

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

**Wednesday, February 11, 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 – Mike Huber

Trustee – Eleanor Palis

Trustee – Dr. Dave Rempel

Trustee – Stepan Vdovine

Trustee – Susan Carr was absent

### **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 Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. Ordering of Agenda**

Trustee Vdovine added 2 Trustee questions regarding public disclosure and the process for corrections to minutes.

### **ORIGINAL - Motion P258 – 08/09**

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the agenda be amended as noted.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0**

### 3. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Better Business Bureau and from the Maple Ridge Spirit of Wood Festival.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion P259 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Correspondence for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0**

#### **B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

##### 1. January 28, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion P260 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Minutes of the January 28, 2009 Public meeting minutes be approved as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0**

The Board Chair then asked if anyone else would like to speak to any items on the agenda; there was no one.

#### **C - PRESENTATIONS**

##### 1. Disability Games Kick-off Event - by Ineke Boekhorst, 5 mins

Ineka Boekhorst spoke on behalf of the Disability Games to advise the board that Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have chosen to host the Disability Games this summer from July 22-26. The kick-off event takes place about 100 days before the games, on Friday, April 17th. It is a community event to raise awareness about the games and what they are all about. At 2:30 pm, at the community hall, the event starts off with a wheel chair torch relay that will finalize at about 4:30 pm when the last athlete that crosses the finish line will symbolically light a torch. All the students will then follow with lighting their torches as well.

She is asking for the opportunity to visit each school to give a workshop and show how the torches are made and ask the teachers to also teach a song to be sung, while kids all hold hands, at the kick off event. Perhaps this could be included in the newsletters or by sending a notice out to parents - but she's hoping that as many children and parents will attend. Everyone will receive a hot dog, a drink, cake, and a commemorative button for the games July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She would also like each school in attendance to decorate a tent or area with a banner for their school. There will also be free photos with the games mascot, a big screen with video from previous games, and demonstrations on the various sports. When the athletes arrive, there will be singing, torches, holding hands and then 96 doves will be released as well. It will be a very memorable day and an inspiration to visit the games in July. Preferably, there will be one class per school that will participate in the kickoff event. Broom sticks will

be provided for the torches but the kids will have to supply an empty bottle and then everything else is supplied.

The Superintendent agreed to take the information forward to his next Senior Team meeting and he will then get back to Ms. Boekhorst.

## 2. Rick Hansen Presentation - by Randall Didiuk & Kevin Priebe, 15 mins

Trustee Huber invited Mr. Randall Didiuk to come and speak to the Board about the upcoming Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Event Day on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Also attending with Mr. Didiuk was Mr. Kevin Priebe. Mr. Didiuk explained Rick Hansen's background and how he became a paraplegic and then went on to give details about the event coming up in June and how Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion is involved in the Community. Rick Hansen is a special person and a living hero today. He dreamed that one day he would walk again and he made world history with his Man in Motion tour where he wheeled around the world, 34 countries, during the course of 2 years and 2 months. He raised 26 million dollars and that is when the foundation was created. The Foundation has since generated over 200 million dollars in related programs and searching for the cure. Spinal Cord injuries affect 41,000 Canadians and 1100 are added every year. 80% of spinal cord injuries are in people who are under 34 years. The most common cause of spinal cord injuries is 55% motor vehicle accidents, 27% are sports related, and 18% are from falls. On Sunday, June 14 2009, it will be a family festival day for the community. There will be wheel chair rally races, bands, a carnival, an oldie car show, exhibitions, and demonstrations. Last year the event raised \$12,350 and the goal for 2009 is \$20,000. It isn't the fundraising that is important, it is that 50% of the money comes directly back to the community.

Mr. Priebe then told his own personal story and how the community is impacted. Blossom center is opening, people can check the website [www.wheelsinmotion.org](http://www.wheelsinmotion.org) for more information. Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows also have a community committee.

