

# NOTICE OF MEETING

## POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Secretary Treasurer's Office  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025  
Public viewing via live broadcast

Lois Chan-Pedley (Chair)  
Suzie Mah (Vice-Chair)  
Janet Fraser  
Jennifer Reddy

Helen McGregor, Superintendent of Schools  
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

### Notice of Meeting

A Meeting of the Policy and Governance Committee will be held in room 180 of the VSB Education Centre (1580 West Broadway, Vancouver BC) for participating trustees, staff, inherent rights holder representatives, and stakeholder representatives on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be live broadcast for the public.

Other Trustees:	Christopher Richardson (Alternate) Victoria Jung Preeti Faridkot	Alfred Chien Joshua Zhang (Alternate)
Student Trustee:	Athena Yu	
Other Senior Team Staff:	Daniel Blue Pedro da Silva Michael Gray Jessie Gresley-Jones	Maureen McRae-Stanger Pete Nuij Alison Ogden
Inherent Rights Holder Representatives:	Faye Mitchell, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Kirsten Baker-Williams, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) Kirsten Touring, səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)	
Representatives:	Suzette Magri, CUPE 15  Henry Munns, CUPE 407 Ishi Dinim, DPAC Tim Chester, IUOE Hayden O'Connor, PASA Justin Chapman, BCVSBCMTU Sonia Blair, VASSA Freddie Zhang, VDSC  Trevor Wrinch, VEPVPA Carl Janze, VSTA	Alternates: Lorena Spencer, CUPE 15 (Alt 1) Chris Brown, CUPE 15 (Alt 2) Adam Crawford, CUPE 407  Tim De Vivo, IUOE Diane Peters, PASA  Angie Haveman, VASSA  Marjorie Dumont, VEAES Janine Lamb, VEPVPA John Silver, VSTA
Other Staff:	Chris Allen	

# POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 7:00 to 8:30pm  
Room 180, VSB Education Centre

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) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

The meeting is currently being broadcasted live, and both the audio and video recordings will be accessible to the public for viewing even after the meeting ends. Footage from this meeting may be viewed from Canada or anywhere else in the world.

## Meeting Decorum:

The Board has a strong commitment to ethical conduct. This includes the responsibility of committee members to conduct themselves with appropriate decorum and professionalism. As Chair of the Committee, it is my responsibility to see that decorum is maintained. To do that I ask that:

- i. All committee participants request to speak through the chair.
- ii. Civility towards others is maintained as committee participants share perspectives and participate in discussion.
- iii. Staff are able to submit objective reports without influence or pressure as their work is acknowledged and appreciated.
- iv. Committee participants refrain from personal inflammatory or accusatory language or action.
- v. Committee participants present themselves in a professional and courteous manner.

Please see reverse for the Purpose/Function and Power and Duties of this Committee.

### 1. Items for Approval

None

### Presenters

### 2. Information Items

#### 2.1 Receipt of Advocacy Subcommittee Reports

Suzie Mah, Advocacy Subcommittee Chair

##### 2.1.1 Meeting of March 12, 2025

##### 2.1.2 Meeting of May 7, 2025

### 3. Discussion Items

#### 3.1 Policy Review:

Policy 7 Board Operations and Policy 8 Board Committees

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer | CFO

## **Policy and Governance Committee**

### **A. Responsibilities:**

- A.1** Review the policy framework for the organization and make policy recommendations to the Board.
- A.2** Assess and make recommendations regarding Board governance structures.
- A.3** Ensure Board Policies are reviewed at least once in a four-year term and that compliance with legislation, regulations and legislative mandate is maintained.
- A.4** Review and make recommendations to the Board on the school district's compliance with legislative requirements.
- A.5** Annually review and recommend an Advocacy Plan to the Board that supports the achievement of the Board's strategic objectives.
- A.6** Review matters referred to the committee by the Board and make recommendations as requested.

# ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

## **Subcommittee Report to the Policy and Governance Committee, May 14, 2025**

The Chairperson of the subcommittee 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), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### **1. Advocacy Subcommittee Report January 22, 2025**

The Chairperson referred to the January 22, 2025 Advocacy Subcommittee meeting report that was received at the March 3, 2025 Policy and Governance Committee meeting and noted that it had been included in the agenda package along with the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) 2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan and a summary of Advocacy Tactics for discussion.

She allowed participants time to review the MECC Service Plan, then briefly explained that the meeting would begin with a discussion on the provincial budget and the Service Plan, followed by a review of the VSB Advocacy Plan goals, its alignment with the Ministry's Service Plan and how the VSB's advocacy tactics could be refined to align with the provincial priorities in Budget 2025.

### **2. Ministry of Education and Child Care Service Plan**

The Secretary Treasurer introduced the Ministry of Education and Child Care Service Plan. She briefly outlined the purpose of the Ministry's Service Plan and noted that the three year timeframe for the plan may include Ministry initiatives introduced in the first year but not implemented until later in the plan. She explained that the scope of responsibilities for the Ministry of Education and Child Care has since changed, noting that the K-12 education capital branch had moved to the Ministry of Infrastructure, while MECC remained responsible for Child Care capital.

Advocacy Subcommittee members engaged in small group discussions and dialogue to brainstorm how advocacy plan objectives align with the strategies reflected in the Ministry Service Plan to determine potential solutions and actions that could be proposed to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to achieve advocacy plan objectives.

The feedback from the subcommittee highlighted consistent themes between the Ministry Service Plan and the objectives of the VSB Advocacy Plan, including:

- Recruitment and Retention: strategies to recruit and retain education staff.
- Inclusive Education and Student Success: Strategies aimed at fostering inclusivity and success for all students, with an emphasis on making Indigenous support more explicit.
- Safe and Sustainable Facilities: Advocating for ongoing funding for afterschool care and to maintain and renew educational facilities, including guidelines for child care in classrooms.
- Equitable Funding: Commitment to maintaining funding that reflects inflation and supports all educational categories, including ELL (English Language Learners), and students with diverse abilities.

To achieve the advocacy plan objectives reflected in the Ministry of Education and Child Care's service plan, the participants discussed several ideas, including: leveraging existing facilities by evaluating and identifying priorities for closed spaces in schools; creating guidelines for classroom child care (including

cost estimates and practical considerations); mandating one professional learning day per school year as aligned with Service Plan Goal 2, Learning Environments Support Student Well-Being; and sharing effective practices and structures with community partners and agencies.

### 3. Advocacy Tactics

The Chairperson introduced Item 3, **Advocacy Tactics**, noting that on November 13, 2024, the Advocacy Subcommittee discussed and prioritized tactics for each objective in the Advocacy Plan.

Advocacy Subcommittee members participated in small group discussions to brainstorm enhancements to advocacy tactics aligning with provincial priorities identified in Budget 2025 and the Service Plan for the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

To better align VSB's advocacy tactics with provincial priorities outlined in Budget 2025 and the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Service Plan, participants suggested focusing on advocacy areas with shared benefits, particularly in school and child care environments; creating incentives for employment at the VSB; and developing a targeted advocacy message about recruitment and retention, informed by feedback and work from other committees such as the Inclusive Education Committee.

Participants also suggested that the Board should write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care expressing interest in joining the Integrated Child & Youth Teams initiative.

The discussions concluded with the suggestion that the VSB integrate truth and reconciliation into its advocacy tactics, possibly using the equity statement to guide VSB's approach and referencing both the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)..

The Chairperson informed subcommittee members that all feedback collected from the March 12, 2025 Advocacy Subcommittee meeting would be provided for information to the Policy and Governance Committee on May 14, 2025.

Before adjourning the meeting, she also noted that a letter had been received from the Minister of Education and Child Care in response to the Board's request that automated external defibrillator (AED)s be made available in public schools and district buildings in BC. She read the Minister's response, noting that while the District's commitment to the AED request was acknowledged, the Ministry would not be providing funding for this initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52pm.

