considered in provincial decision-making.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETINGS

Parents and guardians are invited to attend the Board of Education Regular and Committee 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 Meeting of the Board is June 11 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Previous meeting agendas and minutes: [Agendas and Minutes](#)

Meeting live-stream channel: [SD46 YouTube](#)

Board Committee meetings are scheduled May 27 at the School Board Office. Draft committee meeting agendas can be viewed in the previous months Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Education Committee 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Committee of the Whole 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM *with a break for lunch

Operations Committee 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

IF YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT ANY OF THE ARTICLES IN THIS REPORT OR TO ASK GENERAL QUESTIONS YOU CAN EMAIL:

QUESTIONS@SD46.BC.CA

