



Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, B08Z 1E8
Phone (250) 478117 Fax (250) 478112

Katrina Stride– SecretaryTreasurer

TO: The Board of Education
FROM: Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer
DATE: January 29, 2024
RE: Student Connections

Background

connect with students on site at their school and engage in conversation around priorities for the 2024-2025 Budget.

Notes taken during these meetings were provided to Trustees. A summary of the themes emerging from these meetings are noted below.

Themes from Student Connections Meetings

- x Mental Health
 - o Counsellors important and very busy
 - o School counsellors more focused on course selection than mental health support
 - o Not enough counsellors for the number of students
 - o YFCs important, but hours reduced and challenging to connect
 - o Need more emotional supports
 - o Improve understanding of how to access available mental health resources
- x Sexual Health
 - o More sex education

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we are situated.

- o Sexual assault not being talked about and impacting student mental health
- x Substance Use
 - o Students do not understand impacts of drug use
 - o Every student should receive substance use education
 - o Offer early supports to guide to healthier place
 - o Improved anti-drug curricula
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- x Network and Technology
 - o Wi-Fi access is not good or not functional
 - o Need district-wide discussion on cell phones
 - o Limited cell phone service in some schools
 - o Shortage of Chromebooks, some not working or damaged
 - o Chromebooks have limited use at secondary level, need PCs
 - o Limited access to desktops and printers, sometimes unable to access if library used as classroom
- x Student Space
 - o More quiet spaces
 - o Need space to eat lunch
 - o At the teacher's discretion to open classroom and allow students to use space
 - o Common spaces are small for the number of students
 - o Cafeteria and library being used as a classroom, unable to use during spare
 - o All empty spaces being used as classrooms due to being over capacity
 - o Hallways are crowded
 - o Want space to gather and build community
 - o Consider alternative seating options for common spaces, e.g. long tables with stools
- x