

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37 (DELTA)

May 13, 2025

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DATE, TIME AND PLACE: May 13, 2025, 7:30 pm
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: J. Muego, Chairperson
V. Windsor, Vice-Chairperson
N. Daula
A. Dhillon
E. Beard
N. Kanakos

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
C. Bromley, Director, Information Technology Services
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
F. de Dios, Director, Facilities & Planning
D. Duff, Director of Human Resources
J. Duffin, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
J. Gray, Assistant Superintendent
K. Symonds, Director, International Student Programs

ABSENT: Trustees: M. Gooch

P. Klassen, Director, Learning Services – Inclusive Learning
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services - Education Programs
C. Tucker, Director of Communications

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Muego called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Chair Muego acknowledged the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band and of all the Hun'qumi'num speaking people who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial and offered his respect to all the Elders who have gone before us and to all Canadians who are on the journey of Reconciliation.

He also welcomed the education partners, thanked them for their participation and introduced them to the audience. There were 2 representatives from the DTA – President Alison Kerr and Adult Education representative Julie Kelly, and 2 representatives from the DPVPA – Vice Principal John Mann and Pro-D Chair Niels Nielsen and 3 from the CUPE team – President Daun Frederickson, Secretary-Treasurer Deb Kabesh and ESW Unit Chair Hannah Johnson

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M/S Trustee Daula / Trustee Dhillon

THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Karen Symonds, Director of International Student Programs, provided an update on recent developments and recognitions in the Delta School District's international education efforts.

She announced that the Delta School District has been awarded the 2025 StudyTravel Secondary School Award. Competing finalists included the Burnaby, Comox Valley, Greater Victoria, Nova Scotia, and Rocky Mountain School Districts. She expressed enthusiasm and pride in receiving this international recognition on behalf of the district.

She also attended several StudyTravel conferences during the school year, representing Delta School District. Conferences attended included Frankfurt, Mexico, Spain, Hong Kong, and London. The London event was noted as the largest secondary-focused conference globally, with 222 educators and 247 agents in attendance.

Karen represented the district at multiple ICEF (International Consultants for Education and Fairs) events focused on international student recruitment. Events attended in the current school year included Rome, Brazil, Miami, and Vancouver. Plans for the upcoming year include attending ICEF events in Berlin and Montreal.

Karen provided an overview of the Canadian Association of Public Schools – International (CAPS-I), a non-profit organization of 130 publicly funded school districts/boards supporting international education programs. She highlighted that CAPS-I sets national standards for high-quality international programs. Karen currently serves as a Board Director of CAPS-I, elected in 2024 for a two-year term.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S Trustee Daula / Vice Chair Windsor

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of April 29, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Dhillon reported on the following:

- April 24-26: Attended the BCSTA AGM and participated in a variety of informative presentations, particularly those focused on improving student outcomes. Participated in a short Provincial Council (PC) meeting in the capacity of our district's PC representative. Attended the Metro Vancouver Branch Meeting, which highlighted the unique pressures and budget constraints faced by surrounding school boards.
- April 28: Participated in a virtual meeting with Minister Beare and engaged in a productive conversation highlighting both the strengths and specific regional challenges of the Delta School District. Used the opportunity to inquire about government priorities regarding mental health education and healthy relationship education.
- May 8: Represented the board at REACH's McHappy Day fundraising event. Some notable VIPs in attendance were the Delta Fire Chief Guy McKintuck and newly elected MP and Cabinet Minister Jill McKnight. REACH reported raising approximately \$17,000 at the event.

Vice Chair Windsor reported on the following:

- May 1: Participated in a virtual meeting with the Minister of Education and Child Care regarding the Infrastructure Project Act. The purpose of the Act is to reduce project delays and accelerate construction timelines.
- May 2: McCloskey Elementary Heritage Fair Judging. Served as one of two adjudicators for student Heritage Fair projects from Grades 3/4 and 5/6. Two projects from each class were selected to move on to the May 9 Heritage Fair. Noted the high quality of student work and their enthusiasm in sharing their learning.
- May 3: Attended the 2nd Annual MCB (Mayor's Charity Ball) with Vice Chair Windsor, Director of Communications Cathryn Tucker, District Manager – Prevention and School Wellness Kirsten Hermanson, and Child and Youth Care Worker (CYCW) and artist Curtis Miller Joe. The event focused on fundraising for the Healthy Snacks Program, ensuring Delta students have access to nutritious food.
- May 7: Attended the DYAC Meeting hosted by Delta Secondary School. Discussed Unity in Community, exploring efforts to promote inclusive school cultures, strengthen peer relationships, and enhance student voice in decision-making.
- May 9: Attended the City of Delta Heritage Fair at the Discovery Centre in Ladner. Participated as an adjudicator for 26 student projects presented by 30 students from Grades 3–7 across Delta elementary schools. Projects explored a wide range of topics including Sir John A. Macdonald, BC Ferries, Residential Schools, the game of Cricket, and Poutine. Observed student growth and confidence as they passionately shared their learning. Praised the fair as an enriching educational experience for all involved.

Chair Muego reported on the following:

- May 2: Attended the Cougar Canyon Reading Day alongside various community members. Notable attendees included MLA Ravi Kahlon and Mayor George Harvie.
- May 3: Attended the 2nd Annual MCB (My Culture, My Brand) with Vice Chair Windsor, Director of Communications Cathryn Tucker, District Manager – Prevention and School Wellness Kirsten Hermanson, and Child and Youth Care Worker (CYCW) and artist Curtis Miller Joe. The event focused on youth voice, identity, and cultural celebration.
- May 5: Spoke at the School District's ceremonial raising of the Pride Flag at the Board Offices, which also included recognition of Red Dress Day. Event included a Coast Salish welcome song performed by Ledonna Hindmarch and her three children.
- May 5: Participated in the Audit Committee meeting alongside Trustees Daula and Beard. Received updates from Internal Reviewer Michelle Miller and Raj Dhiman, Manager of Financial Services.

SDSS TRACK PROJECT UPDATE

Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer provided a final version of the SDSS Field Enhancement Partnering Agreement for the Board of Education’s approval. They reviewed and considered the implications of this agreement.

M/S Vice Chair Windsor / Trustee Beard

THAT the SDSS Field Enhancement Partnering Agreement be approved as presented.

CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

No questions relating to agenda items were presented.

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

At the call of the Chair, the next scheduled meeting of the Delta School Board is June 17, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustee Daula/ Trustee Dhillon

THAT the Delta Board of Education Regular Board meeting of May 13, 2025, be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:02 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer