Vancouver School Board

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 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, May 27, 2026, at 7:00pm. The meeting was live streamed.

Trustees Present:	Victoria Jung, Chairperson Janet Fraser, Vice-Chairperson Alfred Chien Preeti Faridkot Suzie Mah Christopher Richardson Joshua Zhang Freddie Zhang (Student Trustee)
Trustees Absent with Regrets:	Lois Chan-Pedley Jennifer Reddy
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 Jessie Gresley-Jones, Executive Director, Facilities Lorelei Russell, Executive Director, Finance
Also Present:	Jiana Chow, Communications Manager 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 acknowledged Red Dress Day and the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People and recognized May as Mental Health Awareness Month. She noted that schools across the District were entering the final month of the school year, with year-end activities, celebrations of learning, and graduation preparations underway. On behalf of the Board, she extended best wishes to graduating students and thanked educators, support staff, and administrators for their ongoing support of students. She thanked Student Trustee Freddie Zhang and Vancouver District Students' Council executives for joining trustees for dinner on May 27, 2026.

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 UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Board Meeting of April 29, 2026
3.2 Special Board Meeting of April 30, 2026
3.3 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by S. Mah, that the minutes of the April 29, 2026 Board meeting and April 30, 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 from community partner, the Sarah McLachlan School of Music.

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

- Red Dress Day and May 5th National Day of Awareness and Action for Missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and two spirit people.
- Celebration of the Grade 7 Moving Forward Ceremony on May 20, 2026.
- 2nd Annual Student Plant Communities Film Festival held on May 4, 2026, followed by a showcase of films by secondary students at the Vancouver District Film Festival.
- 2026 Provincial Skills Competition with VSB students winning four gold, five silver and four bronze medals in workplace safety, Fashion technology, architectural computer-aided design and drafting (CADD), carpentry and many others.
- Accessibility at VSB with VSB students participating in the inaugural OneAbility Games at the Richmond Olympic Oval from May 13-17, 2026 and the Eastside Life Skills Event at Windermere Secondary on May 22, 2026.
- The District's After the Bell podcast featuring sustainability education and an upcoming episode on Microsoft Co-Pilot 13 Plus for students.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1. EDUCATION PLAN COMMITTEE

5.1.1 Report: Meeting of May 6, 2026

The Chairperson of the Committee, A. Chien, presented the report of the May 6, 2026 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- School Codes of Conduct - Personal Digital Devices
- Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) – Updates on Human and Social Development

Moved by A. Chien, seconded by J. Fraser, that the report of the May 6, 2026 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

5.1.2 Matters Arising

5.1.2.1 School Codes of Conduct - Personal Digital Devices

Moved by A. Chien, seconded by C. Richardson, that the Board defer consideration of the motion at this time and request that additional refinements be made to clarify key elements of the proposed direction, in order to support informed Board decision-making.

Trustees provided comments and asked questions, and Trustee Chien and staff provided clarifying responses.

In response to a trustee's inquiry, the Superintendent informed the Board that an update on personal digital devices could be provided to the Education Plan Committee in spring 2027, after refinements and proposed strategies are implemented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2. FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5.2.1 Report: Meeting of May 13, 2026

The Chairperson of the Committee, J. Fraser, presented the report of the May 13, 2026 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- School Fee Schedules for 2026-2027
- 2025-2026 Third Quarter Financial Update

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by C. Richardson, that the report of the May 13, 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

5.1.2.2 School Fee Schedules for 2026-2027

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by J. Zhang, that the Board approve the school fee schedules for the 2026-2027 school year.

Trustee Fraser reported that the school fee schedules contain the school district's financial hardship clause.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

5.3.1 Report: Meeting of May 13, 2026

In the Chairperson's absence, the vice-chairperson of the Committee, S. Mah, presented the report of the May 13, 2026 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report includes information on the following items:

- Evaluation of the School Liaison Officer Program
- Receipt of Advocacy Subcommittee Report
- Draft Policy Review - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses Policy

Moved by S. Mah, seconded by C. Richardson, that the report of the May 13, 2026 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

Under matters arising from the May 13, 2026 Policy and Governance Committee meeting, Trustee Mah asked for another trustee to move the recommendation for Policy 6 – Trustee Remuneration and Expenses, so that she could speak on the motion.

5.3.2 Matters Arising

5.3.2.1 Policy 6 – Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by P. Faridkot, that the Board approve Policy 6 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses and further that the Board rescind trustee remuneration and expenses guidelines set out in Appendix B of Policy 7 - Board Operations.

Trustees provided comments pertaining to the motion.

Trustee Mah asked to move a motion to postpone consideration of the approval of Policy 6 until December 2026.

