

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**11:00 am, Tuesday, May 12, 2026**  
**School Board Office**

### **NOTES**

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Present: Gretchen Conti, Maureen Mason

Also in attendance: Paul McKenzie (Superintendent)

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The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1.a) **MOTION:** “THAT the Ad Hoc Committee agenda of May 12, 2026, be adopted.”

#### **2. STANDING COMMITTEES**

2.a) Prospective Candidate Information Session Planning

2.a.i) Feedback from April Committee of the Whole

The Committee reviewed feedback arising from the April 3 Committee of the Whole discussion, which informed refinements to the draft presentation and broader planning related to trustee candidate and public education awareness efforts.

2.a.ii) Draft Presentation for Discussion

The Committee discussed enhancements to the draft presentation and broader public awareness efforts related to trustee governance and the upcoming election.

Suggestions and discussion points included:

- Adding information about the trustee election process, including key dates and nomination timelines (September 1–11).
- Involving trustees as presenters to ensure trustee perspectives are represented, rather than relying solely on senior staff.
- Considering potential sensitivities if participating trustees may be seeking re-election, including perceptions of self-promotion, while noting the session would likely occur prior to formal candidate declarations.

- Framing the presentation using a macro-to-micro approach, beginning with public education governance in British Columbia and narrowing to the local board context.
- Strengthening presentation content to include:
  - The role of a trustee, including links to relevant policies
  - Public education governance in BC, including the School Act and BCSTA resources
  - Election timelines and nomination processes
  - Trustee time commitments, including meeting schedules, BCSTA Academy, AGM, and the variable nature of the role throughout the year
  - The Board work plan and realistic scope of trustee influence
  - Clarification of “what the role is / what the role is not” to address common misconceptions
- Emphasizing collective decision-making, team governance, and that individual trustees do not act or speak independently on behalf of the Board.
- Being explicit that single-issue advocacy is unlikely to be effectively advanced through trusteeship.
- Developing a staged trustee orientation following the election, aligned with upcoming governance responsibilities (e.g., financial learning closer to budget season).
- Exploring opportunities to engage stakeholder groups (qTA, CUPE, DPAC) in helping share information about the trustee role and dispel misconceptions.
- Considering public engagement opportunities, including trustee question-and-answer sessions, possible DPAC-hosted forums, and community media features.
- Ensuring candidate forums and public questions appropriately reflect the trustee governance role rather than operational matters.
- Involving Communications staff in planning outreach, public awareness, and event coordination.

Staff were asked to revise the slide deck based on Committee feedback and bring the updated materials forward to the June Ad Hoc Committee meeting, with subsequent sharing at Committee of the Whole.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.