

**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42 (MAPLE RIDGE-PITT MEADOWS)
Wednesday, January 14, 2009 (6:00 PM)**

The Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows) was called to order by

ROLL CALL

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair – Kathie Ward
Vice Chair – Ken Clarkson
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee - Mike Huber
Trustee - Eleanor Palis
Trustee - Dr. Dave Rempel
Trustee - Stepan Vdovine

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Superintendent – John Simpson
Deputy Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Don Woytowich
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

A - OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Ordering of Agenda

RECOMMENDATION: That the agenda be ordered as circulated and amended with the following addition:

- Move Managing Enrollment Catchment Review proposal up on the agenda from H. CEO DECISION ITEMS – SUPERINTENDENT, to C -PRESENTATIONS.
- Add Motion from Trustee Clarkson to G -TRUSTEE MOTIONS.
- Add Kindergarten Registration Criteria Update to H - CEO DECISION ITEMS – DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
- Add French Immersion Closure at Riverside Update to H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS – DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

P211 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Correspondence

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the correspondence from the Secretary Treasurer regarding Alcohol Consumption on Buses and Limousines.

P212 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Palis

Secretary Treasurer Don Woytowich advised the Board that a letter from the Ministry of Transportation had been received regarding Alcohol Consumption on Buses and Limousines. The Ministry shares the Community's concerns and will take the liberty of sharing these concerns with the Minister of Public Safety as well as with the Solicitor General. This letter was in response to a letter that the Board had sent and no further action is required by the Board at this time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. December 10, 2008 Public Meeting Minutes

P213 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Huber

RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes of the December 10, 2008 Public meeting minutes be approved as circulated:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C - PRESENTATIONS

1. MRTA FSA Presentation from Drusilla Wilson and George Serra

Drusilla Wilson and George Serra from the MRTA made a presentation to the Board that included a short video regarding the FSA. The MRTA is strongly against administering the FSA tests primarily because they do not think that the testing is a fair way to gauge how well schools are doing. The results are based on limited information and it makes "winners and losers" out of the students and the schools. The MRTA would like to see a random sample of students and schools take the FSA tests, not all of the students and schools as they believe this would be a better approach.

2. Managing Enrollment Catchment Review Presentation from Stewart Sonne, David Vandergugten, and Darren Rowell

The Directors are using new software that shows the catchment areas for the schools and how many students are in each area. They are proposing to adjust the enrollment catchment area along river road for Thomas Haney. This change would increase the size of the catchment areas for Westview and Maple Ridge Secondary but the impact on the schools involved would be minimal. Thomas Haney is attractive to students because of its self directed learning program. Some students live within the catchment area but many students come from outside of the catchment area to attend this school. The software is able to give a long-range forecast of enrollment for schools and it shows enrollment declining, therefore Maple Ridge Secondary and Westview will not be over capacity due to this change.

P214 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Clarkson
 Secunder: Trustee Rempel

RECOMMENDATION: That this proposal for boundary changes is put out to the Public for consultation and the results will be brought back to the Board meeting on January 28th.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D - DELEGATIONS

E - CHAIR REPORT

1. Board Trustee Meeting Attendance Record

P215 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Clarkson

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive Chair Ward's report on Accountability and Attendance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board Chair advised that in the past the Board only kept track of Trustee attendance at Board meetings, no other meeting attendance has been recorded. She then emphasized that the Board needs to honour their commitments to the tax payers who elected them and then opened the floor to discussion. Discussion ensued and resulted in all the Trustees agreeing that the public needs to know how, and who is doing what work and if Trustees have to cover for each other. It would be a good thing and would help with communication and the openness of the Board. Part of responsibility of going to meetings could be for Trustees to bring back who all attended etc.

Communications Officer Seamus Nesling responded by saying that it would be easy to set up a page on the SD42 website that could show all the Committees that the Trustees are on, and which meetings they have attended. A reporting system would have to be created however so that the information on the web would be accurate and up to date. Mr. Nesling agreed to work out the logistics of posting to the website and will draft a proposal and he will then bring it back to the Board for direction.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board not move Spring Break at this time, in order to accommodate the Olympics in February 2010.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

P223 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Huber
 Secunder: Trustee Clarkson

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board table the survey regarding community input related to moving Spring Break to accommodate the 2010 Winter Olympics.