Their question for the Board is how can the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event become more involved in our school communities? Terry Fox is heavily involved in schools and they would like Rick Hansen to be as well. In 2004-2005 RHWIM packages were sent out to schools by the Board. In 2005-2006 RHWIM packages were sent out by the Foundation.

The Superintendent agreed to also bring this information forward to his next Senior Team meeting to look into various ways that we can raise the profiles in our schools. He also advised that we do get enormous numbers of requests for things like this but there isn't anything as pertinent in our community as this.

## **E - CHAIR REPORT**

### 1. Train Mural

The Board Chair advised that she attended the event where the new Train Mural was unveiled. It all started out years ago and there was then an art contest that was ran in schools. The final picture chosen was a combination of two pictures from two students. The new mural is on the side of the *Bodacious Baskets* building. She suggested that if anyone has a chance to go and take a look at it, it is incredibly life-like and worth seeing. She also advised that there is also now something in the mural

which wasn't in it originally, and that is the train's conductor. The Conductor is actually the Artist's father. It is a nice touch. The highlight for the student was getting to work with the artist. There were also cards created with a picture of the mural on them. This is a great example of the partnerships that can be formed between Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

The Secretary Treasurer then added that it was unveiled at last RMEF event and that there is also going to be something else equally exciting, unveiled at the next RMEF event that is taking place on February 27, 2009.

Ms. Ineke Boekhorst then added that they are hoping to unveil a new mural every year. Murals also help to cut down on graffiti as well, which is great.

## **H - CEO DECISION - SECRETARY TREASURER**

### **1. Purchase of sound system for the Board Room**

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion P261 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the report on the purchase of the sound system'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0**

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the previous quotes on a sound system for the Board Room have been broken down to two companies who can provide wireless systems for \$17,000 and \$20,000 one company quoted a wired system for \$8,500. The wired system is substantially less expensive but it would not be good in the long run as it would be phased out.

The system can be moved and used in other rooms, buildings and it would include microphones for each person.

Trustee Clarkson advised that he can't justify spending that amount of money on a sound system when the money could be used better elsewhere.

Trustee Rempel weighed in by saying that he is still not convinced that there is that much of a need for a sound system, as he had mentioned at last meeting. The money makes a big difference in some programs and some staffing and so on and so at this time, he cannot support this kind of a project.

Trustee Vdovine then added that he is not particularly eager to spend the money either and he felt that an amendment could perhaps be made to the recommendation so that the sound system can be considered as part of the budget process.

The Board Chair then stated that she was glad an amendment is being put forward because at this time she would have to vote against the sound system because of the cost as well as the board is still working through having the new ESB system and adding a new audio system would be too much.

**ORIGINAL - Motion P262 – 08/09**

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the purchase of a new sound system for the Board room'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: (0) Nay: (6).

**The motion FAILED 0-6.**

**AMENDED - Motion P263 – 08/09**

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the AMENDED motion 'That the Board consider the purchase of a sound system within the context of the current budget cycle.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1. (Trustee Rempel opposed)

**The motion CARRIED 5 – 1.**

2. Holding Board Meetings in schools

**ORIGINAL - Motion P264 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the report on holding meetings in schools.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 – 0.**

At the last Board meeting, the Board requested staff to investigate the possibility of holding Board meetings in schools. All secondary schools have been contacted and a summary of possibilities had been produced for consideration. It is being recommended that the Board select dates for holding meetings in schools.

Trustee Clarkson suggested making an amendment to the motion in order to have staff set up dates for meetings.

Trustee Vdovine added that he thinks that the Board should try one meeting and see how it goes.

The Board Chair then expressed that when she thinks about when meetings were held at Thomas Haney in the rotunda, it was such a big place and people won't be able to hear. She also has concerns about being able to use the Electronic School Board system for the meeting if at another location. She is really concerned about the logistics of it all.

The Secretary Treasurer then weighed in by saying that he doesn't believe there should be any technological issues.

