



VSB Vancouver
School Board

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

November 19, 2025



With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

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Chair's message



This year brought progress and transformation across the Vancouver School Board. Together, as a Board, we advanced our vision for public education with a

dedicated commitment to students – their learning and well-being.

It was also a year of profound challenges. Tragic events and shifting social and economic conditions tested our community in ways few could have anticipated. From moments of celebration that turned to sorrow, to evolving policies and global currents, these changes touched our school communities. Through it all, our community showed resilience and strength, and our staff demonstrated commitment in supporting students and families every day. Thank you to all VSB employees for your dedication and care.

As a Board, we focused governance by enhancing transparency, prioritized fiscal responsibility and redirected resources to classrooms. Together, we advocated for sustainable funding, enhanced food security for students and invested in capital projects that create better learning environments.

Trustees engaged with families, participated in student and staff-led initiatives and deepened relationships with inherent rights holders and our formal stakeholder groups. Trustees also served on civic committees, were active through the BC School Trustees Association and engaged with NGOs, officials at every level of

government and other key partners – helping to shape policy and strengthen collaborations that support public education. I am profoundly appreciative of their commitment and contributions.

I am especially grateful to Janet Fraser, vice-chair, for her continued support and collaborative leadership. Her partnership has been invaluable to me and to our Board's accomplishments.

This year, the Board adopted the 2025–2026 financial plan to support long-term sustainability, while continuing to prioritize investments in classrooms and enhancements to supports for students. In addition, policy revisions strengthened our governance and enabled the Board to remain responsive to the evolving needs of our community. Board operational improvements also increased efficiency and accessibility.

I am proud of what we've achieved on behalf of students and residents of Vancouver. We fostered inclusive learning environments, strengthened partnerships and championed equity. As we look ahead, I am confident this Board will continue to ensure public education in Vancouver remains strong, responsive and forward-thinking.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, reading "Victoria Jung".

Victoria Jung
Chair, Vancouver School Board

Advancing policy & governance

The Board is committed to reviewing all its policies during its elected term and remains on track to meet this goal. This work ensures the Board's governance framework reflects best practices and responds to the evolving needs of our schools and community.

Policy updates

This year, the Board advanced governance by approving key policy revisions that strengthen accountability and transparency. Updates included:

- [Policy 19: Accumulated Surplus](#)
- [Policy 9: Board Representatives](#)
- [Policy 2: Role of the Board](#)
- [Policy 11: Board Delegation of Authority](#)
- [Policy 7: Board Operations](#)
- [Policy 8: Board Committees](#)

These policy updates clarify roles, reinforce fiscal stewardship and ensure decisions reflect best practices in governance.

The updated policies modernize procedures and improve alignment with current operational needs. The revisions incorporate feedback from inherent rights holders, the Board's formal stakeholder groups and members of the public.

Ahead of finalizing Board Policy 7: Board Operations, the Board adopted a new schedule for regular public meetings and public delegation meetings based on the feedback received from the policy and governance committee attendees. Publishing agendas in advance provides more time for public participation and improves transparency in decision-making. This new schedule is now confirmed in policy.

Financial planning

As financial stewards, the Board responded to economic uncertainty with unknown tariff impacts and changing federal immigration policies with fiscal prudence while prioritizing the needs of students. The Board approved a [financial plan for the 2025–2026 school year](#) with spending of more than \$794 million.

This financial plan directly met the calls heard from students' families for more supports in the classroom to advance student learning and improve inclusive education. The Board reallocated resources, resulting in additional school and student support workers (SSAs) and maintaining teacher staffing above provincially funded ratios. Investments also included the purchase and installation of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all VSB facilities. Before the resumption of classes in September, all VSB facilities were equipped with AEDs, enhancing emergency preparedness and safety. The Board also allocated funds to expand summer clinic psycho-educational assessments, enabling nearly 10 per cent more students to receive evaluations during the summer break.





Henry Hudson Elementary school and playground

Enhancing facilities to support student learning



Each year, the Board undertakes a comprehensive review of its capital plans before submitting them to the provincial government for funding consideration and approval. The Board's major and minor capital plans focused on new construction and essential upgrades to existing facilities to ensure learning environments remain safe, accessible and responsive to student and community needs.

Work on a new school in Olympic Village remains a key focus. The project will offer modern learning spaces, energy-efficient features and improved accessibility, all with a strong commitment to sustainability and community integration.

At Henry Hudson Elementary, a new addition is helping to accommodate rising enrolment. This expansion was designed to align with current educational standards and prepare for future needs. Henry Hudson Elementary also includes a new rooftop child care facility, funded by the City of Vancouver, providing 65 spaces for children ages 0-5 years plus an additional 30 spaces for school-aged care.

For Sir Wilfred Grenfell Elementary, the Board prioritized seismic upgrades to keep

students safe. That work continues and includes reinforcing the structure, enhancing safety systems and updating core building infrastructure to meet provincial earthquake resilience requirements.

