

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42 (MAPLE RIDGE-PITT MEADOWS)
WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 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

3. Ordering of Agenda

P432-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Butler

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

Remove:

H2(c) 2008/2009 Budget Update.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board Chair asked whether anyone present had questions regarding items on the agenda. Ms. Karen Georgi said that she would like to speak to the French Immersion Program report.

B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1) April 30, 2008

P433-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Butler

“That the Minutes of the April 30, 2008 Public meeting be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C – PRESENTATIONS

1. Thomas Haney Secondary Orchestra

The Superintendent welcomed Mr. Dumas, music teacher, who introduced nine of his Junior Orchestra members from Thomas Haney Secondary School.

The students performed two pieces of music for strings. Mr. Dumas said the program has been in place since September, and is the first of its kind in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows.

The Board Chair thanked Mr. Dumas, and the students for the excellent musical recitals, and they left the meeting.

2. 2010 Legacy Group – Ms. Bonnie Telep and students

The Board welcomed Ms. Telep and students to the meeting.

Ms. Telep thanked the Board for providing the opportunity for the group to speak to the Board about the Spirit of BC Community Committee. She outlined the Committee's work since its inception in 2003, and its goal to help residents and businesses contribute to the success of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. She said that Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows is one of 92 Community Committees chosen by the 2010 Legacy Group.

Three District students, who belong to the Altitude Youth Group, described the activities they had organized and the leadership skills they had developed during their involvement with the 2010 Legacy Group.

The Board Chair thanked Ms. Telep and the students for the work they have done on behalf of the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Ms. Georgi, a parent, was asked to address the Board on the French Immersion Program.

Ms. Georgi referred to recommendation #4 presented in the Board report on French Immersion which indicates the declining numbers in the late French Immersion program at Highland Park, that there is space at the late French Immersion program at Fairview, and that the District will no longer offer Grade 5 late French Immersion at Highland Park effective September 2009.

Ms. Georgi advised that Pitt Meadows has given approval for 338 housing units at Lougheed and 190th Avenue, some of which are multi-family, as well, the proposed development on McMyn Road in the 190th Avenue area, which are in the Highland Park catchment area.

She said she felt the enrolment numbers could be more than originally projected and questioned why the FI program should be moved to Fairview when potential growth is projected for Pitt Meadows. She asked the Board to consider leaving the late French Immersion program at Highland Park because of the anticipated growth.

D – DELEGATIONS

E - CHAIR REPORT

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

F - DEFERRED ITEMS**G - TRUSTEE MOTIONS****H - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

1. Decision Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - French immersion Plan Update Report

P434-07/08 Mover: Trustee Marshall
 Secunder: Trustee Butler

“That the Board receive the Superintendent’s French Immersion Plan Report.”

The Superintendent referred to the motions brought forward by senior staff for Board consideration. He said the recommendations relate to the projected K-7 French Immersion enrolment at Riverside for September, 2008 of 90 students. He said that Dr. Osborne, in his presentation to the Board on April 30th had advised that research would indicate that French Immersion programs below 100 are not considered to be educationally sound.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P435-07/08 Mover: Trustee Marshall
 Secunder: Trustee Butler

“That the School District not offer a French Immersion K program at Riverside Elementary in September 2008.”

Ms. Joanne Rowen, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, said that the District wants to ensure that if it is are going to offer a French Immersion Program, it will be a good program.

Trustee asked questions for clarification.

Assistant Superintendent Randy Cranston said that the District has determined how many families have students registered in Kindergarten and who have siblings in the same school.

Discussion ensued. Assistant Superintendent Cranston said that, should all parents of the six students registered for FI Kindergarten in September 2008 wish to continue at Riverside, every effort would be made to made accommodate them.

Superintendent John Simpson said that he is confident that once Ms. Rowen and Dr. Cranston have spoken with the parents at Riverside, they will realize that it is just not a feasible option, nor a good learning environment for their children.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P436-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That members of the senior team meet with parents of the six children who have registered for the September 2008, French Immersion kindergarten program at Riverside to discuss options for these students, as the educational program goals are extremely challenging with this school organization.”

Dr. Cranston confirmed that he and Ms. Rowen will meet with the Riverside parents as soon as possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P437-07/08 Mover: Trustee Butler
 Secunder: Trustee Marshall

“That discussions take place with the parents of the French Immersion program at Riverside to share details about the present situation concerning the program’s viability at that school, and to consult with them on options to move or amalgamate the Riverside program into other French Immersion programs, effective September, 2009.

P438-07/08 Mover: Trustee Ward
 Secunder: Trustee Marshall

“That the Board amend Motion **P437-07/08** as follows:

“That discussions take place with the parents of the French Immersion program at Riverside to share details about the present situation concerning the program’s viability at that school, and to consult with them on options to amalgamate the Riverside program into other French Immersion programs, effective September, 2009.

P439-07/08 Mover: Trustee Marshall
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That Motion **P437-07/08** as amended by **P438-07/08** be further amended as follows:

“That Senior Team meets with the parents of the French Immersion program at Riverside regarding the amalgamation of the Riverside program into another French Immersion program effective September 2009.”

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

DEFEATED

The question was called on Motion **P437-07/08** as amended by **P438-07/08** - CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

P440-07/08 Mover: Trustee Ward
 Secunder: Trustee Marshall

“That the District schedules a public consultation with District French Immersion parents to collect feedback on proposed catchment area realignments, with a report back to the Board by December 2008 or earlier if possible.”

The Superintendent stated that a report on feedback could be provided to the Board by the end of November.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P441-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That given the declining numbers in the Late French Immersion program at Highland Park, and that there is space at the Late French Immersion program at Fairview, that the school district no longer offer Grade 6 Late French Immersion at Highland Park, effective September, 2009.”

Trustee Ashlie	Negative
Trustee Ward	Negative
Trustee Butler	Negative
Trustee Marshall	Negative
Trustee Rempel	Negative
Trustee Vdovine	Negative

DEFEATED

P442-07/08 Mover: Trustee Butler
 Secunder: Trustee Marshall

“That senior staff conduct a January 2009 registration for Late French Immersion at Highland Park Elementary and bring a recommendation back to the Board to determine whether the program should be maintained or phased out.”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P443-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That a needs assessment be conducted to assess the feasibility of establishing a French Immersion program at Webster’s Corners Elementary, commencing September, 2009, with a K and Grade 1 class, with successive grades to be added in subsequent years.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b) Assistant Superintendents
- c) Secretary Treasurer
 - Procedural Bylaw – Trustee Remuneration – Background Report

P444-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Butler

“That the Board receive the background report on tabled Motions P358-07/08 and P359-07/08, for information.”

Trustee Vdovine said that he still believed his motions were tabled.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Procedural Bylaw – Trustee Remuneration

P445-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That the Board grant second reading to the Procedural Bylaw entitled Trustee Remuneration.”

Trustee Ashlie	Affirmative
Trustee Butler	Affirmative
Trustee Rempel	Affirmative
Trustee Ward	Affirmative

Trustee Marshall	Negative
Trustee Vdovine	Negative

CARRIED

P446-07/08 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Ward

“That the Board grant third and final reading to the Procedural Bylaw entitled Trustee Remuneration.”

Trustee Ashlie	Affirmative
Trustee Butler	Affirmative
Trustee Rempel	Affirmative
Trustee Ward	Affirmative

Trustee Marshall	Negative
Trustee Vdovine	Negative

CARRIED

2. Information Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - Good News Items

P447-07/08 Mover: Trustee
 Secunder: Trustee

“That the Board receive the following “good news” items:

- attendance of a large contingent of District partners at a recent conference on achievement;
- thanks given to the Superintendent for making sure that all partner groups were represented at the conference;
- the success of a conference on “respect” at Davie Jones Elementary;
- the recent success of the ACT’s five-year celebration which was well attended by Board members;
- the raising of \$3,000 by Macdonald Realty for youth initiatives at the recent Home Show;
- the good work done by the Youth Centre Society at the Home Show;
- the successful official opening of the Youth Action Park at Thomas Haney Secondary, and the many positive comments regarding the District’s willingness to have the skate park on school property.
- Kudo’s to the District maintenance staff, the municipality, and school personnel for assisting with the successful opening of the Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b) Assistant Superintendents
- c) Secretary Treasurer

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
- 2. Public Questions

Mr. Todd Hill, a parent and DPAC representative asked what the enrolment cut off number would be to make the FI program at Riverside viable. Dr. Cranston said that there is no enrolment cut off number set; the concern would be the viability and quality of the program.

Mr. Steve Dillan said that he had already sent an e-mail to the Board expressing his concern with respect to the declining enrolment in the FI program at Riverside, the possible closure of the school in the future, and his perspective generally as a parent. He asked Riverside students will be factored or recognized to attend Laity View or what plans are in place to encourage more students to enroll at Maple Ridge Elementary.

The Superintendent advised that the Laity View FI program is at capacity, and it would be challenging to add more students.

The Board Chair said that she expected Mr. Dillan to become involved in the broader discussion on the FI programs, and suggested he present any further questions he may have at upcoming meetings with staff.

Ms. Cathy Barrington, an employee at Riverside school, said that if the FI Program is withdrawn from the school, the English student enrolment would only be in the 100's, which may not be considered sufficient to keep the school open. She asked when these discussions would take place.

Chair Ashlie stated that the Board is not considering closing schools at this time. It will determine where the FI programs are to be established and then will have discussions on closure, if necessary.

Ms. Barrington suggested that the establishment of a day care at the school might increase enrolment. Assistant Superintendent Randy Cranston advised that the school has been identified as a facility to house day care services.

- 3. DPAC Questions
- 4. Employee Group Questions

K- TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. External Representative Reports

Trustee Rempel said that the Tzu Chi Bursary Committee met on May 8th and awarded approximately \$8,000 to fund extra-curricular activities for students with financial challenges. He said Tzu Chi will be holding a Bursary Celebration on June 4th at 3:30 p.m. at Yennadon Elementary. He said that anyone wishing to attend should advise Christine Jones, Executive Assistant.

Trustee Butler attended the recent Inclusive Education meeting and provided a brief report on issues discussed. He said he thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and the next meeting date is September 29th.

Chair Ashlie reported on the recent DPAC meeting at MRSS which she said was well attended. The next meeting will be held on June 2nd at the District Office Resource Centre, 7:00 p.m.

2. Board Liaison Representative Reports

3. Other Trustee Reports

L - OTHER BUSINESS

M - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer