

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.

District Education Office
22225 Brown Avenue
Maple Ridge BC V2X 8N6

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr Suess

A G E N D A

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

ITEM 1

1. Territory Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order
3. Correspondence
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Invitation for Public Input to matters on the Agenda - *Members of the public can provide input on decision items on the public meeting Agenda by emailing board@sd42.ca by no later than 5:30 pm on January 17, 2024. The email subject line should read: INPUT regarding Decision Item. All public input received will be shared with trustees electronically. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes.*

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 6, 2023 ITEM 2

C. PRESENTATIONS - *Individuals and groups invited by the Board to make presentations on any subject pertinent to Board business. Time limits for individual presentations will be established to allow all speakers to present within the time limit for this item. This agenda item has a time limit of 20 minutes including questions; extension is at the discretion of the Board.*

1. French Immersion Program ITEM 3
2. Early Learning Programs ITEM 4

D. DELEGATIONS – *the Board will receive delegations on any subject pertinent to Board business provided the item has been placed on the agenda by the Agenda Preparation Committee. Time limits for individual delegations will be established to allow all registered delegations to present within the time limit for this item. The Board will ordinarily receive for information the item presented and may take action after due deliberation. This agenda item has a time limit of 20 minutes including questions; extension is at the discretion of the Board.*

1. 2024 BC Summer Games ITEM 5

E. DEFERRED ITEMS

F. DECISION ITEMS

1. Chairperson
2. Superintendent of Schools
3. Secretary Treasurer
4. Board Committees and Advisory Committee Reports
 - a) Budget
 - b) Finance
 - c) Facilities Planning
 - d) Board Policy Development
 - e) Education
 - f) Aboriginal Education

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson

2. Superintendent of Schools
 - a) Superintendent's Update ITEM 6
3. Secretary Treasurer
 - a) Secretary Treasurer's Update ITEM 7
4. Board Committees & Advisory Committee Reports
 - a) Budget
 - b) Finance
 - c) Facilities Planning
 - d) Board Policy Development
 - e) Education
 - f) Aboriginal Education

H. TRUSTEE MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

1. Trustee Motions:
 - a) Legislative Framework for Voting Student Trustees ITEM 8
 - b) Non-Voting Student Delegates at BCSTA AGM Meetings ITEM 9
 - c) Funding for StrongStart BC Programs ITEM 10
 - d) Student Governance Review ITEM 11
 - e) Special Funding for Adult Graduation Programs at Correctional Centres ITEM 12

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. BC School Trustees Association
2. English Language Learners Consortium ITEM 13

J. QUESTION PERIOD ITEM 14

Question period will be restricted to questions only – statements and debate will not be permitted. Questions, with the exception of Trustee questions, will be limited to one question per person. Members of the public can submit questions for the board by emailing them to board@sd42.ca by no later than 5:30 pm on January 17, 2024. The email subject line should read: QUESTION PERIOD. All questions received before the start of the question period will be answered in the order they are received. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes; extension is at the discretion of the board.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Public Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business ITEM 15

L. ADJOURNMENT



ITEM 1

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **OPENING PROCEDURES**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

1. *TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on the shared traditional and unceded territories of Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation. We welcome and recognize all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and families in our schools and community. We welcome and recognize the many different cultures that are represented in our schools and community.

2. *CALL TO ORDER*

3. *CORRESPONDENCE*

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.

5. *INVITATION FOR PUBLIC INPUT TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA - Members of the public can provide input on decision items on the public meeting Agenda by emailing board@sd42.ca by no later than 5:30 p.m. on January 17, 2024. The email subject line should read: INPUT regarding Decision Item. All public input received will be shared with trustees electronically. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes.*



ITEM 2

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the December 6, 2023, Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

Attachment

**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 (6:00 PM)
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson – Elaine Yamamoto
Vice Chairperson – Kim Dumore
Trustee – Hudson Campbell
Trustee – Gabriel Liosis
Trustee – Mike Murray
Trustee – Pascale Shaw
Trustee – Kathleen Sullivan

Superintendent – Harry Dhillon
Secretary Treasurer – Richard Rennie
Deputy Superintendent – Cheryl Schwarz
Assistant Secretary Treasurer – Iris Mo
Senior Manager, Communications – Irena Pochop
Executive Coordinator – Rebecca Lyle

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Territory Acknowledgement

The Chairperson acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on the shared traditional and unceded territories of Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation. The Chairperson welcomed and recognized all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and families in our schools and community. The Chairperson welcomed and recognized the many different cultures that are represented in our schools and community.