Through the Board's minor capital plan, the Board directed funds from the annual facilities grant toward infrastructure improvements. Accessibility upgrades, including ramps, elevators, automatic doors and accessible washrooms, make schools more welcoming for all students, staff and visitors, while supporting inclusive education and creating welcoming spaces for the broader community. Enhancements to heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems improve air quality, comfort and energy efficiency, creating healthier learning spaces – as seen at ʂxʷwəqʷəθət Crosstown Elementary School, where these upgrades make a real difference for students and staff. The Board's capital spending plans also provided for roof replacements, playground improvements, plumbing updates and technology upgrades to ensure school buildings and grounds remain functional, modern and ready for evolving educational needs.



Funding announcement for the National School Food Program held at David Thompson Secondary

Advancing public education through advocacy

The Board has a long-standing commitment to advocacy to improve outcomes for students. This year, the Board adopted an advocacy plan that guides advocacy efforts aimed at federal, provincial and local governments, as well as other organizations. It supports the [Education Plan](#) by focusing on student needs, equity and safe, inclusive schools. It guides advocacy with governments and partners to secure better funding, resources and policies. Key priorities include fair and sufficient funding for all students as well as fully funding government mandated directions, improving staff recruitment and retention, promoting inclusive and culturally responsive education and upgrading school facilities for safety, accessibility and sustainability. The plan aims to create learning environments where every student can thrive.

The Board's advocacy subcommittee assisted the Board in developing and implementing advocacy tactics that advance the objectives outlined in the advocacy plan.

In June 2025, chair Jung presented the Board's budget priorities to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The submission was informed by the Board's advocacy plan, ensuring consistent engagement at the provincial level. The chair's presentation focused on:

- Equitable and sufficient funding to address rising costs, support Indigenous learners and students with diverse abilities and ease staffing shortages;
- Investments in technology and future-ready learning to provide students and educators with modern tools, strengthen digital infrastructure and offer professional development for educators; and
- Safe, accessible and inclusive school facilities with continued investment in seismic upgrades, maintenance and accessibility improvements.

Provincial collaboration in action: adopts VSB motions

Each year, school boards throughout the province participate in the BC School Trustees Association's annual general meeting. At the 2025 AGM, held April 24-26, VSB presented motions calling for provincial funding of AEDs in all public school buildings and for the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) to be funded for all BC school districts. Both motions were passed at the AGM and shaped provincial advocacy efforts.

Improving food security for students

The Board continued to call for, and delivered, improved student nutrition through advocacy and donor support. It worked with the City of Vancouver to secure funding for meal programs, resulting in the City maintaining its Food4Schools investment at the 2024 funding level for the 2024-2025 school year. This support provided greater stability for VSB food programs and helped address food insecurity among students. The Board continues to urge the mayor and council to continue supporting meal programs for Vancouver students.

Additionally, trustees joined the Honourable Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and the Honourable Lisa Beare, British Columbia's Minister of Education and Child Care, who announced an agreement to enable BC to enhance school food programs for 90,000 students across the province. This event highlighted the importance of collaboration across all levels of government and reinforced a shared commitment to student well-being.

Federal and provincial funding was secured to support student meal programs at VSB. The Board was allocated \$125,725 from the National School Food Program to upgrade equipment enabling the preparation and distribution of meals to students. Later in the year, the Board was notified about year two funding; \$903,520 was allocated to support student food programs.

Throughout the year, the Board continued to advocate for a fully funded universal school food program and directed that a report be prepared to identify barriers and guide future action, ensuring VSB's efforts remain focused and effective.

Trustees at the BC School Trustees Association's annual general meeting





Vancouver District Science Fair



VSB Gives Back with Backpack Buddies

Connecting with Our VSB community

Throughout the year, trustees demonstrated strong engagement with VSB school communities. In addition to their governance responsibilities, trustees attended events, participated in staff-led initiatives and celebrated student achievements in academics, sports and the arts while strengthening relationships with staff, student families and the Vancouver public.

Trustees also deepened connections with inherent rights holders and participated in cultural gatherings including National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Their participation at events such as the VSB Gives Back Pancake Breakfast – a staff fundraising event supporting students – as well as student-led initiatives like the annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Youth Conference reflects its commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive and vibrant school district. This ongoing engagement underscores the Board's dedication to collaborative leadership, responsive governance and meaningful community partnerships.

2025 JUNO Host Committee organized a Music Industry Career Pathways panel at John Oliver Secondary



Lord Byng Secondary house post unveiling ceremony





2025 Pride Parade

A year of impact and connection

The year was marked by unwavering commitment to student success and well-being, staff support and community engagement. Trustees also carried out their responsibilities as liaisons to schools and civic agencies, encouraging collaboration that benefits all learners and interest holders. These collective

efforts reflect a steadfast dedication to enhancing educational outcomes and nurturing a strong sense of community. As the year concludes, the Board remains committed to building on these achievements and continuing to serve with integrity, vision and inclusiveness – always keeping students at the center.

Work in action