Moved by S. Mah, seconded by J. Fraser, that the Board postpone consideration of the approval of Policy 6 – Trustee Remuneration and Expenses until December 2026.

Trustees provided comments and engaged in discussion pertaining to the proposed amendment to the motion.

At the Board Chair's request, the Secretary Treasurer clarified that, under the draft policy, any review of trustee remuneration and approval of revised compensation levels would occur in the final year of each board term and would apply to the subsequent board. Any changes approved by this Board would only apply to remuneration and expenses for the trustees elected in October 2026.

Following discussion, trustees voted on the amendment to the motion.

That the Board postpone consideration of the approval of Policy 6 – Trustee Remuneration and Expenses until December 2026.

DEFEATED

For: S. Mah
Against: A. Chien, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, S. Mah, C. Richardson, J. Zhang

Trustees returned to the main motion. Following discussion, trustees voted on the motion.

That the Board approve Policy 6 - Trustee Remuneration and Expenses and further that the Board rescind trustee remuneration and expenses guidelines set out in Appendix B of Policy 7 - Board Operations.

CARRIED

For: A. Chien, P. Faridkot, J. Fraser, S. Mah, C. Richardson, J. Zhang
Against: S. Mah

Trustee Mah reported that there was a recommendation from the November 12, 2025 meeting concerning Policy 18 - Student Trustee.

5.3.3 Matters Arising from November 12, 2025 Meeting

5.3.2.2 Policy 18: Student Trustee

Moved by S. Mah, seconded by C. Richardson, that the Board approve Board Policy 18: Student Trustee.

Trustee Fraser informed the Board of a minor error in section 6.3, noting that the wording, "out of" should be added before the word "district" in the sentence, "attending one **out of** district conference opportunity per school year,"

Trustee Mah asked to move an amendment to the motion.

Moved by S. Mah, seconded by V. Jung, that the Board approve Board Policy 18: Student Trustee with section 6.3 being amended to include "out of District".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustees returned to the main motion as amended.

That the Board approve Board Policy 18: Student Trustee with section 6.3 amended to include "out of District".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In response to a trustee's question about obtaining the VSB-specific data from the School Liaison Officer (SLO) Report presented at the May 13, 2026 Policy and Governance Committee meeting, the Superintendent informed the Board that this information would be shared publicly on the VSB website at the end of June 2026, once it has been received from the party that had prepared the report.

In response to a trustee's procedural question, the Board Chair noted that requests to add items to a meeting agenda should be referred to the Agenda Setting Committee for review and approval.

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 the continued growth of student leadership across the District, highlighting initiatives such as spirit day activities, mental health focused art showcases, cultural celebrations, indoor track meets, and Red Dress Day commemorations. He also shared updates from the City of Vancouver's proclamation of Child and Youth Mental Health Day, the launch of the VDSC's Annual Arts Gala, featuring the theme, What Comfort Looks Like for Students, preparations for the Student Leadership Grants Showcase, and the conclusion of elections for next year's Senior Executive Team. The student trustee concluded his presentation by sharing his experience from the Ontario Student Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting.

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

The Board Chair recognized Student Trustee Freddie Zhang for his contributions and congratulated him on his re-election as Student Trustee for a second year.

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

7. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

7.1 Report from Trustee Fraser on the City of Vancouver Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting held on March 30, 2026.

The Chairperson thanked Trustee Fraser for submitting a liaison trustee report for the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items under New Business.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion submitted for the meeting.

The Chair called a break at 8:25 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:49 pm

10. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

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

- Educational Assistants Leave Provisions
- Social media claims regarding PE and Music Programs, noting that families with concerns are encouraged to contact their principal
- Supports for bullying and racism
- Student engagement and personal digital devices
- Meeting procedures and the Chair's Role

11. REPORT ON PRIVATE SESSION

11.1 Meeting of April 29, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the May 27, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of April 29, 2026, the Board discussed personnel, property, legal matters and business interests.

11.2 Special Meeting of April 29, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the May 27, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of April 29, 2026, the Board discussed bargaining matters;
And,
That at the Special Private Session of April 29, 2026, Trustee Faridkot recused herself from the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest.

11.3 Special Meeting of May 25, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the May 27, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of May 25, 2026, the Board discussed an appeal matter.

11.4 Meeting of May 27, 2026

The Board authorized the Board Chair to report to the May 27, 2026 Public Meeting that, at the Special Private Session of May 27, 2026, the board discussed personnel, property, legal matters, business interests, bargaining matters, and approved a revised policy 14 school closure;
And,
That at the private session of May 27, 2026, Trustee Faridkot recused herself from part of the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest.

The Chairperson also noted that the revised Policy 14 was now available on the website.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:55 pm.

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer	Victoria Jung, Chairperson