2. Call to Order

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. The Chairperson advised that this meeting is being broadcasted live through the SD42 YouTube channel and on the school district website.

The Chairperson gave opening remarks with an acknowledgement of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The Chairperson called the Public Board meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, and advised that this meeting is being broadcasted live through the SD42 YouTube channel and on the school district website.

3. Electronic Board Meeting Procedures

4. Correspondence

- From the Board of Education to the Minister of Education and Child Care regarding SOGI Inclusive Education

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive all correspondence, for information.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Invitation for Public Input to matters on the Agenda

The Chairperson advised that members of the public were able to provide input on decision items on the Agenda by emailing board@sd42.ca by no later than 5:30 pm on December 6, 2023.

Public Input was received regarding ITEM 6 – Amended Budget Changes for the Facilities Department.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the November 15, 2023, Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Child Care

The Manager of Child Care, Nicole Marshall, presented on the 22 licensed child care programs operating in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, yielding 527 licensed child care spaces that serve students from infant to age 12. The Manager also reported that all programs are operated by third party organizations and that all child operators participate in the government's Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, providing services to those receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive for information the presentation on Child Care.

CARRIED

2. Alternate Programs

The Principal of Alternate Education and Trades and Partnerships, Steve Wiebe, presented to the board on SD42 Alternative Secondary and described the three unique student-centered programs: Connex, Reconnex, and Connecting. Principal Wiebe also unveiled the new logo for District Alternative Secondary designed by current and former Connex students.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive for information the presentation on Alternate Programs.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS

E. DEFERRED ITEMS

F. DECISION ITEMS

1. Chairperson
2. Superintendent of Schools
3. Secretary Treasurer

a) First Quarter Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer reported on the First Quarter Financial Statements presented to the Board for approval at the recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Whole for the quarter ended September 30, 2023.

The Secretary Treasurer provided financial highlights on the Operating Fund, Special Purpose Funds, and the Capital Fund for the first quarter.

Moved/Seconded

That the Board approve the 2023/24 First Quarter Financial Statements.

CARRIED

b) Amended Budget Changes for the Facilities Department

The Secretary Treasurer presented a report that identified operating budget changes needed for the Facilities Department for inclusion in the 2023/24 Amended Annual Budget.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board approve the proposed budget changes totaling \$152,500 for the Facilities department for inclusion in the 2023/24 Amended Annual Budget.

CARRIED

c) 2024/25 Preliminary Budget Process and Consultation Timeline

The Secretary Treasurer provided an overview of the budget process and the proposed schedule of meetings to support the development and consultation on the 2024/25 Preliminary Budget.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2024/25 Preliminary Budget Process Timeline.

CARRIED

4. Board Committees and Advisory Committee Reports

- a) Budget
- b) Finance
- c) Facilities Planning
- d) Board Policy Development
- e) Education
- f) Aboriginal Education

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson

a) Chairperson's Update

The Chairperson reported on the following:

- Trustee's attendance at the 2023 BC School Trustees Association Trustee Academy
- Trustee's visit to one of the school district's new Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams hubs
- Trustee's attendance at an announcement event for a new Youth Emergency Shelter in Maple Ridge

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive the Chairperson's Update, for information.

CARRIED

b) Trustee Appointments to Committees and Community Liaison Groups

The Chairperson presented the list of trustee committee and community liaison group appointments for a period of one year commencing December 6, 2023.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive for information the attached Trustee Appointments to Committees and Community Liaison Groups for a period of one year ending November 2024.

CARRIED

2. Superintendent of Schools

a) Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent shared a video documenting the positive impact of the SD42 International Education program on a host family and international student they had hosted.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's Update, for information.

CARRIED

3. Secretary Treasurer

4. Board Committees and Advisory Committee Reports

- a) Budget
- b) Finance
- c) Facilities Planning
- d) Board Policy Development
- e) Education
- f) Aboriginal Education

H. TRUSTEE MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BCSTA Capital Working Group

Trustee Murray shared highlights from the meeting held on November 23, 2023.

BCSTA Comprehensive School Health Working Group

Trustee Dumore shared highlights from the meeting held on November 25, 2023.

Bylaw Review Committee

Trustee Liosis had nothing further to report on the meeting held on November 26, 2023.

District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Yamamoto and Trustee Murray had nothing further to report on the meeting held on November 21, 2023.

Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Art Council

Trustee Shaw shared highlights from the meeting held on November 27, 2023.

City of Maple Ridge Transportation Advisory Committee

Trustee Liosis shared highlights from the meeting held on November 29, 2023.

Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Trustee Sullivan shared highlights from the meeting held on November 16, 2023.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was received and answered on the following topics:

- Recent letter to the Board of Education from Pitt Meadows Secondary Teachers
- Public meeting being held online
- Amended Budget Changes for the Facilities Department

K. OTHER BUSINESS

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The Public Board meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Elaine Yamamoto, Chairperson

Richard, Secretary Treasurer



ITEM 3

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

BACKGROUND:

The following staff have prepared a presentation on the French Immersion Program:

- Jovo Bikic, Assistant Superintendent
- Jennifer Simon, Principal & Coordinator, French Immersion Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive for information the presentation on the French Immersion Program.



ITEM 4

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

BACKGROUND:

The following staff have prepared a presentation on Early Learning Programs:

- David Vandergugten, Assistant Superintendent
- Sue Dhillon, District Principal, Learning Services
- Melanie Scarcella, District Helping Teacher

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive for information the presentation on Early Learning Programs.



ITEM 5

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **2024 BC SUMMER GAMES**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

BACKGROUND:

The following delegations are registered to present on the 2024 BC Summer Games:

- Laura Butler, President, Board of Directors for the 2024 BC Summer Games
- Ernie Daykin, Vice President, Board of Directors for the 2024 BC Summer Games
- Christa Balatti, City of Maple Ridge, Staff Lead for the 2024 BC Summer Games

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive for information the presentation on the 2024 BC Summer Games.



ITEM 6

To: **Board of Education**

From: Superintendent
Harry Dhillon

Re: **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's Update, for information.



ITEM 7

To: **Board of Education**

From: Secretary Treasurer
Richard Rennie

Re: **SECRETARY TREASURER'S UPDATE**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's Update, for information.

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Hudson Campbell

Re: **TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGISLATIVE
FRAMEWORK FOR VOTING STUDENT
TRUSTEES**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The BCSTA, recognizing the importance of student input in effective decision-making, have passed two motions since 2014 advocating for the legislative implementation of Student Trustees:

Motion 18: A201418

That BCSTA request the provincial government to amend the School Act to enable Boards of Education to include student trustees.

Motion 11: A201811

That BCSTA request the provincial government amend the School Act to provide school districts with the discretion to establish Student Trustees and Student Advisory Councils for boards of education.

Since the first BCSTA motion was adopted in 2014, no substantive action has been taken on this matter by the province. Considering the ongoing and heightened threat to children's rights, this proposal aims to strengthen and empower student voices, aligning with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: "the child who is capable of forming his or her own views (shall be given) the right to express those views freely"¹.

Inspired by the successful model in Ontario dating back to 1977², the introduction of voting student trustees onto BC Boards of Education will provide a platform for gathering student voices and place student trustees on equal footing with "adult" trustees, fostering a more inclusive decision-making process.

In 1995 the Ontario government commissioned a report titled "For the Love of Learning." The report recognizes the invaluable value of "systematically seeking [student] views and taking their opinions seriously."³ One of several recommendations within the report was that "all [school] boards should have at least one student member, elected by fellow students. Student Trustees should have input into and vote on all board deliberations subject to usual conflict of interest and legal requirements" (pg. 441).

In 1997 the Ontario Legislature amended the Ontario Education Act to reflect these recommendations. Section 55 of the Act established the framework for elected student trustees, delineating their roles, responsibilities, compensation, and election procedures. The

¹ UN General Assembly, 1989, p. 4

² Government of Ontario, O. Reg. 7/07: STUDENT TRUSTEES, 2022

³ Begin, Caplan, & Ontario. Royal Commission on Learning, 1995, p. 441

subsequent establishment of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) further exemplifies the success of this initiative, where democratically elected student representatives from diverse school systems across the province actively engage in addressing pressing issues and advocating for province-wide changes. While student trustees in BC currently hold a more advisory role, the proposed motion aims to allow for voting members on the board, aligning with the successful aspects of the Ontario model.

Currently, several British Columbian School Boards have implemented non-voting student trustees with success, including SD46 Sunshine Coast⁴, SD08 Kootenay Lake⁵, and SD39 Vancouver⁶. However, the School Act in British Columbia lacks legislative provisions similar to Ontario, leaving a critical gap in student representation and participation in decision-making processes.

The need for this motion is grounded in the recognition that student voice is integral to public education. Enabling a student presence at the decision-making table ensures that boards are well-informed for effective decision-making, with students advocating for necessary resources and programs that directly impact their educational experiences.