Trustee Rempel then added that he thinks the Board could make it informative and restructure the agenda so that it could be the opportunity for the schools to share with us who they are and what they do. It could be a way of expanding our business agenda in the way of presentations.

Trustee Huber agreed with Trustee Rempel and said that regardless of the infrastructure challenges, it is something that would be worthwhile.

Trustee Palis also agreed and suggested that there will need to be a lot of lead time and also that the Board will not be able to fit in 5 schools into the in 8 meetings of the year, therefore it will have to be continued for next year.

### **AMENDED - Motion P265 – 08/09**

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the AMENDED motion 'That the Board direct Staff to develop a schedule of meetings at each of the schools that have expressed a desire to host a meeting.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Ward opposed).

**The motion CARRIED 5 – 1.**

### **H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Proposal for Updates to Website regarding Trustee Meeting Attendance - by Seamus Nesling

### **ORIGINAL - Motion P266 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the Website Board Attendance Tracking for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0**

The Communications Officer spoke to this agenda item stating that as the Trustees will recall, there was direction for Staff to come up with methods for attendance tracking. He came up with a simple grid for all the committees on one column and trustees on other column; and as committee minutes are submitted, he can update the grid accordingly. He advised that it would be a very simple approach to this but it depends on every committee submitting written minutes. He was not sure however if committee minutes are required to include attendance and if not, that would have to be dealt with somehow. Also, some committee minutes cannot be posted and are also not done by us so not all minutes can be posted and that would have to be worked around.

Discussion ensued and the Board agreed that there would be too many logistical challenges to keep the reporting completely accurate.

The Board Chair then advised that the Trustees can be relied on to be accountable and so the Board will move forward on the agenda as this item was only for information. The Board then expressed their thanks to Mr. Nesling for looking into it.

2. FSA Update

The Superintendent advised that the ruling is now out and a joint statement has been given stating that it is back to business as usual. At this point in time, he advised that principals have been instructed to move forward and administer the FSAs as per the process. A number of parents have filled in the MRTA chit that requests that their son or daughter be exempt and there are as many as 50% or more students and more than 50% in some schools who are exempt. A significant number of parents are requesting this. He also advised that the District put out a letter as well, telling parents that if they want their child exempt, they are to keep them home because if they come to school they will be administered the tests. The principals were going to phone the parents about this but that was before we realized how many there would be. There is a dilemma now because we are not in the business of making a student do anything and we are required to keep students safe and kept care of at schools, yet we don't want to advertise that we will take care of students coming to school because we will not make them write the test. We have called off the decision to have principals call parents for the time being. We are trying to

follow the rules and doing our best to maintain appropriate relationships with parents. He also wanted to remind the Board that if we are being totally legitimate, it is actually that Principals who can exempt students, parents cannot exempt students.

Trustee Rempel stated that maybe by so many students not writing the test, the data will not be accurate and perhaps this will force some changes so that the FSAs will not continue in the future. As difficult and awkward as it is, this could be an indirect benefit this time.

Trustee Vdovine added that he doesn't think the data could get any more of a farce.

The Superintendent then added that he does not need direction from the Board and that he appreciates being given the flexibility to manage this as it moves forward. There was a conflict of messages sent out to parents and it is now being dealt with.

### 3. Good News

The Superintendent shared that Maple Ridge Secondary had graduation transition interviews with students. Panels were established to hear students discuss their experiences from high school and what they were planning on doing with their future. the range of activities that they were involved in would blow your mind. any parent would be incredibly proud to hear their child talk about all the successes they had in school and what they are planning to do with their future.

Trustee Palis submitted a written report on what her and Trustee Carr took part in lately that are good news items.

Trustee Huber echoed what the Superintendent had said in that he was extremely enlightened by what he saw at the graduation transition interviews. He thinks it is unbelievable how alert and engaged students are since he had graduated 18 years ago.

