

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

Wednesday, March 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 – 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

Added:

- Communications Report - under Superintendent's Information Items
- Climate Action Charter – under Secretary Treasurer's Decision Items
- Letter to the City of PM regarding artificial turf field –Under Secretary Treasurer's Decision Items

ORIGINAL - Motion P282 – 08/09

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

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

3. Correspondence

ORIGINAL - Motion P283 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) 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: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

There were two letters received:

- 1 letter from CUPE regarding Public Private Partnerships by Forensic auditors Ron Parks & Rosanne Terhart
- 1 letter from The Ministry regarding Alcohol on Buses

B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 25, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

Corrections made:

- Under Good News Items, the Chair's comments regarding the young lady who sang was Chantelle Tuininga, a student at SRT.
- Under Deputy Superintendent's Shop Class Sizes, KW did not second SV did.
- Trustee Palis' name is missing from meeting with the Procedural Bylaws committee.

ORIGINAL - Motion P284 – 08/09

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Minutes of the February 25, 2009 Public meeting minutes be approved as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

C - PRESENTATIONS

1. Spirit of BC & Gifted Children Assoc. of BC Presentations

ORIGINAL - Motion P285 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Presentations for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

- Bonnie Telep from the Spirit of BC made a presentation to the Board. She is the Chair of the Spirit of BC committee for MR & PM. The Committee has been working hard since July 2003, when they received the bid for the Olympics. When BC received the bid, the Premiere decided that all the communities in BC would participate. The Committees are in charge of leading legacies and the MR & PM committee is just one of 90-some committees around BC. She explained that it all really starts with the legacies with the youth. She wanted to thank the

Board for all the support they have given and she wanted to introduce one of the 5 Altitude Youths, Gillian. The Altitude Youths had to go through a process with the committee in order to sit on the committee. She also advised that so far, they have done a lot through the schools and one of the things that has happened is the actions in schools – Maple Ridge is one of the first Committees to be integrated into school systems. Another action that has taken place in the schools is the healthy foods. She was wondering if they can use the Board for a communication system because they want the Board to participate and volunteer, but also to get teachers, schools, & students more aware. They also have sculptures in Pitt Meadows' Hall & in Maple Ridge's library as well as banners in the streets. They are hoping to funnel information through the Board to get the information out, especially to teachers. Communications Officer, Mr. Seamus Nesling then agreed to sit down with Bonnie to figure out what she needs and how we can accommodate that thru our internal communications systems.

The Board Chair then asked the Altitude Youth student, Gillian, what her involvement has been so far. Gillian explained that she has been involved with putting together the flag-raising ceremony last year as well as the calling event. Gillian explained that they are getting different feedback from different schools and they have organized several events. The Deputy Superintendent then added that they are working on what activities that can be done throughout the Olympics, in the schools. Bonnie then advised that the Torch Relay is one of the events that is coming through Maple Ridge and that they are still looking for people to carry the torch.

- Gifted Children's Assoc Presentation –
The Chair of the Gifted Children's Association, Sarah Nelson distributed letters for everybody. She explained that she came today, as the Chair for the local chapter which serves the kids in our community. Most of the kids are in the school system but some have dropped out of the system. She went on to say that the reason she was here, was to talk about a budget request that might be considered even given the economic circumstances this year. They are trying to find ways to keep the kids engaged and in school. She also explained that they are in need of space for after school programs. The Superintendent advised that he would talk to the Deputy Superintendent and that he was confident they would be able to find space for the after school programs. The Secretary Treasurer then advised that as with normal process for budget request, the requests to go Senior team and then work their way through the budget process.

H - CEO DECISION ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT

1. Code of Conduct – Dr. Randy Cranston

Dr. Randy Cranston made a presentation regarding the Code of Conduct. He advised that in 2004 the Ministry produced "safe, orderly, & caring schools". Then in 2006, the Ministry requested a huge report and the progress that each school had made with meeting the criteria. The district had over 30 policies or procedures that were safety related and it was too much to look at. When submitting the report, it was reported that the majority of our schools met the majority of the criteria. In 2007, the Ministry issued an order saying that all schools MUST have a Code of Conduct and should consult with other schools in order to make sure the codes are compatible. The next step was forming the committee. We can create a template for the schools to use in order to create their own code of conduct. If we want codes of conduct to be followed by children and the community, then children need to be the ones to

write it. We recommend that it is reviewed annually, and then once every 5 years in Elementary schools and once every 4 years in Secondary schools they would re-do the process and re-write it. The development of the belief statements would be owned by the school. We believe "statements" are better than having "rules" and the children "own" the statements more so than follow "rules". The committee decided to provide 2 templates, one with subheadings and one without. We have already gone to the Principals and Vice Principals and the next step is that it goes out to schools and then gets flushed out to the broader community. The recommended deadline is the end of October and it's a great process.

Trustee Clarkson asked if it is explicit in that it says that students must take part in it. Randy answered by saying that it is for sure in the checklist.