Beyond being a representative voice, the concept of student trustees serves to empower students, providing them with a platform to express opinions and ideas regarding their learning experiences. By drawing parallels to the Ontario model, BC stands to benefit from a proactive approach that recognizes the necessity of empowering students in shaping the direction of their education. It is recommended that students serving as trustees be eligible for course credit. This acknowledgment not only values their civic engagement but also promotes increased student participation in educational governance. The motion strives to create a legislative framework that accommodates diverse approaches to incorporating student voices, ensuring a flexible and effective means of engaging students in educational governance.

The introduction of voting student trustees onto the BC Board of Education is a significant step towards a more inclusive and dynamic education system. It is crucial to align our actions with the strategic priorities outlined in the operational plan, fostering an environment where student voices actively contribute to decision-making processes without fear of retributions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Board approve the following motion for submission to the 2024 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting:

"THAT BCSTA endorse and encourage Boards of Education to integrate non-voting Student Trustees on Boards of Education to enhance district-level decision-making processes;

AND FURTHER;

THAT BCSTA advocate for the amendment of the School Act by the Province of British Columbia, granting school districts the discretion to establish Student Trustee positions, including an election process and full voting rights."

⁴ Policy 1290, <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/1290-Student-Leadership.pdf>

⁵ Student Trustee Guidelines, <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2023-09/10B.2%2023-24%20Student%20Trustee%20Guidelines%20updated%20August%2011%202023.pdf>

⁶ Policy 18, https://media.vsb.bc.ca/docs/2b68f692-ff18-42fa-bce5-3a3b11bb6117_18-Policy18-Student-Trustee.pdf

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Gabriel Liosis

Re: **TRUSTEE MOTION: NON-VOTING
STUDENT DELEGATES AT BCSTA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RATIONALE:

The proposed motion to implement a framework for the inclusion of non-voting student delegates at BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) General Meetings with full speaking privileges aligns with this District's broader goal of enhancing student representation in the governance of public education. Recognizing the unique insights and perspectives students bring to the table, this motion seeks to amplify student voice within the BCSTA, ensuring that the decision-making processes of the Association benefit from the direct input of the individuals most affected by educational policies.

By providing students with a platform to articulate their views and concerns on the motions that BCSTA Members vote on to inform the Association's provincial advocacy, BCSTA stands to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse needs of the student population. This approach not only strengthens decision-making processes but also acknowledges the role students play in shaping the present and future of education in British Columbia.

The Maple Ridge—Pitt Meadows Board of Education's Operational Plan supports the principles behind the proposed motion. The Operational Plan¹ emphasizes the commitment to "[e]nsure increased meaningful engagement with students through district-wide student forum (2023 and 2025), Indigenous student forum, trustee meetings with secondary school students (three secondary schools per year), trustee meetings with Indigenous students, and further engagement on governance matters as needed." Further, while more internally focused, the Operational Plan also commits to "review[ing] the student governance model [in SD42] and ensure that the model implemented meets student needs and enables student voice engagement on governance matters."

While this proposed motion seeks to ensure increased and meaningful engagement with students at the provincial level rather than the local level, the inclusion of non-voting student delegates at BCSTA General Meetings, with full speaking privileges, corresponds with the board's dedication to Student Voice.

¹<https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Operational-Plans-2022-2026.pdf#page=3>

BACKGROUND:

According to the BCSTA Motion Database, the Association has never entertained a motion to implement a framework for student delegates, of any kind, at AGMs. However, BCSTA does harbour general values regarding Student Voice in its foundational statements²:

4.7 FS STUDENT VOICE

BCSTA believes that student voice and input are important to inform and influence Boards of Education in effective decision-making for student learning and success.

4.7.1 P PRINCIPLES OF STUDENT VOICE

BCSTA believes that Boards of Education should:

- a. Provide opportunities for students to be informed of and comment on board policies, initiatives and directives.
- b. Develop a framework to support initiatives such as District Student Leadership Teams, Student Trustees, Student Forums and Student Advisory Councils for the purpose of advising Boards of Education on concerns and issues affecting students.

This Foundational Statement focuses on the role Boards of Education play in fostering effective Student Voice but does not describe any principles to apply to the Association's own governance structures.

Historical Context: BCSTA Advocacy on Student Voice

The discourse surrounding student engagement and representation in public education governance has been an ongoing conversation within the BCSTA for nearly a full decade. Notably, the Association has actively pursued avenues to amplify Student Voice, as evidenced by previous motions approved by BCSTA membership in 2014 and 2018, respectively:

- *That BCSTA request the provincial government to amend the School Act to enable Boards of Education to include student trustees.*³
- *That BCSTA request the provincial government amend the School Act to provide school districts with the discretion to establish Student Trustees and Student Advisory Councils for boards of education.*⁴

While distinct from the current motion proposed in this memo, these historical examples underscore the BCSTA's ongoing commitment to fostering meaningful student participation in educational governance.

