Vancouver School Board

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 7:01pm

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, April 29, 2026, at 7:01pm. 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 Michael Gray, Executive Director, Employee Services Jessie Gresley-Jones, Executive Director, Facilities Lorelei Russell, Executive Director, Finance
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. She 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 səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

1.2. Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed members of the audience to the meeting. She reviewed meeting decorum, and the process for submitting questions to the Board during question period. She noted that members of the audience could also submit questions for the Public Question Period using the device available in the boardroom. She 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 informed the Board that she had attended the Lapu-Lapu Day of Togetherness along with many of her fellow trustees. She noted the cultural pride, resilience and unity demonstrated throughout the event and acknowledged the challenges experienced by many in both the school and broader communities during this time.

She expressed gratitude for the valuable input received from inherent rights holders, stakeholder groups, staff, students, their families and the wider community as well as the contributions of her fellow trustees throughout the Financial Planning Process.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by S. Mah, 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 Special Public Delegation Meeting of February 23, 2026
3.2 Board Meeting of February 25, 2026
3.3 Special Board Meeting of March 16, 2026
3.4 Special Board Meeting of April 7, 2026
3.5 Special Board Meeting/Committee of the Whole of April 13, 2026
3.6 Special Public Delegation Meeting of April 15, 2026
3.7 Special Board Meeting of April 20, 2026
3.8 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Special Public Delegation Board meeting, February 25, 2026 Board meeting, March 16, 2026 Special Board meeting, April 7, 2026 Special Board meeting, April 13, 2026 Special Board/Committee of the Whole meeting, April 15, 2026 Special Public Delegation Board meeting, April 20, 2026 Special Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

4.1. 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.

She presented the Superintendent's tribute and recognized the positive contributions and leadership from Darko Kulic, volunteer basketball coach from King George Secondary School.

She acknowledged the difficulties experienced by many students, families, staff and members of the Filipino Community impacted by last year's tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival. She thanked VSB staff for supporting students and the school community during this difficult period and encouraged families to reach out to their school principal if additional support was needed.

She then highlighted the following under the Superintendent's Highlights:

- Indigenous Focus Day, a district-wide professional development day, that took place on Monday, April 20, 2026.
- Alternative education highlights including the opening of Earth Spirit Healing Garden on April 17, 2026 and the Alternative Programs Art Show held from April 21 to 24, 2026.
- Sustainability at VSB noting that the VSB's Environmental Sustainability Plan had been updated in 2026, VSB's work with BC Parks on a number of projects, and other sustainability updates within the VSB.
- Career programs including the kick off of education week and celebration of the Early Childhood Educator dual credit program offered at Langara College with Minister of Education Lisa Beare.
- Connecting with families through an episode of VSB's After the Bell Podcast that featured information on summer learning opportunities; two facilitated focus groups with families featuring information on digital and media; and an upcoming information session in June with Media Smarts on the topic of Building Better Tech Habits.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1. FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5.1.1 Report: Meeting of April 8, 2026

The Chairperson of the Committee, J. Fraser, presented the report of the April 8, 2026 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- Summer Learning Fees
- Draft 2026-2027 Financial Plan

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by C. Richardson, that the report of the April 8, 2026 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

5.1.2 Matters Arising

5.1.2.1 Summer Learning Fees

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that the Board approve the following 2026 Summer Learning fees:
• Non-resident Student Summer Learning fee of $1,090 for preview, review, and ELL courses,
• Non-resident Student Summer Learning fee of $2,175 for grade 10-12 completion courses,
• Elementary fee-paying course fee of $425.

Trustee Fraser noted that the summer learning fees being considered in the motion applied to non-resident students and for summer learning courses that are not funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Trustees provided comments.

CARRIED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, J. Fraser, S. Mah, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: J. Reddy
Abstained: P. Faridkot

5.1.2.2 2026-2027 Financial Plan and 2026-2027 Annual Budget Bylaw

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by P. Faridkot, that the Board approve the 2026-2027 Financial Plan.

Trustee Fraser provided rationale for the motion. Trustees provided comments and shared their views regarding the 2026-2027 Financial Plan.

CARRIED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by C. Richardson, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw 2026/2027 be given three readings at this meeting.

DEFEATED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy

The Chairperson informed the Board that since unanimous consent was not received to conduct all three readings of the Annual budget Bylaw 2026/2027 at the April 29, 2026 Board meeting, a separate meeting would be held on April 30, 2026 to consider the final reading of the bylaw.

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by C. Richardson, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Annual Budget Bylaw 2026/2027 be:
Read a first time the 29th day of April, 2026;
Read a second time the 29th day of April, 2026;

CARRIED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy

5.2. FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

5.2.1 Report: Meeting of April 8, 2026

The Chairperson of the Committee, P. Faridkot, presented the report of the April 8, 2026 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD39-01
- 2026-2027 Annual Facilities Grant Spending Plan
- Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary Easement Agreement
- New Elementary School at Olympic Village Update

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by A. Chien, that the report of the April 8, 2026 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

5.2.2 Matters Arising

5.2.2.1 Capital Bylaw No. 2026/27-CPSD39-01

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by S. Mah, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No.2026/27-CPSD39-01 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Capital Bylaw No.2026/27-CPSD39-01 be:
Read a first time this 29th day of April, 2026;
Read a second time this 29th day of April, 2026;
Read a third and final time, passed and adopted this 29th day of April, 2026.