Trustee Clarkson then asked about tying it in with the social responsibilities and Randy responded by saying that it will for sure be tied in and that they are going to add the committee member's names to the memo.

Trustee Vdovine asked about the information presented about the code of conduct process contradicting the Electronic Devices Policy. Randy addressed his concern by saying that's why it is important to have this conversation now so that everything is in alignment. The Superintendent added that it is not necessarily in contradiction of Electronic Device policy.

The Board Chair asked for clarification regarding page 3, section 4, the second last paragraph says that "every effort is being made to support students, interventions, progressive disciplines..." and there is referral to an "Intervention committee"is that 2 specific committees? Randy responded by saying that it is just a list of possibilities that may not necessarily even exist. The Board Chair then inquired about bullying and Randy said that it can all be incorporated into the code because any policy that relates to things in the checklist, can be eliminated.

ORIGINAL - Motion P286 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Code of Conduct report from Randy Cranston for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

H - CEO DECISION ITEMS - SECRETARY TREASURER

1. Amendment of Procedural Bylaws

The Procedural Bylaws are being amend by removing Good News Items and having them reported under the heading of other reports

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Board asked at the last meeting to have the Procedural Bylaw amended to reflect change in the agenda in that Good News be eliminated and dealt with under "Other Trustee Reports". This is the only change. The Procedural Bylaws need to be read in 3 readings but it can be done all in one meeting.

Trustee Huber wanted to comment by saying that the Board is not removing good news, it is just a line item.

ORIGINAL - Motion P287 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board amend the Procedural Bylaws as per the attached document.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 1

ORIGINAL - Motion P288 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board amend the Procedural Bylaws as per the attached document.' **For the SECOND READING.** Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 1

ORIGINAL - Motion P289 – 08/09

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board amend the Procedural Bylaws as per the attached document.' **For the THIRD AND FINAL READING.** Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 1

H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT

1. FSA Update

The Superintendent stated that as most Trustees are aware, the FSA has come to conclusion. The ones that were completed were marked last Saturday and Principals are in amidst submitting the results to the Ministry. For those students who wrote, their results were sent home to their parents. The parents of students who did not write were not sent the results. We believe that we ended up with 38.5% of students not writing due to the combination of parent requests and legitimate exemptions made by Principals. The Ministry gave a grant to mark FSAs and it was used in its entirety to mark them.

Trustee Vdovine asked if anything is known yet about next year and if there are any potential changes coming from the Ministry? The Superintendent said that the feel is that there will be changes, but nothing has been said yet. After the election, there is potential for some difference.

Trustee Huber asked if there is anything that the Board can do to start being proactive or controversial in order to encourage the dialogue that will take place along the way, possibly the dialogue can be intrigued earlier on. The Superintendent responded by saying that he certainly does not encourage the Board to stay out of the game as the Board is on record for encouraging dialogue and there is good opportunity to write another letter after the election.

ORIGINAL - Motion P290 – 08/09

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's FSA update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Update on 2010 Olympic Leave of Absence Requests

ORIGINAL - Motion P291 – 08/09

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the update on the 2010 Olympics for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

The Deputy Superintendent advised that at this point since we do not yet know the scope of the number of LOA requests we will receive due to the 2010 Olympics, however we have put together some parameters that we will use to deal with this issue. We will follow the collective agreements and if needed, talk to the unions and come up with a solution.

2. Communications Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P292 – 08/09

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

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

Communications Officer Seamus Nesling explained the process to find a new logo and gave a report outlining the community survey that was given by a marketing company. The survey dates back to the spring of 2008 and when submissions by students to develop a new logo did not lead to many acceptable submissions, the committee got permission from Board to work with outside company. The Company is Six Degrees Marketing and they have worked with the Board on other initiatives. As part of process, we had been asked to work with a steering team, with a mission, vision, & values process. They suggested waiting for the staff satisfaction and engagement survey results that took place in the fall and by January all the information was out. There was a part of the survey that included staff comments on what they thought the strengths of the district are, which was thought to be valuable input for the logo process. They also had an online survey where more than 200 people responded and people were also surveyed in malls. They gathered all the information and that is the stage we are at now. He explained that they now feel that they have enough direction to sit down with a graphic designer to consider what can be part of the design. There was a strong preference for blue and green in the colours and when asked if it should be assumed that Golden Ears be the background, half the people felt yes and the others not necessarily. At this point, we have asked the company to present some suggested artistic directions on approaches that we can take as the logo can be really abstract, or really detailed and want to look at different feels before we get to the sample logos stage.

Trustee Huber asked if the budget had been considered regarding the costs for the logo and Mr. Nesling said that things only get replaced when they need replacing and it is time to replace the decals on company vehicles etc anyhow so regardless of getting a new logo, they would need replacing. The other approach would be to have a nice clean move to a new logo, which would involve more cost and waste but it doesn't have to be a cost item if we can't afford it.