Distinction Between Current Proposal and Student Trustee Proposals: Logistical Implications

It is crucial to observe the key differences between the current proposal for non-voting student delegates at BCSTA Annual General Meetings and proposals advocating for the establishment of student trustee positions. While both initiatives share a common goal of amplifying student representation, their logistical implications diverge significantly.

The proposed motion for non-voting student delegates operates entirely within the BCSTA's own governance structures. Implementation of this framework likely would not necessitate amendments to existing Bylaws. The Association has the capacity to enact this change

²<https://bcsta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BCSTA-Policy-Book-2023.pdf#page=12>

³Motion A201418, BCSTA AGM 2014, retrieved from <https://bcstamotions.org>

⁴Motion A201811, BCSTA AGM 2018, retrieved from <https://bcstamotions.org>

independently, demonstrating a relatively streamlined and expedient process. A conservative estimate places the establishment of such a framework within a reasonable timeframe of six months to a year, making it a prompt and internally controllable initiative.

In contrast, the establishment of student trustee positions requires a more intricate process. It necessitates an amendment to the School Act, a legislative undertaking that falls beyond the control of the BCSTA.

The proposal for non-voting student delegates reflects a proactive and internally manageable strategy, aligning with the BCSTA's commitment to inclusivity and responsiveness in educational governance.

Analysis of Other Provincial School Boards' Associations on Student Delegates at AGMs

Research into other provincial school boards' associations across Canada illustrates the absence of any framework for non-voting student delegates at Annual General Meetings or its equivalent:

- *Alberta*: The business portion of Alberta School Boards Association General Meetings are closed meetings to members (and board administration); non-members or students are not in attendance.⁵
- *Saskatchewan*: The Saskatchewan School Boards Association does not incorporate non-voting or voting student delegates into AGMs—Student Voice is most often brought in through youth panels that occur from time to time at events.⁶
- *Manitoba*: The Manitoba School Boards Association does not incorporate non-voting or voting student delegates into convention and AGM.⁷
- *Ontario*: The Ontario Public School Boards' Association does not have students as part of the voting process at the Annual General Meetings. However, in Ontario, school boards have dedicated student trustee positions established in legislation⁸. Because of the existence of these positions, Ontario student trustees have their own advocacy association called the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA)⁹. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association works in partnership with the OSTA through an OPSBA/OSTA Liaison committee, where they regularly meet. Student trustees are also regularly invited to attend OPSBA Core Issue Work Group meetings where matters of public and program policy are discussed to inform OPSBA's advocacy. They also welcome (and provide) opportunities for student trustee engagement at OPSBA conferences and events.¹⁰
- *Quebec*: The Quebec English School Boards' Association does not maintain any Bylaws, Policies, Operating Guidelines, or Foundational Statements—available publicly online—that suggests it has a framework for non-voting student delegates at AGMs. The QESBA was unreachable via email for comment.
- *Newfoundland and Labrador*: The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador do not have a provincial school boards association because the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District oversees all public schools across the province. It was created in 2013

⁵Email communication, Jennifer Elsinga, Executive Administrator, January 3, 2024

⁶Email communication, Ted Amendt, Director of Board Development & Indigenous Reconciliation, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, December 21, 2023

⁷Email communication, Josh Watt, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, December 19, 2023

⁸<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070007>

⁹<https://osta-aeco.org/>

¹⁰Email communication, Lisa Reinhardt, Managing Director of Corporate Affairs, Ontario Association of Public School Boards' Association, December 19, 2023

as part of the amalgamation of all provincial school boards into an English-language and a French-language board.¹¹

- *New Brunswick*: The New Brunswick Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. does not include non-voting student delegates at AGMs.¹²
- *PEI*: The P.E.I. Home and School Federation (PEIHSF) invites intermediate and senior high students to participate in their Annual Meeting round table discussions as non-voting delegates.¹³
- *Nova Scotia*: The Province of Nova Scotia dissolved Nova Scotia's seven English language School Boards and replaced them with Regional Centres for Education in 2018¹⁴—this shifted responsibility for educational services in Nova Scotia from locally elected boards to a council of administrators appointed directly by the Minister of Education. No provincial school boards association exists.

