MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42 (MAPLE RIDGE-PITT MEADOWS)
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

Present:

Chair	Mrs. C. Ashlie
Vice Chair	Mrs. K. Ward
Trustees:	Mr. R. Butler
	Mrs. K. Marshall
	Dr. D. Rempel
	Mr. S. Vdovine
Superintendent of Schools	Mr. J.L. Simpson
Secretary Treasurer	Mr. D. Woytowich
Asst. Superintendent	Dr. R. Cranston
Asst. Superintendent	Mrs. J. Unwin
Communications Officer	Mr. S. Nesling
Executive Assistant & Recorder	Mrs. C.J. Jones

A - OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Correspondence & Announcements

P292-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That correspondence addressed to the Board be received for information."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Ordering of Agenda

P293-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That the agenda be ordered as circulated and amended as follows:

Remove:

E – Trustee Budget

Add:

E By-election Discussion
H2(a) Coordinated Timetable Parent/Student Meeting."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board Chair asked whether anyone present had questions regarding items on the agenda. There were no questions.

B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1) January 30, 2008

P294-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Minutes of the January 30, 2008 Public meeting be approved as circulated."

Page 4 Motion P266-07/08 should show Trustee Joostema as voting in the Negative

Page 7 Motion P270-07/08 should show Trustee Joostema as voting in the Affirmative

Page 8 Motion P275-07/08 section a) - amend to read as follows:

a) forward a letter to the Ministry of Education and Minister of Transportation requesting them to ask School Districts to suspend the use of 15 seater passenger vans until an investigation on safety concerns has been undertaken…..

Page 11 First paragraph, third sentence, remove the words "Dr. Nhu Le of the Cancer Control Research". Add as the last sentence of that paragraph - Dr. Nhu Le of the Cancer Control Research was unable to attend the meeting and had sent his regrets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C – PRESENTATIONS

1. Aboriginal Education – Mr. Doug Hoey, Principal

The Superintendent of Schools introduced Mr. Doug Hoey, Principal of Aboriginal Education. Mr. Hoey introduced Ms. Annette McComb, Senior Support Worker.

Mr. Hoey made a presentation to the Board which outlined recent changes in the Aboriginal Department and initiatives which have been implemented recently. He said the main aim of the department is to focus on improving literacy, numeracy, grade rates and retention rates. Ms. Annette McComb said that she was thrilled to be working in the department and explain her new role, and her work with the Keeping Kids in School team, which has been very successful. Mr. Hoey outlined other initiatives which include increased student mentoring, more cultural presentations, a shift to a family of schools approach, and increased communications.

Mr. Hoey and Ms. McComb were thanked for their informative presentation and they left the meeting.

D – DELEGATIONS

E - CHAIR REPORT

a) Correspondence for Board Action
b) Board Announcement
c) Other Matters

- Clarification on Media Comments

Chair Ashlie clarified that trustees do not have access to employee files as reported in a recent local media article.

With respect to the local media article on the disqualification of Mrs. Joostema, Chair Ashlie said that she has asked for a copy of the court transcripts to verify that the judge had not “alluded that “there might have been political motivations to the Board’s decision to seek to have Joostema removed”, as reported in the local media, by Trustee Vdovine.

Trustee Marshall asked Trustee Vdovine to explain his comments “this isn’t the first time the Board has taken legal action to muzzle opposition”.

Trustee Vdovine said that there was legal involvement regarding a disagreement with the DPAC Chair and the resulting apology the Board had to make to the DPAC Chair, which he said was embarrassing. He said he stood by his comments.

Trustee Marshall stated that the action was taken not to "muzzle opposition", but rather to protect an employee.

Trustee Vdovine said that if there was a concern about comments reported out to the media, he would like to find out exactly what was meant by Trustee Rempel's comments that "justice has been done", he said he thought the comments were also inappropriate.

Chair Ashlie stated that the judge has given his ruling with respect to Mrs. Joostema and that it is time to move forward. She said Trustee Vdovine's comments indicate this is not happening. She said it was important to move on with Board business and that there be no further discussion on the matter. The required motion is merely a formality.