The Board Chair said that that morning she had attended a round table discussion with Fraser Valley group of school boards around the Ministry of Child Development and Child Youth Development. It falls under Randy Cranston's portfolio which is now under Ms. Laurie Meston and it was so great to hear about all the work that Ms. Meston is doing in our District and with the partnerships. She is beaming and the Chair had to say that we are right up there leading the pack. She wanted to express kudos to Ms. Meston and to Dr. Cranston for his portfolio. There is so much work that those 2 people have been working on for a number of years.

## **I - COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Education Committee

2. Aboriginal Education Committee

Trustee Palis advised that she really enjoyed the meeting

3. Human Resources Committee

#### 4. Inclusive Education Committee

Trustee Clarkson advised that he went to meeting on Monday night. However he did not know that he had to write a report. He also wanted to reiterate that Ms. Laurie Meston truly was beaming when speaking about the projects and her presentation was well received.

#### 5. Finance Committee

#### 6. Anti-Vandalism Committee

#### 7. Policy Advisory Committee

#### 8. Second Reading of Electronic Devices Policy

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion P267 – 08/09**

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second reading to the Electronic Devices Policy.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 1 Abstain: 1.

**The motion CARRIED 5 – 1.**

The Board Chair advised that this policy has been out longer than 30 days. It came to the Board for first reading on December 10, 2008 but because of Christmas break, it was allowed to be out for longer than 30 days however no feedback has been received on it. The Policy Committee believes they have captured what is necessary in this policy. The Policy had been committed to 3 distinct readings so it will come back for a third reading as well.

Trustee Palis wanted to change wording a little in first line from "the advances IN technology" to "the advancing OF technology..."

Trustee Huber doesn't think the wording changes the meaning.

Trustee Rempel stated that he is comfortable with it as is.

The Superintendent advised that the discussion around this policy at the Policy Committee meeting was pretty thorough. They wanted to make sure the teachers had support on setting the standards for their classrooms.

Trustee Vdovine added that he does not think the policy changes anything that takes place in the classroom whether it exists or not. The policy completely relies on the code of conduct and it does not give any kind of meaningful guidance. He does not believe there is a need for a policy like this.

Mr. George Serra from the MRTA added that they didn't realize that they were weighing in necessarily and that there is strong feedback on this, but the last health and safety meeting was cancelled last month so the MRTA never had a chance to discuss it.

The Board Chair felt that somebody out there would have something to say about it because the previous policy spoke to a specific thing where as this policy speaks to a broader range of electronic



devices. She advised that the Board will continue with the third reading after another 30 days, in order to continue to offer input. All recommendations including Trustee Palis' suggestions to change the wording, will be brought back to the 3rd reading.

#### 9. Communications Advisory

Communications Officer Seamus Nesling advised that there was a meeting the next day.

#### 10. French Immersion Advisory

Trustee Palis advised that they haven't met yet but that she went to the open house for kindergarten registration and that she will also go next week for elementary registration as well.

#### 11. District Student Advisory

Trustee Rempel advised that he wrote a report.

#### 12. Social Wellness Committee

#### 13. Nutrition Committee

#### 14. Historical Committee

### **J - QUESTION PERIOD**

#### 1. Trustee Questions

Trustee Vdovine asked why the public agenda meeting packages no longer include a record of disclosure.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that it has purely been an oversight and that he will make sure they are included going forward.

#### 2. Staff Questions

#### 3. Employee Group Questions

#### 4. DPAC Questions

#### 5. Public Questions

Maria from the Maple Ridge Times wanted to note that she would love to get copies of the minutes from the all the Committee meetings, if possible.

### **K - TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### 1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

Trustee Huber attends the meetings and they are now getting ready for foundation dinner, \$60 a ticket,

### 2. Joint Leisure Services

The Board Chair advised that they meet tomorrow and that they are raising of the flags and unveiling the spirit carving. They are also on the countdown of the Olympics.

### 3. Social Planning Advisory

Trustee Huber advised the he didn't go to the last meeting.

### 4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

Trustee Huber advised that they meet the following night.

### 5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

Trustee Rempel advised that they meet the last Monday of month.

### 6. BCSTA Provincial Council Motions

The Chair distributed attachments electronically via email to the Trustees.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion P268 – 08/09**

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Chair's Provincial Council Motions.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 6 – 0.**

The Board Chair advised that she sent the motions out to the Trustees, but as a board, Trustees need to state their opinion and give direction to be argued at Provincial Council on the February 28th.

- New School Construction:

Trustee Vdovine said that he would have to agree that the matter seems to be urgent in terms of budget that should be wrapped up by the time of the AGM. However, while it looks like it is something critical, he is not particularly sure if that is the recommendation to give to the association because it is immensely confusing to be argued.

The Secretary Treasurer added that it is not immediate economic stimulus because before building, there are many more things that are a quicker stimulus that could start immediately and be that immediate economic stimulus. New school construction is not right away, would be at least a year away.

Trustee Vdovine recommends taking the motion down altogether.

Trustee Clarkson added that he has been in that position before, but when you get to the debate, it changes and you get more information than what we've got right now. So the Board Chair needs to be

free to adjust to what happens at the AGM. He doesn't like the idea of the Board telling her how to vote. It is better for the Board to express how they feel but then when the Board Chair gets to the AGM, she is free to use the information to make up her own mind.

Trustee Rempel agreed by saying that the Chair is there to be influenced, she just carries information forward from the Board.

**ORIGINAL - Motion P269 – 08/09**

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board give direction to the Chair to vote to defeat this recommendation at the Provincial Council AGM.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 3 Nay: 3. (Trustees Rempel, Vdovine, & Palis voted in favour and Trustees Clarkson, Ward, & Huber opposed)

**The motion CARRIED. 3 – 3.**

**ORIGINAL - Motion P270 – 08/09**

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board continue with the dialogue and give the Board Chair direction to take away information to use in the discussions at Provincial Council during the debate on motions, to express to the best of her ability the Board's wishes. It should be noted that the Board will vote merely to provide direction to the Board Chair and not bind her decisions and vote.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Vdovine opposed)

**The motion CARRIED. 5-1.**

- FSA results

Trustee Clarkson recommends to vote in favour.

Trustee Vdovine agrees with the intent but is not sure if this is really where we want to go.

Trustee Huber doesn't think masking something is the solution to the problem. It is a problem with the entire process and the dialogue needs to continue. Administering the tests as before is still at same route of the problem and he will not support.

The Board Chair agreed with Trustee Clarkson in that if hospitals can blank out information, why can't schools? She doesn't like the ranking at all and does not know how the information of hospitals is blanked out without ranking, so she wants to know how before he says to blank it all out. She also agrees with Trustee Vdovine by saying that Trustee Vdovine makes a good point and although the District is in midst of the FSA dilemma, it is not an emergent issue because what takes place at the Provincial Council is not going to change what is happening with FSAs today. She thinks it should go to the AGM that way other Boards can have more information and our Board can put together what we as Trustees believe the motion should be. If the Board is ok with it, the Chair will take it in that direction.

- Amendment from Vancouver Island to their Branch By-laws

The Chair advised that this is a housekeeping issue and that our Fraser Valley Branch did the same thing. It is emergent in the sense that they cannot continue on without it, but it needs to be in place before the AGM.

The Board directed the Chair to vote in favour of the Vancouver Island By-laws.

## 8. District Parent Advisory Council

9. Tzu Chi Foundation

Trustee Rempel advised that there was a meeting that week.

10. Youth Society Committee

11. External Representative Reports

12. Board Liaison Representative Reports

13. Other Trustee Reports

**L – OTHER BUSINESS**

**M – ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

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Chair

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Secretary Treasurer