Other Relevant Case Studies:

Beyond provincial school boards associations, there are other notable organizations in British Columbia that can shed light on the practice of including student voice at Annual General Meetings:

- *Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)*: At its annual conventions, UBCM collaborates with post-secondary institutions to offer university students the chance to participate as non-voting delegates and enjoy speaking privileges.
- *BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA)*: Currently, BCSSA as an association does not formally have any structures to engage with students to capture their voices, perspectives or opinions—what occurs is that district representatives informally share what they are hearing through the structures within their district.¹⁵ However, it is worth drawing attention to a few key features of BCSSA's existing governance frameworks. The BCSSA 2020-24 Strategic Plan places emphasis on a student-centered approach to policy development and decision making, committing to "[the inclusion] of opportunities for student voice and input within BCSSA policies, communications, activities and events" by "establish[ing] a formal mechanism for student voice to be heard."¹⁶ Additionally, the BCSSA Bylaws provide that "the Board [of BCSSA] may also invite any other Person or Persons to attend a General Meeting as observers and guests. All observers and guests may only address the General Meeting assembly at the invitation of the Person presiding as chairperson, or by Ordinary Resolution."¹⁷ This provision allows flexibility for BCSSA to consider the inclusion of non-voting student delegates in AGM discussions and debates.

Discussion:

The notable absence of a framework for student delegates at Annual General Meetings (AGMs) across Canada's provincial school boards' associations raises concerns regarding the comprehensive representation of those most directly impacted by educational policies. As outlined in the findings related to other provinces, it is evident that the inclusion of non-voting student delegates in AGMs is not a widespread practice in advocacy/professional associations

¹¹<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/edu/0816n03.aspx>

¹²Email communication, Cynthia Richards, President, New Brunswick Federation of Home and School Associations Inc., December 30, 2023

¹³Email communication, Shirley Smedley Jay, Executive Director, PEI Home and School Federation, January 3, 2024

¹⁴<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20180301001>

¹⁵Email communication, Teresa Downs, Former President, B.C. School Superintendents Association, December 30, 2023

¹⁶<https://bcssa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BCSSA-Strategic-Plan-2020-24-1-1-Public-Agenda> Package - Page 20

¹⁷<https://bcssa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BCSSA-2023-Bylaws-registry-certified.pdf#page=16>

within the public education sector. This gap underscores an opportunity for the BCSTA to assume a national leadership role in fostering student engagement and representation within the educational governance landscape.

While BCSTA emphasizes the importance of student voice in their foundational statements, the lack of a concrete framework leaves implementation of these principles ambiguous. BCSTA, by establishing a formalized framework, can set a precedent for other provinces to follow, demonstrating our commitment to meaningful student engagement.

The proposed framework extends beyond a symbolic gesture; it serves as a practical, sustainable, and reliable model for collaboration between educational stakeholders. By providing students with a platform to express their views directly to the BCSTA, the Association can foster a culture of open dialogue and collaboration. This collaborative model can influence not only the decision-making processes of the BCSTA but also inspire cooperation between students, trustees, and educators at the local level, setting the stage for more inclusive and participatory governance structures throughout the province.

The inclusion of student delegates at AGMs reflects a commitment to Student Voice, acknowledging that students are not just recipients of education but active contributors to the ongoing evolution of the educational system. BCSTA, by embracing this forward-thinking approach, positions itself as an advocate for dynamic, student-centered educational practices.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the following motion for submission to the 2024 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting:

"That BCSTA develop a process for the inclusion of non-voting student delegates at BCSTA Annual General Meetings, and that a report on progress be provided by the 2025 Annual General Meeting."

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Kim Dumore

Re: **TRUSTEE MOTION: FUNDING FOR
STRONGSTART BC PROGRAMS**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

School Districts across the province have consistently demonstrated unwavering support for Early Learning initiatives with StrongStart Centres serving as models for early learning best practices. These programs play a pivotal role in providing invaluable support to young families, offering play-based learning experiences for children aged birth to five¹. Moreover, they create opportunities for facilitators to engage in positive and supportive conversations with parents and caregivers. These interactions address the importance and value of play-based early learning activities, social-emotional wellness, and child development and connect families with valuable community resources.

Since the Province began expanding StrongStart BC programs in BC in 2006/07², StrongStart has proven to be a cornerstone in fostering the growth of our youngest learners. Regrettably, the program's funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care has remained stagnant since 2012/13. For School District No. 42 this represents \$256,000 of funding for the operation of eight programs.

This outdated funding model is woefully insufficient to cover the increasing operational expenses incurred by StrongStart Centres impacted by inflation on salaries, benefits, and supplies. While the funding has remained stagnant, the 12-month average consumer price index for BC has increased more than 26% from June 2013 to June 2023³. Without a corresponding increase in funding, school districts have needed to subsidize these Special Purpose Fund programs from Operating Fund budgets; however, this is unfair and not sustainable.

In light of the invaluable contributions these programs make to the overall well-being and development of our community's youngest members, immediate action is necessary to address the funding shortfall and ensure the sustained success of StrongStart programs throughout British Columbia.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the following motion for submission to the 2024 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting:

"THAT BCSTA urge the Minister of Education and Child Care to address the critical funding shortfalls experienced by School Districts in operating StrongStart BC centres by fully funding the StrongStart programs."

¹ [StrongStart BC - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/strongstart/)

² [New StrongStart BC Centre opens doors to young learners | BC Gov News](https://www.bccanada.com/news/local/strongstart-bc-centre-opens-doors-to-young-learners/)

³ [Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/consumer-price-index/)

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Hudson Campbell

Re: **TRUSTEE MOTION: STUDENT
GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Board has committed to “review[ing] the student governance model and ensur[ing] that the model implemented meets student needs and enables student voice engagement on governance matters,”¹ by the end of our term in October 2026. Since the adoption of the Board’s Operational Plan at the March 1st, 2023, Public Board Meeting, a review of the current student governance model has not been initiated. In light of the consistent feedback we’ve received from students and trustees about the current governance model, it becomes evident that a comprehensive examination of our practices is essential to meet the commitment of ensuring increased and meaningful engagement with students.

One key challenge faced by SD42 in fostering effective student engagement lies in the capacity and background knowledge of students to provide comprehensive feedback. Despite various initiatives such as student forums, ad-hoc advisory committees, and budget proposals, it appears that there is room for improvement in incorporating the invaluable perspectives of our student body into the decision-making process.

The Proposed Model:

An alternative model that has demonstrated success in other districts is the inclusion of a Student Trustee. Districts such as SD46 Sunshine Coast², SD08 Kootenay Lake³, and SD39 Vancouver⁴ have implemented non-voting student trustees with considerable success. This model has proven effective in ensuring comprehensive representation and to better cultivate an environment where student voices are not only heard but also valued. This proposed model envisions the establishment of a District Student Council, comprising one student representative from each secondary school, including the Aboriginal Education department.

The District Student Council could consist of Grade 12 students aiming to provide a platform for diverse perspectives and experiences. This council's responsibilities would extend to representing the student body at the district level, engaging in discussions on pertinent issues, and actively participating in governance matters with the Board.

¹ SD42, Board of Education Operational Plan (2022-26)

² Policy 1290, <https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/1290-Student-Leadership.pdf>

³ Student Trustee Guidelines, <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2023-09/10B.2%202023-24%20Student%20Trustee%20Guidelines%20updated%20August%2011%202023.pdf>

⁴ Policy 18, https://media.vsb.bc.ca/docs/2b68f692-ff18-42fa-bce5-3a3b11bb6117_1 Public Agenda Package - Page 23
[Trustee.pdf](https://media.vsb.bc.ca/docs/2b68f692-ff18-42fa-bce5-3a3b11bb6117_1)

An integral aspect of this proposed model is the introduction of an internal election process within the District Student Council to select a Student Trustee. The elected Student Trustee would then become the official representative on the Board of Education, serving as a conduit for the collective voice of the student body.

The value of ongoing student representation cannot be overstated. By exploring the implementation of a Student Trustee system, we align with the commitments outlined in the Operational Plan and acknowledge the need for a sustainable solution to the growing gap in student representation. This proactive approach demonstrates our dedication to fostering a more inclusive educational environment.

The proposed model ensures representation from every secondary school, including the Aboriginal Education department, guaranteeing a comprehensive and diverse portrayal of student perspectives. By focusing on senior students, the board can ensure a mature and experienced voice, providing valuable insights into the challenges and aspirations of students nearing the end of their public school educational journey. Furthermore, allowing the District Student Council to internally elect the Student Trustee will not only foster a more engaged and committed representative, but it will also engage the greater student body in a democratic process. Studies show that if we can get individuals to vote in the first election in which they're eligible, then they'll tend to vote for the rest of their lives. Allowing youth to participate in the democratic process can help create a more politically engaged constituency.

