

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

**Wednesday, February 25, 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 6:00pm.

### 2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

Communications Report Update - under Superintendent's Information Items

Removed:

BC Provincial Council Preliminary Budget

**ORIGINAL - Motion P271 – 08/09**

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the agenda be amended as noted.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 – 0.**

3. Correspondence

**ORIGINAL - Motion P272 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive any Correspondence for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

- Community Connections Program (Grants)

Two letters from Local Government Program Services UBCM regarding funding of Community Gardens at Blue Mountain Elementary and Glenwood Elementary were received.

Blue Mountain School had their grant increased and Glenwood school is also getting a cheque for their community garden.

**ORIGINAL - Motion P273 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board decide which if any correspondence they wish to add to the Agenda.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2.

**The motion CARRIED. 5 - 2**

**B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. February 11, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

**ORIGINAL - Motion P274 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Minutes of the January 14, 2009 Public meeting minutes be approved as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

The Board Chair invited anyone from the public to make a presentation regarding the budget and also advised that submissions can be made until the end of May.

**H - CEO DECISION - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**

1. 2010 Olympics Survey

**ORIGINAL - Motion P275 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the results of the survey for changing the 2010 Spring Break to accommodate the 2010 Olympics.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

Conducting a survey was a recommendation that was requested at the Board Meeting on January 14th.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the survey was conducted and the recommendation remains the same - that the Board does not make any changes to the original Spring Break dates in 2010. Only a small number of people will be vastly involved in the Olympics.

The Board Chair then advised that leaves of absence for the Olympics will be discussed at the next agenda prep meeting as a topic.

**ORIGINAL - Motion P276 – 08/09**

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board does not make any changes to the original Spring Break dates in 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

**H - CEO DECISION - SECRETARY TREASURER**

1. 2008/09 Final Budget update

The 2008/09 Final Budget has been revised to incorporate the Fall Recalculation. The budget is balanced and there has been no cuts to programs or services

**ORIGINAL - Motion P277 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the 2008/09 Final Budget.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the 2008-09 budget has to be passed by end of February. It is based on the final enrollments as of September 30th. Very little adjustments were made and all the unavoidable increases were covered. We were also able to adjust for enrollment shifts and all of those things and came up with a balanced budget. We found some areas with surpluses which really means that we will run a much reduced surplus this year. We did not make any cuts to any programs and there will be no layoffs. The budget is \$126million dollars which is by far the largest budget that we've had. It continues to be a difficult task to maintain these numbers with declining enrollment. The Ministry document and a detailed breakdown was distributed to the Board. It is basically a continuation of the preliminary budget. He then went on to say that subsequent years are going to be much more difficult to arrive at a balanced budget. The surplus is shrinking and there will be less money to budget for next year. It is going to become that much more challenging as we progress.

**ORIGINAL - Motion P278 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the 2008/09 Final budget.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

**ORIGINAL - Motion P279 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the third and final reading of the 2008/09 Final budget.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

**H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Communications Update by Seamus Nesling

**ORIGINAL - Motion P280 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive Mr. Nesling's Communication Report for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 - 0**

The Communications Officer, Seamus Nesling, wanted to draw attention to a couple of things. Firstly, the next stage with website is training people for the website. Secondly, the logo process is now at the stage where there has been enough input from all parties that it can be handed off and he will expect a report back outlining what it all points to as to what kind of logo we will be considering.

Trustee Vdovine asked if there is any process to approve logo. Mr. Nesling explained that there is a steering team and it is part of the vision and values process and is taking direction from those individuals and will then come back to the board.

Trustee Vdovine added that he thinks the decision needs to rest in the school district; he does not feel the Board needs to be involved in approving the new logo.

Mr. Nesling advised that it will come back to the Board before going too far with anything.

The Board Chair added that she thought the Board had a motion to approve the final on the logo already.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that he will check. He said that he knows there is a motion regarding the committee but he will check and bring back to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board Chair then asked if we know how many of our communication reports went out. Mr. Nesling said that the communication reports went out to schools and community - there was a list of about 30 key people in the community and they all received a cover letter and report. He also advised that they are going to look into sending to other districts as well.

## 2. Good News

The Superintendent advised that in the last couple of years there had been challenges with hiring the appropriate number of TOC's, but that we have not experienced a shortage this year as we have in the past 2 years. He also said that he and the Deputy Superintendent take the time to meet with every TOC when they are getting oriented to the district and it gives them an opportunity to welcome and meet all the new TOCs. He then added that the TOCs are also really impressed with our orientation process.

The Deputy Superintendent shared that she had dropped by Pitt Meadows Elementary and gave chocolates and a card to the secretary there who is leaving after many years with the district. This gesture was so well received and it only takes a few minutes to recognize someone, yet it has such a huge impact. She is going to consciously commit to do things like that going forward.

Trustee Clarkson said that he saw the PALS program where parents come in and go through stations with kids. The one he attended was science stations with kindergarten kids and it is an excellent program.

Trustee Huber said wanted to remind everyone about the 2009 Disability Games coming up. He advised that the games are making great headway but they are still looking for volunteers. He also wanted to thank the media for all the support and help they have been with getting the word out.

Trustee Palis went to Spirit of the Wood Festival and it was great.

The Board Chair also went to the Spirit of the Wood Festival as well as the spirit of BC legacy countdown to the Olympics party. The lady who sang the national anthem, student Chantelle Tuininga from SRT, had a fabulous voice and was absolutely phenomenal. She also attended the Altitude for Youth curling challenge. They had teams from various schools and a number of teachers were there to support students. She found it so fascinating that a number of them never had any curling lessons and only a did a little bit of orientation to the game beforehand, but they all had a lot of fun. She also wanted to make mention to Inspector Wakely's memorial service – in that the District has been really fortunate that our relationship with RCMP detachment is what it is. It is such a great relationship and we lost a very good man very early. The Board Chair also attended the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Cythera House – which was also incredible.

## 3. FSA Update

The Superintendent advised that between the number of students in grade 4 and in grade 7, there are 2212 eligible to write the FSAs. At this point we have had a combination of 768 students of those to be exempt by principals or parents, which is about 1/3 of students. We can expect a serious affect on results from this and it is unlikely that we will be referring to the FSA in any way for our achievement contract next year, we will use local data instead. We do not have information on numbers for the rest of the province yet however.

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

## 1. Shop Class Sizes

### **ORIGINAL - Motion P281 – 08/09**

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion

'That the Board accept for information, the Shop Class Size document.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

**The motion CARRIED. 7 – 0.**

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the District has been in conversation with the MRTA over the last few years and we need shop classes lowered to 24 students for any of the classes that included powered equipment and or auto mechanics. This is done because of a safety issue that has been heard over and over, year after year.

The Superintendent added for clarity that this prompts serious discussions and we do not want to deny students to special programs. We are determining what the options are and we are taking teachers' input.

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

1. Education Committee
2. Aboriginal Education Committee
3. Human Resources Committee
4. Inclusive Education Committee
5. Finance Committee
6. Anti-Vandalism Committee
7. Policy Advisory Committee
8. Communications Advisory

Trustee Carr advised that there had been a meeting on February 12, where partner groups suggested enhancements to the school website. The next meeting will be on March 26, at 3:30pm at the DEO and she also wanted to extend thanks to Seamus Nesling for organizing the committee.

9. French Immersion Advisory

Trustee Palis advised that she had went to the kindergarten enrollment and it is looking good at all 3 schools.

10. District Student Advisory
11. Social Wellness Committee

## 12. Nutrition Committee

The Board Chair submitted a written report and it was her first meeting attended. She also advised that the Healthy Foods show is going to be cancelled for this year.

## 13. Historical Committee

### **J - QUESTION PERIOD**

#### 1. Trustee Questions

#### 2. Staff Questions

#### 3. Employee Group Questions

#### 4. DPAC Questions

#### 5. Public Questions

### **K - TRUSTEE REPORTS**

#### 1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

The Secretary Treasurer wanted to remind everyone about Friday's event and he wanted to thank all those who purchased tickets so far. He advised that everyone will be very pleased with the event. The doors open at 5:30, there will be an unveiling of new art, and the dinner will be prepared by culinary students at Thomas Haney. Tickets are still available, so far there have been 140-150 tickets sold and we are always good for 20-30 showing up at the door. Attendance this year will surpass last year's attendance.

#### 2. Joint Leisure Services

#### 3. Social Planning Advisory

#### 4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

Trustee Huber advised that they are doing a lot of work with Disability games. They want to extend their thanks for getting to use schools and for everyone working together to prepare for it. They are also coming out with a great new guideline that will be snapped up by every municipality. It is not a bylaw book but it is put together by people with special needs and it is their recommendations on how to better the municipality. They are looking at opportunities to lead the way for the accessibility of the community, not only for the disabled but also for age disabilities. The guideline can be purchased for \$24.95.

#### 5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

Trustee Rempel wanted to remind everyone about the celebration of the arts taking place on March 26<sup>th</sup> and students are getting involved and we have a new agreement with Parks & Leisure. He also advised that the next meeting is the last Monday of March.

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

7. District Parent Advisory Council

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

Trustee Rempel advised that there will be a meeting next week.

9. Youth Society Committee

Trustee Carr submitted a written report.

10. External Representative Reports

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

**L – OTHER BUSINESS**

**M - ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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Chair

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Secretary Treasurer