CARRIED 5-2 (Trustees Rempel & Vdovine opposed)

P224 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Clarkson
 Secunder: Trustee Palis

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approves staff to proceed with a consultation process with the public.

CARRIED 6-1 (Trustees Rempel opposed)

2. Changes to Proposing Programs Options Procedures

P225 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Carr

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's changes to the Proposing Programs Options Procedure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deputy Superintendent Jan Unwin presented a new flow-chart version of the Procedure and advised that having the flow chart would make the Procedure a lot less complicated and a lot easier to understand. The Board agreed.

P226 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Clarkson

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the Deputy Superintendent's changes to the Proposing Programs Options Procedure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. French Immersion Survey Results & Recommendations

P227 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Huber

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's results and recommendations regarding the French Immersion Survey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deputy Superintendent Jan Unwin, advised that the French Immersion survey had taken place and that the results indicated that it is not in the best interest of the Board to extend the French Immersion program to a school in the East at this time.

P228 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Clarkson
Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the Deputy Superintendent's results and recommendations regarding the French Immersion Survey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Kindergarten Registration Criteria Update

P229 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Carr

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's update on Kindergarten Registration Criteria.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deputy Superintendent Jan Unwin advised that there still has not been any decisions made regarding all-day kindergarten but that for the first time, French Immersion Kindergarten registration dates have been pushed back. Within the Kindergarten registration criteria, there is now a question especially in more crowded schools, as to whether or not attending a daycare in the catchment carries the same weight as living within the catchment. The Deputy Superintendent advised that it is probably best to stay status quo for this year but see if it is a big issue and then come back and make recommendation for next year.

P230 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Vdovine
Seconded: Trustee Palis

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board direct staff to gather information regarding the impact of using daycare addresses for determination of residency in catchments and report back to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H - CEO DECISION ITEMS – SECRETARY TREASURER

H – CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT

1. Good News

P231 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Huber
 Second: Trustee Rempel

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Superintendent's verbal report on Good News items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Superintendent John Simpson acknowledged that during the snow days, the maintenance department efforts were second to none. Rick Delorme and Max Low put in incredible hours and their crews worked over time in order to get the schools cleaned up and ready as quickly as possible. To express his appreciation, the Superintendent will be sending letters to Rick Delorme, Max Low, and their crews.
- Trustee Dr. Dave Rempel advised that the Tzu Chi foundation now has funding available in the community for students and families who are experiencing financial stress.
- Trustee Susan Carr wanted to acknowledge Heather Brown, a teacher at Ridge Meadows Secondary school for her efforts and successes with engaging high school students in history. She recently instructed a highly interesting and successful lesson on Sir John A. MacDonald.
- Trustee Eleanor Palis wanted to mention the “Price is Right” type game that took place at a Pep Rally at PMSS and also how she had attended 3 highly impressive school Christmas concerts over the holidays.

2. New Website Launch

P232 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Second: Trustee Palis

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Superintendent's verbal update on the launch of the new School District 42 Web Site.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Superintendent introduced Communications Officer Seamus Nesling to give an update on the status of the new website launch.

The Communications Officer advised that IT is currently working to replace the current website with an updated one this week. He explained that the decision was made last year that there should be a new website and that a process followed in order to find the right company that could create a new website that would include all the necessary criteria. It was also decided that an open source website would be best meaning that making improvements and changes can be ongoing.

The Communications Officer showed an example of the website and explained that new features will include the ability to combine with other information on the web such as maps. He also wanted to make sure there is a consistent window to look at each school before going to the actual school website itself. The new website will give a lot of control to user and different levels of control/access depending on who the user is. There will also be an event calendar so that people in system can send in information for the calendar and the list of events. He advised that the official site launch is being announced on our current website by attaching a link to the new website. That way, if there are any bugs, they can be reported before the District converts over to the new website.