The proposed model would align with international principles, such as Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which supports the right of children capable of forming their views to express those views freely⁵. Locally, the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) encourages student voice in decision-making, emphasizing the broader significance of student perspectives. Furthermore, the BCTSA supports "initiatives such as District Student Leadership Teams, Student Trustees, Student Forums and Student Advisory Councils for the purpose of advising Boards of Education."⁶

This proposal to explore the feasibility of implementing a Student Trustee in SD42 for the 2026-27 School Year aligns with our commitments⁷, addresses challenges in student engagement, and draws upon successful models in other districts across BC and Canada. This step forward not only fulfills our promises to students but also contributes to the creation of a more inclusive representative and sustained student structure within our school district.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Education direct staff to review the current district student governance model and explore the feasibility of implementing a Student Trustee in time for the 2026/27 School Year.

⁵ UN General Assembly , 1989, p. 4

⁶ BCSTA Policy Book, Policy 4.7, p. 12

⁷ SD42, Board of Education Operational Plan (2022-26)

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **TRUSTEE MOTION: SPECIAL
FUNDING FOR ADULT
GRADUATION PROGRAMS AT
CORRECTIONAL CENTRES**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RATIONALE:

The original motion was submitted to the cancelled 2020 BCSTA AGM and subsequently passed by the October 2020 BCSTA Provincial Council. Both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General have agreed to the need for the funding; however, progress seems to have stalled. Four years will have passed for the resubmission of this motion to the 2024 BCSTA AGM.

BACKGROUND:

Work toward establishing sustainable and comprehensive funding for the much-needed adult graduation education programs in our correctional facilities began while the system was experiencing and recovering from the COVID pandemic. Then Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside, and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, were both in agreement that our most vulnerable and at-risk benefit from participation in education and that experiencing academic success has a significant positive impact on future outcomes. The intrinsic value of supporting adults of all backgrounds in their journey to complete school was recognized.

On March 29, 2022 Minister Farnworth stated that work continued on "the funding model review to examine the funding and resources required to support vulnerable learners with life-altering educational opportunities."

Securing funding to districts for the 2024/25 school year would provide educators with the necessary resources to design effective, sustainable programs and continue encouraging inmate participation.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the following motion for submission to the 2024 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting:

"THAT BCSTA request the Minister of Education and Child Care and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide an update on the funding model review to examine the funding and resources required to support vulnerable learners in our correctional centres with life-altering educational opportunities."

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Elaine Yamamoto

Re: **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
CONSORTIUM**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

Date of meeting: January 10, 2024

Items discussed:

1. SD41 Presentation to Burnaby's MLA on Temporary Resident Registrations (TRR) Work Permit and Study Permit
 - Across the Lower Mainland the number of TRR/Ordinarily Resident category registrations has increased significantly. Furthermore:
 - There is no prescriptive, audit-compliant Ministry definition of eligibility;
 - SD41 requested and received a legally recommended definition of eligibility from BCSTA;
 - Students in this category who arrive after September 30 are not eligible for February funding.
2. There is a general need for funding for all-category English Language Learner (ELL) newcomers who arrive with additional traumas and support needs.
3. UBC is in the process of developing additional ELL specialization within the Professional Development Program.

Action Items referred to the Board of Education:

- Request BCSTA legal opinion for the audit compliance for TRR;
- Coordinate with ELL Consortium boards to advocate for additional resources in schools and funding for post 1701 registered TRR/Ordinarily-Resident students;
- Share presentation and issues unique to SD42 with MLAs.

Date of next meeting: March 6, 2024

**ITEM 14**

To: **Board of Education**

From: Secretary Treasurer
Richard Rennie

Re: **QUESTION PERIOD**

Date: January 17, 2024
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

QUESTION PERIOD – *Question period will be restricted to questions only – statements and debate will not be permitted. Questions, with the exception of Trustee questions, will be limited to one question per person. Members of the public can submit questions for the board by emailing them to board@sd42.ca by no later than 5:30 pm on January 17, 2024. The email subject line should read: QUESTION PERIOD. All questions received before the start of the question period will be answered in the order they are received. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes; extension is at the discretion of the board.*

**ITEM 15****RECORD**

Pursuant to provisions of 72 (1) of the *School Act*, the following report is a general statement of: (a) matters discussed; and (b) the general nature of decisions resolved at the following meetings from which persons other than Trustees or officers of the Board, or both were excluded:

November 15, 2023 Closed

Territory Acknowledgement	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 2:11 p.m.
Motion of Exclusion	Approved
Approval of Agenda	Approved as circulated
Approval of Minutes	Approved
Superintendent Information Items	Received
Secretary Treasurer Information Item	Received
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m

November 15, 2023 Special Closed

Territory Acknowledgement	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 1:18 p.m.
Motions of Exclusion	Approved
Approval of Agenda	Approved as circulated
Secretary Treasurer Decision Item	Approved
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.