- Disqualification of Trustee

P295-07/08 Mover: Trustee Ward
Seconder: Trustee Rempel

"That in compliance with, and in support of, the declaration of disqualification issued by the BC Supreme Court, the Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) immediately disqualify Nel Joostema from holding the position of Trustee in School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows). This disqualification is pursuant to the Bylaws of the Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), and Section 33 of the School Act."

Trustee Vdovine said that he did not feel that this was a formality.
The Secretary Treasurer stated that legal advice, following the Supreme Court ruling was that the Board should, by motion, accept the disqualification.

Trustee Vdovine said that he disagreed with the position advocated by legal counsel but still contended that it was both politically motivated and grandstanding.

Trustee Butler asked whether it would be possible to get a copy of the legal advice.

The Secretary Treasurer stated that the legal advice was verbal. However, he could arrange for a copy to be made available.

P296-07/08 Mover: Trustee Marshall
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That Motion **P295-07/08** be amended to read:

That in compliance with, and in support of, the declaration of disqualification issued by the BC Supreme Court, the Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) accept the disqualification of Nel Joostema from holding the position of Trustee in School District No. 42 (Maple Ride-Pitt Meadows), and Section 33 of the School Act."

Trustee Ashlie	Affirmative
Trustee Ward	Affirmative
Trustee Butler	Affirmative
Trustee Marshall	Affirmative
Trustee Rempel	Affirmative
Trustee Vdovine	Opposed

CARRIED

The question was called on Motion **P295-07/08** as amended by **P296-07/08**:

Trustee Ashlie	Affirmative
Trustee Ward	Affirmative
Trustee Marshall	Affirmative
Trustee Rempel	Affirmative
Trustee Butler	Abstained
Trustee Vdovine	Opposed

CARRIED

- <u>By-election Discussions</u>

Vice Chair Ward asked for clarification on the timeline for Mrs. Joostema to appeal the court's decision, the Board's timeline to call a by-election, and the cost of such a by-election.

The Secretary Treasurer stated that Mrs. Joostema has 30 days to appeal the courts decision, the Board would have 30 days to call a by-election, and that the cost would be in the order of $12,500.

The Vice Chair said she believed that, had the decision to disqualify Mrs. Joostema occurred prior to the end of December, the Board, according to the School Act, would be required to conduct a by-election. However, if the decision occurred after January 1st, it would be the Board's decision to call for a by-election.

The Secretary Treasurer confirmed the Vice Chair's understanding of the process.

Trustee Rempel said that he did not believe it was financially responsible for the Board to hold a by-election at this time of year, and pending Municipal elections in November.

P297-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Board not hold a by-election for a trustee from the City of Pitt Meadows."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F - DEFERRED ITEMS

G - TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

a) Superintendent of Schools
b) Assistant Superintendents
c) Secretary Treasurer

- Amended 2007/2008 Budget & Bylaws

P298-07/08 Mover: Trustee Butler
Seconder: Trustee Rempel

"That pursuant to part E, Bylaws and Resolutions, Section 3.01 subsection d), the Board advance the budget and bylaw through to final stages in one meeting".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P299-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Board grant first reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P300-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Board grant second reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P301-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Board grant third and final reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

- Good News Items

P302-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That the Board receive the following "good news" items:

- the excellent keynote speakers at a special parent presentation and teacher conference;
- the presentation of the Board's new vision and values statements at these events;
- the success of the Running for Angie fundraising campaign;
- the impressive district schools involvement in the Provincial Fruit and Veggie program;
- Keeping Kids in Schools program recognition at a regional student success conference;
- the acceptance by the Ministry of Education of the District's response to an RFP for a "Proof of Concept" for a proposed common systems initiative (data warehouse). This will allow for the work the District has done on a data warehouse to be show cased and made available provincially;
- the successful student led Spirit of BC flag raising events at Pitt Meadows and Garibaldi Secondary schools;
- the continued support of the Maple Ridge Rotary Club in funding the "Esteem Team" initiative;

- the continued support of the Tzu Chi Foundation in providing grants to assist students with funds to attend extra-curricular activities;
- the enthusiastic involvement with students by the District athletic coaches;
- the organization of an upcoming "For Healthy Foods" show by the District's nutrition committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Coordinated Timetable Parent/Student Meeting

P303-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Butler

"That the Board receive information regarding a meeting held at THSS on Thursday, February 7, 20089 at 7:00 p.m.