H – CEO INFORMATION ITEMS – DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

1. French Immersion Closure at Riverside – Update

P233 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Secunder: Trustee Palis

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's update on the French Immersion closure at Riverside Elementary School.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Deputy Superintendent explained that a communication went out to parents today explaining all the details and next steps regarding the French Immersion closure at Riverside. Parents will be assisted with registration and every effort will be made to accommodate current French Immersion students to attend the French Immersion program of their choice. The new catchments for French Immersion will also be part of Kindergarten registration. Students currently enrolled at Riverside will be automatically registered by the school board office, to a new French Immersion program and confirmations will be mailed out by mid-February.

P234 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Palis
 Secunder: Trustee Carr

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board extend the meeting to 9:15 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H – CEO INFORMATION ITEMS – SECRETARY TREASURER

I - COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Education Committee
2. Human Resources Committee
3. Finance Committee

4. Policy Advisory Committee

Second and Final reading of Official Ceremonies Policy

P235 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Second: Trustee Palis

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board grant second and final reading to the Official Ceremonies Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board Chair advised that no feedback had been received while the Policy was put out to the Public for input.

Deputy Superintendent Jan Unwin noted that some Employee Groups such as MRTA and CUPE, were missing on the Policy. The Board Chair explained that this was an error and that the Policy would be amended accordingly.

P236 – 08/09 Mover: Trustee Rempel
 Second: Trustee Vdovine

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the second and final reading to the Official Ceremonies Policy with amendments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Aboriginal Education Committee

6. French Immersion Advisory

7. Inclusive Education Committee

8. District Student Advisory

9. Communications Advisory

10. Anti-Vandalism Committee

11. Youth Society Committee

J - QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions

2. Public Questions

3. DPAC Questions

- Kathy Froelich from DPAC asked about the Enrollment Catchment for secondary schools - if a family moves into area expecting to attend certain school and then down the road the catchment area changes, then what? Superintendent John Simpson reassured her that the Board would look at it by a case by case basis and there would be a review of exceptions that might occur.
- Kathy Froelich from DPAC also asked if on the new Proposing Options Flow Chart, if where it goes to "DSAC" perhaps it should actually go to "Student Advisory Council" (at school level). Deputy Superintendent Jan Unwin agreed and advised that she will make the amendment.

4. Employee Group Questions

- George Serra from the MRTA reiterated how the Board has to be very careful with their wording when giving all the details and surveying the public regarding school schedules during the 2010 Olympics. It would need to be explained in great detail as to what closure might mean and what consequences there would be. Trustee Rempel reassured him that this would be the Board's intention. Trustee Clarkson also advised that the Board will find out what other districts are planning on doing.
- Leslie Franklin from CUPE wanted to make sure the Board would consider potential loss of pay for CUPE employees, if it is decided to close or alter school hours during the 2010 Olympics.
- CUPE also wanted to make sure that everyone knows that during Christmas, CUPE is actually laid off and not on holidays. Superintendent John Simpson assured that it would be corrected.

K - TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. BCSTA Deadlines & Provincial Council

The Board Chair advised Trustees to contact her if they want to put a motion forward to BCSTA for Provincial Council.

2. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

3. External Representative Reports

4. Joint Leisure Services

5. Social Planning Advisory

6. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

7. Tzu Chi Foundation

8. Youth Society Committee

9. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

10. District Parent Advisory

- Trustee Susan Carr reported that she and Trustee Ken Clarkson attended the DPAC meeting that took place on January 12 and they found it to be very informative. DPAC reported that the Annual Healthy Food Show is scheduled for March 4, 2009 starting at 4:30 pm at Thomas Haney School. In lieu of the February DPAC meeting, a Drug Presentation for Parents will take place on February 2, from 7-9 pm at the Thomas Haney Secondary Rotunda. The next regular DPAC Meeting will be on March 2, 2009 at 7pm at Alexander Robinson Elementary.

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

L – OTHER BUSINESS

M – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer