

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 7:00pm

The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) met in room 114 (the Boardroom), VSB Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 7:00pm. The meeting was live streamed.

**Trustees Present:** Victoria Jung, Chairperson  
Janet Fraser, Vice-Chairperson  
Lois Chan-Pedley  
Alfred Chien  
Preeti Faridkot  
Suzie Mah  
Jennifer Reddy  
Christopher Richardson  
Joshua Zhang  
Freddie Zhang (Student Trustee)

**Senior Team Members Present:** Helen McGregor, Superintendent of Schools  
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer  
Pedro da Silva, Associate Superintendent  
Maureen McRae-Stanger, Associate Superintendent  
Janis Myers, Associate Superintendent  
Alison Ogden, Associate Superintendent  
Daniel Blue, Executive Director, Finance  
Michael Gray, Executive Director, Employee Services  
Jessie Gresley-Jones, Executive Director, Facilities

**Also Present:** Patricia MacNeil, Communications Director  
Judy Mah, Executive Coordinator (Recorder)

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### 1.1. Land Acknowledgement

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and acknowledged with deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### 1.2. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed members of the audience to the meeting including journalism students from Langara College. She reviewed meeting decorum, and the process for submitting questions to the Board during question period, then encouraged all participants to put their phones away or on silent to ensure effective engagement and interactive discussion.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson noted that it was the first board meeting of the 2025-2026 school year and recognized the work of VSB school and district staff in preparing for the new year. She highlighted the significance of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, reflected on the Commission's Calls-to-Action, and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to reconciliation. The Chairperson concluded her remarks with an update on board meetings, informing the audience and viewers that regular public board meetings would now be held on the last Wednesday of the month with the meeting agenda published one week ahead on the Wednesday

prior to the board meeting. She also noted that public delegation board meetings would be scheduled the Monday before the board meeting.

Trustee Mah raised a point of order to inquire on the process by which audience members without access to a device could submit questions during the public question period, which was listed as item 11 on the agenda. The Board Chair explained the process for submitting questions during the public question period and noted that staff would follow up and inform the Board how audience members without devices could participate in the process.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by V. Jung, seconded by J. Zhang, that the agenda be approved as presented.**

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the agenda was approved as presented.

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **3.1 Meeting of June 23, 2025**

**Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by A Chien, that the minutes of the June 23, 2025 Board meeting be adopted.**

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the minutes were

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **4. SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF STUDENT TRUSTEE, FREDDIE ZHANG**

The Secretary Treasurer administered the declaration of office for student trustee elect, Freddie Zhang. The Chair welcomed Freddie Zhang as the student trustee for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **4.1. Student Trustee Report**

The Student Trustee introduced himself to the Board and presented the first report of the term. He shared a brief update from the Vancouver District Students' Council (VDSC), informing the Board of the following:

- VDSC's introduction to VSB students via a video presentation.
- VDSC's first general meeting, attended by student representatives from 18 secondary schools.
- Junior executive elections to be held in late October 2025.

## **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

### **5.1. Superintendent's Highlights**

The Superintendent shared a presentation that highlighted recent events and achievements for the District, and their alignment with the VSB Education Plan, including the following:

- Superintendent's tribute and recognition for positive contributions from Geoff Pearmain, VSB Grounds Supervisor.
- Back to school updates highlighting the new Henry Hudson Playground, VSB participation in the annual Vancouver Pride Parade, and VSB's launch of the October Cybersecurity Awareness Month Campaign for all students and staff.
- Engaging with families through VSB After the Bell podcasts including the past episode on Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) and a two-part episode in October on preparing families for post secondary

processes. She also highlighted the new Family and Community Information Page on the Our District tab of the VSB website and the year-end VSB Voices Report, which will summarize the engagements completed in the 2024-2025 school year.

- Student Leadership noting that applications for both elementary and secondary students had opened and the work of staff and students to co-develop a Student Agency Framework.
- The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and the District's ongoing commitment to meaningful learning through community walks, workshops, cultural sharing and art such as the Killarney Secondary School's Truth and Reconciliation Weaving project.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **6.1. EDUCATION PLAN COMMITTEE**

#### **6.1.1 Report: Meeting of September 10, 2025**

The Chairperson of the Committee, A. Chien, presented the report of the September 10, 2025 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Annual Report
- School Learning Plans

**Moved by A. Chien, seconded by C. Richardson, that the report of the September 10, 2025 meeting be received.**

The Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **6.1.2 Matters Arising**

##### **6.1.2.1 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Annual Report**

**Moved by A. Chien, seconded by P. Faridkot, that the Board approve the VSB Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Annual Report 2024-2025 for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by October 1, 2025.**

Trustees provided comments and asked questions and staff provided clarifying responses.

The Chairperson responded to a trustee's question by informing the Board that FESL informed Advocacy would be added as an item to the agenda of the October 8, 2025 Advocacy Subcommittee meeting. In response to a trustee's question, Associate Superintendent McRae-Stanger reported that any updates to the data provided by the Ministry would be shared with trustees throughout the year at the Education Plan Committee and FESL Advisory Committee meetings.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion that was on the floor.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **6.1.2.2 School Learning Plans**

**Moved by A. Chien, seconded by C. Richardson, that the Board in accordance with section 8.3 (1) of the *School Act*, approve the school learning plans and direct the Superintendent of Schools to make the school learning plans available to parents/guardians of students attending each school in the Vancouver school district.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.2. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**6.2.1 Matters Arising**

The Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, Trustee Jung informed the Board that she had chaired the September 10, 2025 Audit Committee meeting in the Committee Chair's absence, then presented the matters arising from the meeting.

**6.2.1.1 Audited Financial Statements June 30, 2025**

**Moved by V. Jung, seconded by P. Faridkot, that the Board approve the Audited Financial Statements of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) for the year ended June 30, 2025.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3. FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**6.3.1 Report: Meeting of September 17, 2025**

The Chairperson of the Committee, J. Fraser, presented the report of the September 17, 2025 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- Audited Financial Statements June 30, 2025
- Recruitment Update
- Wellness and Occupational Health and Safety Update

**Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by P. Faridkot, that the report of the September 17, 2025 meeting be received.**

Following discussion, the Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3.2 Matters Arising**

The committee chair informed the Board that there were no matters arising from the September 17, 2025 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting.

**6.4. FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**6.4.1 Report: Meeting of September 17, 2025**

The Chairperson of the Committee, P. Faridkot, presented the report of the September 17, 2025 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- 2026-2027 Minor Capital Plan
- Downtown Catchment Boundary Change Process

**Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by S. Mah, that the report of the September 17, 2025 meeting be received.**

Following discussion, the Chairperson asked if there were any trustees not in support of the motion. There being none, the motion was

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6.4.2 Matters Arising**

### **6.4.2.1 2026-2027 Minor Capital Plan**

**Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by J. Fraser, that the Board approve the 2026-2027 Minor Capital Plan for submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure.**

A trustee asked a question and staff responded. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Chairperson announced the online link for submitting questions to the meeting would now be closed.

## **7. REPORT ON PRIVATE SESSION**

### **7.1 Special Meeting of August 27, 2025**

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the October 1, 2025 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of August 27, 2025 the Board discussed a legal matter.

### **7.2 Special Meeting of September 24, 2025**

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the October 1, 2025 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of September 24, 2025 the Board discussed a legal matter and approved a motion for the Board to direct staff to restart the public engagement process for the potential closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School as set out in Board Policy 14 – School Closure.

The Board Chair reported that information regarding the engagement for the Consideration of Closure for Carleton Elementary School is available on the VSB website.

### **7.3 Meeting of October 1, 2025**

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the October 1, 2025 Public Meeting that, at the Private Session of October 1, 2025 the Board discussed and approved a motion to conclude the process to consider the potential declaration of the eastern portion of the Graham Bruce Community Elementary school site as surplus to the educational needs of the school district and no further action be taken regarding its subdivision or disposal.

The Chairperson informed the audience that the October 1, 2025 Private Board meeting had not yet concluded and that the report out for this meeting would be completed at the October 29, 2025 Public Board meeting.

## **8. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**8.1 Report from Trustee Fraser** on the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting held on May 26, 2025.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Britannia Centre Pool Building Lease Bylaw 2025**

The Secretary Treasurer presented a report, titled ***Britannia Centre Pool Building Lease Bylaw 2025***, a copy of which was on file with the meeting agenda. She reported that the legal documentation for the Britannia Centre Pool Building Lease had been reviewed by the Board at the October 1, 2025 Private Board meeting and that the recommendation for the Board to consider the bylaw for the lease of 10 years less a day to the City of Vancouver would be presented at the October 1, 2025 Public Board meeting. She informed trustees that extending the lease would enable the City of Vancouver to continue with the maintenance of the pool that exists on the jointly owned site.

Trustees provided comments, then considered the recommendation in the report.

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by J. Fraser, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Britannia Centre Pool Building Lease Bylaw 2025 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by C. Richardson, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Britannia Centre Pool Building Lease Bylaw 2025 be:

Read a first time the 1st day of October, 2025;

Read a second time the 1st day of October, 2025;

Read a third and final time, passed and adopted this 1st day of October, 2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Chair called a recess at 7:58am. The meeting resumed at 8:20pm.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION - None**

**11. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

The Chairperson reminded viewers of the guidelines for receiving questions at public question period, noting that public question period is intended for members of the public to ask questions pertaining to Governance. Questions that are operational should be addressed at the school level or with district staff. She also noted that stakeholders have a different venue by which they can ask the Board questions such as at committee meetings where stakeholder representatives are in attendance.

She reviewed the questions that were received during the public question period including the following:

- Procedures to support students that are enrolled in the school district, but chronically absent.
- Motion regarding board procedures and policies.
- Ministry of Education and Child Care’s Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).
- Budget for educational assistants, noting that this information was included in the Financial Statements Discussion and Analysis report in the October 1, 2025 Public Board agenda.

She also noted that an operational question was received pertaining to classroom teacher absences.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:26 pm.

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Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

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Victoria Jung, Chairperson