Trustees provided comments then voted on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2.2.2 2026-27 Annual Facilities Grant Spending Plan

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by C. Richardson, that the Board approve the 2026-2027 Annual Facilities Grant Expenditure Plan for submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2.2.3 Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School Parking Access Easement Bylaw 2026

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School Parking Access Easement Bylaw 2026 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

Trustee Reddy requested that the motion be referred back to the Facilities Planning Committee.

Moved by J. Reddy, seconded by S. Mah, that the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School Parking Access Easement Bylaw 2026 be referred back to the Facilities Planning Committee in order for staff to undertake a study of the traffic and safety impact on the Fleming school grounds of the proposed easement including a full consultation with the school community on:

- **the use of the portion of the school lands currently being used as a surface parking lot;**
- **a full assessment of parking needs and whether both a parkade and a surface parking lot are required;**
- **the comparative commercial/market value of a parking access easement;**
- **safety concerns relating to the use of the property by students of the school;**
- **any other matters relating to the use of the property by students of the school; and**
- **any other matters relating to the proposed easement;**
- **all of which is necessary to fully inform the board of trustees before a vote is taken on the new bylaw.**

Trustee Reddy provided rationale for the referral motion, and discussion ensued. Board members asked questions and staff responded. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

DEFEATED

For: S. Mah, J. Reddy
Against: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang

Trustees returned to the main motion, that had been moved and seconded.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School Parking Access Easement Bylaw 2026 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

DEFEATED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School Parking Access Easement Bylaw 2026 be:
Read a first time the 29th day of April, 2026;
Read a second time the 29th day of April, 2026;

CARRIED

For: A. Chien, L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy

6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

The student trustee presented a report highlighting recent activities and upcoming key initiatives for the Vancouver District Students' Council (VDSC) for the 2025-2026 school year. He reported on recent VDSC activities, including updates from student representatives on school events such as carnivals, Indigenous Focus Day, dance tournaments, and Earth Day celebrations.

He informed the Board that the feedback received from the student budget survey noted the need for clearer information on the process for obtaining support services. He highlighted the VDSC's efforts in supporting student wellbeing through collaboration with staff to share mental health resources and the development of a "mindfulness minute" toolkit for classroom use. Additional updates included VDSC's senior executive team participation in the Lower Mainland Student Government Symposium, upcoming Senior Executive elections on May 26th, and preparations for the 9th Annual Arts Gala themed "What Comfort Looks Like for Students."

Trustees provided comments and asked questions, and the student trustee responded.

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

7. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairperson thanked Trustee Faridkot for submitting a liaison trustee report for the Women's Advisory Committee, noting that one of the items discussed at that meeting pertained to child care, a topic that was also very important for the VSB.

7.1 Report from Trustee Faridkot on the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on February 10, 2026.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 John Henderson Annex Lease Bylaw 2026

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by P. Faridkot, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) John Henderson Annex Lease Bylaw 2026 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

Trustee Faridkot provided rationale for the motion and discussion ensued. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

DEFEATED

For: L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson,
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy
Abstained: A. Chien, J. Zhang

The Board Chair informed trustees that unanimous consent was not received to conduct three readings of the bylaw at the April 29, 2026 Board meeting and that the Board would now proceed with two readings of the John Henderson Annex Lease Bylaw 2026.

Moved by V. Jung, seconded by L. Chan-Pedley, that School District No. 39 (Vancouver) John Henderson Annex Lease Bylaw 2026 be:
Read a first time the 29th day of April, 2026;
Read a second time the 29th day of April, 2026;

CARRIED

For: L. Chan-Pedley, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, V. Jung, C. Richardson
Against: S. Mah, J. Reddy
Abstained: A. Chien, J. Zhang

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Chair noted that there were no notices of motion received for the meeting then called a recess at 8:26 pm. Trustees Chan-Pedley and Zhang left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:41 pm.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

The Chairperson informed the board that three budget related questions were received during the public question period pertaining to the following:

- Budget development process in relation to early intervention and inclusive education supports.
- The reporting and management of legal fees related to ongoing court cases.
- The cost associated with specialized programs and the extent to which the District's Inclusive Education framework aligns with current best practices.

11. REPORT ON PRIVATE SESSION

11.1 Special Meeting of March 11, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of March 11, 2026, the Board discussed a legal matter.

11.2 Special Meeting of March 16, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of March 16, 2026, the Board discussed a personnel matter and completed the Performance Review and Growth Plan for the Superintendent in accordance with Board Policy 12.

11.3 Special Meeting of March 17, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of March 17, 2026, the Board discussed a legal matter.

11.4 Special Meeting of March 30, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of March 30, 2026, the Board discussed an appeal matter.

11.5 Special Meeting of April 1, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of April 1, 2026, the Board discussed an appeal matter.

11.6 Special Meeting of April 13, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the April 29, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of April 13, 2026, the Board discussed personnel, property, legal matters and business interests.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:45 pm.

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer	Victoria Jung, Chairperson