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Suzie Mah, Chairperson

**Subcommittee Trustee Members Present:**

Suzie Mah (Chair)  
Christopher Richardson (Vice-Chair)  
Janet Fraser (Alternate)

**Senior Team Members Present:**

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer | CFO  
Pedro da Silva, Associate Superintendent  
Jessie Gresley-Jones, Executive Director Facilities  
Alison Ogden, Associate Superintendent

**Absent Senior Team Members:**

Helen McGregor, Superintendent | CEO  
*Absent due to Scheduling Conflict – Elders Gathering at  
Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).*

**Association and Inherent Rightsholder  
Representatives Present:**

Suzette Magri, CUPE 15  
Tim Chester, IUOE  
Tina Lau, PASA  
Sonia Blair, VASSA  
Jelleen Malit, VDSC  
Deena Kotak Buckley, VEPVPA  
Sara McGarry, VSTA

**Also Present:**

Donna Wong (Recorder)

# ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

## Committee Report to the Policy and Governance Committee, May 14, 2025

The Chairperson of the Committee 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), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### 1. Introduction

The Chairperson referenced the actions and strategies in the Advocacy Plan aimed at achieving the outlined objectives.

### 2. Advocacy Priorities for the Provincial Budget 2026 Consultation

The Chairperson summarized the provincial Budget 2026 Consultation process. In alignment with VSB's Advocacy Plan, VSB will submit written input to the BC. Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in June 2025.

Advocacy Subcommittee members engaged in small group discussion and dialogue to brainstorm key advocacy priorities across three main categories: equitable and sufficient funding for education, enhancing recruitment and retention, and improving facilities and infrastructure.

Participants recommended focusing on direct, inclusive, and equitable services for students, addressing SSA and resource teacher shortages, investing in technology, streamlining of provincial reporting requirements for grant funding and increasing fund usage flexibility.

Recruitment and staff retention priorities mentioned include creating career pathways for Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff into teaching, customizing programs to meet diverse needs of individuals looking to enter education related professions, and ensuring sufficient post-secondary training for education related professions.

Facilities and infrastructure priorities identified include increased annual facilities grant funding for ongoing maintenance, funding for new spaces considering neighbourhood growth projections, addressing safety and accessibility concerns across school sites, and creating updated, gender-neutral bathrooms in existing facilities.

### 3. Discussion on Board Motion

The Chairperson referred to the motion approved by the Board of Education at the May 5, 2025 Board meeting:

*THAT the Board direct the chair to write to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Ministry of Finance and Vancouver MLAs to advocate for full, sustainable funding for all provincial initiatives and that the letter be drafted with input from the Advocacy Subcommittee of the board.*

The Advocacy Subcommittee members held small group discussions to brainstorm the key components for a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Ministry of Finance, and Vancouver MLAs with a focus on effectively communicating the need for full, sustainable funding for all provincial initiatives and identifying follow-up actions.

Participants recommended emphasizing the need for sustainable, equitable, long-term funding for essential programs such as feeding futures, national school food program, early learning, child care, and StrongStart, highlighting the reliance of families and schools on these services. The letter should also highlight the need for reduced complexity of funding utilization rules and of reporting requirements for funding received. To amplify the message, supporting arguments with data, evidence, and compelling stories, and considering a joint submission with signatures from board, inherent rights holders, and stakeholders to send a united message was suggested.

The last meeting of the 2024-2025 school year adjourned at 3:48 pm.

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Suzie Mah, Chairperson

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**Subcommittee Trustee Members Present:**

Suzie Mah (Chair)  
Christopher Richardson (Vice-Chair)  
Lois Chan-Padley (Member)  
Janet Fraser (Alternate)

**Senior Team Members Present:**

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer | CFO  
Helen McGregor, Superintendent | CEO

**Association and Inherent Rightsholder  
Representatives Present:**

Suzette Magri, CUPE 15  
Tina Lau, PASA  
Sonia Blair, VASSA  
Jelleen Malit (Student), VDSC  
Marjorie Dumont, VEAES  
Sara McGarry, VSTA  
Kirsten Touring, səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)  
Luzetta George Grant, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam)  
Sherry Breshears, DPAC

**Also Present:**

Donna Wong (Recorder)  
Cornelia Haack



May 14, 2025

ITEM 3.3

**TO:** Policy and Governance Committee

**FROM:** Board of Education

**RE:** POLICY REVIEW – POLICY 7 BOARD OPERATIONS & POLICY 8 BOARD COMMITTEES

*Reference to  
Education Plan*

**GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES:**

Goal 1: The Vancouver School Board will improve student achievement, physical and mental well-being, and belonging by...

- Ensuring the alignment among school, district, and provincial education plans.

Goal 2: The Vancouver School Board will increase equity by...

- Improving stewardship of the district's resources by focusing on effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

## INTRODUCTION

At the March 3, 2025, Policy and Governance Committee meeting participants reviewed Policy 7 -Board Operations, Policy 8 – Board Committees and a motion referred from the November 25, 2024 Board Meeting: Democracy, Accountability and Public Participation at VSB Board and Committee Meetings.

At the March 10, 2025 Public Board meeting, the Board considered the motion referred from the November 25, 2024 Board Meeting: Democracy, Accountability and Public Participation at VSB Board and Committee Meetings. Trustees debated this motion and agreed unanimously to refer the motion from the November 25, 2024 Board Meeting, the amendments to this motion and the amendments to the amendments considered at the March 10, 2025 Board meeting to the Policy and Governance Committee for consideration and advice on policy changes.

At the May 5, 2025 Public Board meeting, the Board approved that the matter of collecting feedback on respectful communication and the matter of developing and/or updating guidelines for respectful stakeholder communications be referred to the Policy and Governance Committee for consideration.

## POLICY 7 REVIEW - SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Participants agreed that some aspects of the policy are outdated or inconsistent with current practice. In particular the policy uses outdated language, needs to be reviewed to ensure consistency with other Board policies and with applicable legislation. It was noted that the topics that can be discussed in private board meetings need to be reviewed to ensure compliance with applicable legislative framework and that needs to be a clear delineation in policy between items discussed in private board meetings and items discussed in public board meetings. It was also noted that there were inconsistencies between Policy 20 and Policy 7 that need to be resolved.

Participants provided suggestions for changes to the section of the policy that defines the format and rules for public delegation board meetings, including allowing delegates to speak multiple times on the same topic and allowing stakeholder group representatives to delegate.

Finally, it was noted that Roberts Rules can marginalize certain groups, and they can be used to silence voices. It was suggested that the Board should consider how meeting rules can be used appropriately and respectfully.

## **POLICY 8 REVIEW - SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK**

Participants identified that some areas of the current policy can be reworded and simplified (e.g. combine D1 and D4, use positive language).

It was noted that the current policy needs to be updated to define how subcommittees of board committees function. It was noted that the Finance and Personnel committee responsibility to “annually make recommendations to the Board regarding its submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services” should be transferred to the Advocacy Subcommittee. It was suggested that Section 4 – Ad Hoc Committees should specify membership and committee rights holder and stakeholder representatives.

Suggestions for improved effectiveness and clarity include more details about the agenda setting process and how agenda decisions are made and communicated.

Finally, some participants suggested that the personnel committee be reinstated, and that public in-person attendance be allowed at standing committees.

## **ORIGINAL REFERRED MOTION AND AMENDMENTS FROM MARCH 10**

The original motion referred from the November 25, 2024 Board meeting and the proposed amendments and amendments to the amendments presented at the March 10, 2025 Board meeting are detailed below.

### **Original Motion referred from November 25, 2024 Board meeting:**

Moved by J. Reddy, seconded by S. Mah, that the VSB acknowledges the important, valuable and necessary contributions to public education from rights holders, stakeholders, members of the public, students, families, and employee groups in Vancouver;

That the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- Allow members of the public to speak to agenda items either in person or online;
- Publish agendas for all meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting.

And that the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at standing committees and delegation meetings (Policy 7, 8):

- Allow members of the public to attend and/or choose to speak on agenda item either in person or online at committee meetings and delegation meetings (Policy 8);
- Ensure all discussions by trustees, rights holders and stakeholders in committees (including small group discussions) are live-streamed and minuted in detail so input can be widely shared;
- Allow rights holders and stakeholders including DPAC, VDSC, and union representatives to approve the agenda, and introduce new agenda items, information items, and/or new business at standing committee meetings;
- Ensure that all committee members can ask questions and receive answers at standing committee meetings on the public record (to further Policy 8), and specifically, improve participation and debate as provided by Policy 8;
- Reinstatement of the Personnel Committee as a stand-alone committee

And that the VSB enhance its public accountability (Policy 7):

- Restrict the decision-making role of Agenda Setting Committee to setting agendas only;
- Enforce policy 7, section 6.1 to restrict items being discussed in board private sessions to listed items in sections 6.1.1-6.1.12 only.

#### **Amendment to the motion**

Moved by P. Faridkot, seconded by A. Chien, that the VSB acknowledges the important, valuable and necessary contributions to public education from rights holders, stakeholders, members of the public, students, families, and employee groups in Vancouver;

That the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- Allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments on agenda items only, with each speaker given up to 2 minutes to speak in person.
- Publish agenda for Board meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting
- And that the VSB enhance opportunities for Stakeholders at standing committees
- Any new agenda items or additional content by Stakeholder must be submitted in advance, ensuring orderly discussion and preparation
- Ensure that all committee members can ask questions and receive answers at standing committee meetings on the public record if staff cannot respond during the meeting, answers will be provided via email
- And that the VSB enhance its public accountability (Policy 7):
- Restrict the decision-making role of Agenda Setting Committee to setting agendas only

**The Board approved the motion that the amendment to the motion be reviewed in seriatim.**

#### **Motion Part 2:**

That the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- ~~Allow members of the public to speak to agenda items either in person or online;~~
- Allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments on agenda items only, with each speaker given up to 2 minutes to speak in person.
- Public agendas for all Board meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting.

#### **Motion Part 2: amendment to the amendment (DEFEATED)**

Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by S. Mah, that the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- Allow members of the public to speak to agenda items either in person or online;
- ~~Allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments on agenda items only, with each speaker given up to 2 minutes to speak in person.~~
- Public agendas for all Board meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting.

#### **Motion Part 2:**

That the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- ~~Allow members of the public to speak to agenda items either in person or online;~~

- Allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments on agenda items only, with each speaker given up to 2 minutes to speak in person.
- Public agendas for all Board meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting.

#### **Motion Part 2: amendment to the amendment**

Moved by J. Reddy, seconded by S. Mah, that the VSB enhance opportunities for public input and public accountability at board meetings (Policy 7):

- ~~Allow members of the public to speak to agenda items either in person or online;~~
- Allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments, [either in person or online](#), on agenda items only, with each speaker given up to 2 minutes to speak in person.
- Public agendas for all Board meetings online one full week (7 days) prior to the meeting.

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

At the committee meeting participants will engage in small group discussions using the following guiding questions:

1. Which of the following options should the Board consider with respect to Public Delegations?
  - a. During Board meetings with an overall agenda item time limit 20 minutes (after the agenda is published) or as a separate meeting the same week as the board meeting (after the agenda is published) or make no changes?
  - b. What rules should be put in place to allow for the Board to hear input from the public on decisions being made each month?
    - i. Allow only delegations related to decision items on the public Board agenda and specific engagement processes underway (e.g. financial planning engagement process) or allow delegations on subjects pertinent to Board business (i.e. governance role of the board, budget)?
    - ii. Allow delegates to speak only once on a topic or multiple times or just one time?
    - iii. Allow delegates to speak for 5 minutes or reduce it to 2 minutes?
2. Should the board consider moving the regular board meeting to Wednesday to allow for public delegations to happen after the agenda is published and avoid the need to reschedule meetings if a statutory holiday occurs on Monday?
3. Should the board document the process for Board committee participants to submit questions in advance of the meeting so that staff can prepare and provide answers to the questions at the meeting?
4. Should the board establish in policy the process for participation in Board meetings and Public Delegation meetings through electronic means?
5. What should be included in the guidelines for stakeholder communications to ensure effective and respectful communication?

The information collected will be shared with the Board and will inform changes to Policy 7 and Policy 8.