

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37 (DELTA)
JANUARY 6, 2026

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 6, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Main Boardroom, School Board Office, 4585 Harvest Drive, Delta

PRESENT: Trustees: J. Muego, Chairperson
E. Beard
N. Daula
M. Gooch

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
J. Gray, Assistant Superintendent

C. Bromley, Director, Information Technology Services
R. Dhiman, Director of Finance
D. Duff, Director of Human Resources
J. Duffin, Secretary-Treasurer
P. Klassen, Director, Learning Services – Inclusive Learning
P. McLoughlin, Director, Facilities & Planning
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services – Education Programs
K. Symonds, Director, International Student Programs
L. Tait, Director, Learning Services – Equity & Success

REGRETS: Trustees: A. Dhillon, Vice-Chairperson
N. Kanakos
V. Windsor

C. Tucker, Director of Communications

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Muego called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Chair Muego opened the meeting by acknowledging 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. He offered his respect to all the Elders who have gone before us and to all Canadians who are on the journey of Reconciliation.

Chairperson Muego introduced the following education partners attending the meeting, and thanked them for their participation:

- John Pavao, Principal, Delview Secondary School and President, Delta Principals & Vice-Principals Association
- Lauren Sortome, Local Representative, Delta Teachers' Association

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- Mahima Lamba, Political Action Chair, Delta Teachers' Association
- Jennifer Rak, DPAC Vice-Chair
- Angela Keulen, DPAC Chair
- Daun Frederickson, President, CUPE Local 1091
- Deb Kabesh, Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE Local 1091
- Hannah Johnson, ESW Unit Chair, CUPE Local 1091

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

M/S Trustees Daula/Gooch

THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Nicole Braid, District Principal provided an update on district-wide accessibility initiatives and outlined future priorities. The meeting focused on a progress report of accessibility initiatives across the Delta School District, aligned with the Accessibility Plan 2023–2026 and preparations for the Accessibility Plan 2026–2029. Through collaboration with district teams and community partners, the district is proactively planning to meet the accessibility needs of future students.

Accessibility work is aligned with key district frameworks and departments, including upholding and respecting human rights (JEAP), inclusive and inspiring learning environments, enhancing physical spaces, improving student access and participation, fostering inclusive workplaces, allocating funding for accessibility needs.

The following initiatives and structures support ongoing accessibility improvements:

- Physical Accessibility Audit: Comprehensive review of all district facilities completed in 2023
- Online Surveys: Parent, guardian, and student feedback collected to identify barriers and guide planning
- Accessibility Committee: Advises the district, identifies barriers, prioritizes initiatives, and invites community feedback
- Working Group: Cross-departmental collaboration to support implementation
- Policy Review: Evaluation of existing policies and practices to ensure inclusiveness

The 2 main goals highlighted are: Building readiness – provide accessibility to all, and Inclusive & Accessible Communication – inclusive attitudes and equitable policies for all students and staff.

The Delta School District has allocated \$100,000 from District Reserve funds to support accessibility initiatives. Funding assists schools in identifying barriers, supports the development of actionable accessibility plans, and encourages collaboration among students, families, staff, and local agencies.

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The committee will continue to monitor current initiatives through the 'Action Tracker', continue ongoing consultation with stakeholders, and develop the Accessibility Plan 2026–2029. The presentation was well-received, and the meeting concluded with acknowledgment of progress made by the committee, and the continued commitment to advancing accessibility across the district.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Karen Symonds, Director of International Programs, presented a report to review current international student enrollment data. She focused on current enrollment figures, student distribution across schools, and future projections for the 2026–2027 school year.

A current enrollment snapshot was presented, outlining international student headcount as of January 1 and providing a mid-year overview of enrollment trends, with data shared by school level and a particular focus on elementary schools. Information on school distribution highlighted which sites international students are attending, supporting district planning and resource allocation. The presentation also reviewed length-of-stay data, identifying trends in both short-term and longer-term enrollments, and outlined the top 14 countries of origin for applications to illustrate program diversity and inform recruitment and support strategies.

A total FTE comparison was shared to show enrollment trends over time, with discussion centered on how the program is tracking relative to expectations and implications for planning. Preliminary projections for the 2026–2027 school year were discussed, including considerations related to capacity, demand, and program sustainability.

The presentation concluded with qualitative reflections titled "And now for the REAL Stories!", emphasizing student experiences and the broader human impact of the program. A panel of students shared insights about their experiences in Delta – they were:

- MJ Kim - Delta Secondary
- Serin Kim – Seaquam
- Theo Prass - South Delta
- Moritz Salcher - North Delta

The ISP team will continue to monitor enrollment and FTE trends, using country-of-origin and length-of-stay data to guide planning and recruitment, and incorporating student experiences into future communications and reporting. The presentation was well-received.

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LITERACY UPDATE

Jason Hodgins, Early Learning Coordinator, provided an overview of Delta's literacy initiatives, emphasizing proactive teaching, prompt response to student struggles, and strengthening educators' understanding of how children learn to read. It highlights that proficient reading relies on automatic word recognition — "Proficient readers automatically recognize more than 30,000 words!"—and explains the role of orthographic mapping in connecting spelling, pronunciation, meaning, and letter sequences. Citing the Ontario Human Rights Commission, it reinforces that evidence-based screening is the most effective and reasonable way to identify struggling readers. The presentation outlines Delta's current literacy screening practices, including piloting Oral Reading Fluency for grades 1–7 and preparing for the Ministry's upcoming universal screening mandates for kindergarten (2025–26) and grades 1–3 (expected in 2026). It concludes by noting ongoing K–7 focus groups and directing educators to additional resources at <https://deltalearns.ca/elementaryliteracy>

John Pavao, Principal at Delview Secondary, outlined the school's renewed focus for 2025–2028 on strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy skills across all curricular areas as a way to deepen students' sense of academic belonging. Building on previous goals centered on student connection, engagement, and well-being—supported through events like *Thanks for Giving* and the *Terry Fox Run*—the school is now investigating whether targeted skill development can further enhance student success and connection to school. The update highlights ongoing work with Literacy Coordinator Tashi Kirincic, including the Science Department's implementation of Tier 1 literacy supports and school-wide professional learning. It also notes growing student involvement through DYAC and outlines next steps such as expanding Tier 1 literacy practices, exploring Tier 1 numeracy supports, using diagnostic tools to identify learning needs to reinforce foundational numeracy skills.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Daula/Gooch

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 9, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Gooch reported the following:

- November 5, 2025: attended the Delta Childcare Forum. The event was attended by participants from different areas in the community to inform, highlight initiatives and projects, review challenges, and create dialogue around Childcare needs in Delta.
- November 25, 2025: attended the Delta Youth Collaborative meeting online, which discussed the recent childcare forum, had a presentation on the Delta Parks and

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Recreation master plan, discussed childcare needs, barriers, and impacts on Delta residents.

- December 18, 2025: attended the Hawthorne Holiday concert. The teachers and students presented a fun holiday drama with a number of songs from the different grade divisions, which highlighted the school community concept of togetherness.

QUESTION PERIOD

No questions relating to agenda items were presented.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

February 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Beard/Daula

THAT the Delta Board of Education Regular Board meeting of January 6, 2025, be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: time 8:08 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer