



# Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

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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
    - o Student1 148.1156 654.8553 Tm (ed anti)Tj 0 Tc 0 Tw (-d)Tj -0.022 Tc MorTd (o)Tj

- 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