The Superintendent gave a report on the recent meeting with parents and students to share the District's reasons behind the coordinated timetable initiative, and the details of the new structure. He provided a recap on the process, the feedback, and final decisions for implementation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Assistant Superintendents

- Base Line Report on Suspensions to Date & Incident Report

P304-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That the Board receive the Assistant Superintendent's Base Line Report on Suspensions to Date & Incident Report, for information."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c) Secretary Treasurer

- Budget Approval for Items over $5,000

P305-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That the Board accept the attached copies of past motions related to the approval process for items in excess of $5,000."

Chair Ashlie said that the past motions were brought forward for Board information. She said that both the Secretary Treasurer and Superintendent felt that the $5,000 figure was too low. Discussion ensued. Board members felt that the figure should remain at $5,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I - COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committee-of-the-Whole
2. Committees & Advisory Committee Reports

a) Education Committee
b) Human Resources Committee
c) Finance Committee
d) Policy Advisory Committee
e) Education Advisory Committee
f) Aboriginal Education Committee
g) French Immersion Advisory Committee
h) Anti-Vandalism Advisory Committee
i) District Student Advisory Committee

J - QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions

Trustee Vdovine asked if there was a way to determine how many students ride public buses to school. Assistant Superintendent Unwin stated that this information would have to be gathered through a survey, but it could be done if required. Trustee Vdovine explained that a bus pass is offered at UBC at a discounted rate based on the bus usage in certain areas. Chair Ashlie said that this could be considered for the future.

2. Public Questions

Ms. Psota stated that, Kelowna school district had dropped the "coordinated timetable", and if the District intended to base the model on Kelowna, it might be a good idea to find out why it had been dropped.

Assistant Superintendent Jan Unwin said that she was not aware that Kelowna had a coordinated timetable in place. She said that should SD42 find that the coordinated timetable was not working in SD42, it would be dropped.

Ms. Gladys Hewson asked that if a trustee votes to abstain does that mean that the vote is a yes, or a no?

Mrs. Hewson was advised that the abstaining vote would be recorded as a "yes" vote if the majority of votes were in the affirmative.

Mr. Hill asked whether the Board was familiar with the phrase "Libel Chill". The Board said it was not.

Mrs. Wagner asked the Board to provide clarification on its comments that the legal letters sent to former DPAC Chair Deb Appleby, were sent to "protect an employee".

She said that she did not believe this to be the case, she had all of the legal documents and could provide copies if the Board did not have them.

Chair Ashlie said that Mrs. Wagner was not correct. A letter was sent in regards to the submission to the External Review Team to all PAC Chairs.

Mrs. Wagner asked whether the Board Chair was publicly stating that all the actions taken against Mrs. Appleby, were to "protect an employee".

Chair Ashlie advised Mrs. Wagner that two letters were sent to Mrs. Appleby. One to protect an employees' reputation, the other regarding an accusation made by the DPAC Chair in regards to the Board Chair.

Mrs. Wagner asked for a copy of all of the documents the Board had on the matter. The Board Chair said that Mrs. Wagner had all of the documents and there would be no further discussion on the matter.

Mrs. Hewson asked whether enrolment was increasing or decreasing. Assistant Superintendent Randy Cranston said that the kindergarten numbers are down 22 students from last year. Projections show that the elementary enrolments will be down by 363 students next year.

3. DPAC Questions

Mrs. Froelich, DPAC Chair, commented that BCCPA put forward a motion to ensure that parents have the right to speak up and to get legal support.

4. Employee Group Questions

K- TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. External Representative Reports

- BCSTA Provincial Council Motions

P306-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Ward

"That the Board receive the BCSTA Provincial Council Motions and provide direction on voting."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P307-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Marshall

"That the Board direct its Provincial Council representative to vote in the affirmative on BCSTA Motion 5.1 – Funding for Expanded Mandate."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P308-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconder: Trustee Marshall

"That the Board direct its Provincial Council representative to vote in the affirmative on BCSTA Motion 5.2 – Funding Formula."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Board Liaison Representative Reports

Trustee Marshall gave a brief report on the recent DPAC meeting. The next DPAC meeting will be held on March 5th at Harry Hooge.

3. Other Trustee Reports

L - OTHER BUSINESS

M - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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Chair **Secretary Treasurer**