The Board Chair asked about the timeline for mock ups of ideas? Mr. Nesling said that it depends on what further direction is given from the steering team, but that they are expecting in a week or two to

have the artistic direction piece and that all the hold ups have been passed. The goal is to have the logo well in place for next year, if not sooner.

3. Kindergarten Registration update Grade 7 to 8 Registration update

The Deputy Superintendent advised that at this time Kindergarten registration week for English is just coming to an end so an update with possible recommendations is being presented. Grade 7 School selection forms have also just arrived so there is also a report on grade 8 registration as well. The Kindergarten recommendations are for decisions and the Grade 8 update is for information only. It has been laid out so that the issues with kindergarten enrollments can be seen.

ORIGINAL - Motion P293 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board direct Staff to look into relocating the 6 Kindergarten students who are currently registered at Riverside, to Maple Ridge Elementary.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

ORIGINAL - Motion P294 – 08/09

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board direct Staff to explore the possibility of amalgamating any or all of Eric Langton, Glenwood, and Mount Crescent Kindergarten programs this year.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 0 Nay: 6.

The motion FAILED 0-6.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that these recommendations start down the path of closing schools and these would only be short term fixes to the issues at hand and the Board needs to look at making longer term decisions about catchment areas and school futures. Conversations about next year need to be started right now.

The Superintendent and Deputy Superintended advised that they could have some options brought back to the Board for the April 8th meeting..

NEW - Motion P295 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board reconsider Recommendation #1.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 2. (KC & EP opposed)

The motion CARRIES 4-2

NEW - Motion P296 – 08/09

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board direct Staff to look into relocating the 6 Kindergarten students who are currently registered at Riverside, to Maple Ridge Elementary.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 1 Nay: 5. (EP yes)

The motion FAILED 1-5.

NEW - Motion P297 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board direct Staff to bring in recommendations around the process of reopening catchment review as well as school closures process.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIES 6-0.

ORIGINAL - Motion P298– 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board direct Staff to explore the possibility of offering a full day kindergarten program at Eric Langton in September 2009.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 0 Nay: 6.
The motion FAILED 0-6.

The Deputy Superintendent then gave her update on Grade 8 Registration and explained that it is basically an update on the whole process of moving all the grade 7s in the district into grade 8 in their school of choice.

H – CEO INFORMATION ITEMS – SECRETARY TREASURER

1. Climate Action Charter

ORIGINAL - Motion P299 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the Climate Action Charter for information' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

The Secretary Treasurer distributed a copy of the Climate Action Charter that Ministry is offering to every district and that if signed by end of March and submitted, it allows districts to claim back carbon taxes paid and access to carbon trust to help districts obtain zero carbon emissions. This would put us in par with municipalities.

2. Letter to the City of PM

ORIGINAL - Motion P300 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's verbal report on the letter to the City of Pitt Meadows for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

The Secretary Treasurer advised that a request from the City of Pitt Meadows had been received because they are in the process for updating all the documentation for Artificial Turf and they came across ours and it is a little dated so they have asked us to update it. This is basically just a change in the date on our original letter that we sent that talks about why we need it and why the Board would support it, its use in the community, and things of that nature. It's basically a letter of support from us reiterating our commitment. The Secretary Treasurer then advised that he would send a copy of the letter that gets sent to all the Trustees.

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
9. French Immersion Advisory
10. District Student Advisory

Trustee Huber advised that he, along with Trustee Palis and Trustee Carr, had attended the DSAC meeting where they talked about the upcoming meeting on Thursday, April 9th, 2009, the Spin on Change Challenge, Me to We, and Anti-bullying. He said that he was completely amazed by the level of maturity of the students and how the older students ran it and lead by example.

11. Social Wellness Committee
12. Nutrition Committee
13. Historical Committee

J - QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions
2. Staff Questions
3. Employee Group Questions

Mr. George Serra from the MRTA asked the Secretary Treasurer about all the budget recommendations coming forward, is there any feedback that comes back to the people who made submissions? The Secretary Treasurer advised that they are not at the point of decisions yet but they will be responding to each one.

Mr. Serra then advised the Board that the BCTF AGM is starting on Saturday night and it runs until Tuesday night. He wants to let the Trustees know that they can come as a visitor and sit with teachers and delegates. It is a really good thing to come and see for anybody as there is a perception of how a

union is run, and this is a good way to see the democratic process. Trustees also might want to listen online to the AGM at the Hyatt. He then said that Ms. Drusilla Wilson, the President of the MRTA said that if anyone comes, she'll pay for their lunch.

4. DPAC Questions

Ms. Kathy Froelich wanted to inquire about the FSA results where if 38.5% was the rough quote, what were the legitimate percentages, is there any idea? The Superintendent advised that there is some idea that there were less than 200 legitimate, and about 800 in total so it was about 1/4 legit.

5. Public Questions

K - TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

The Board Chair stated that on February 27th the 3rd Annual REMF dinner took place and she has to say it was a huge success. It included the unveiling of the art piece that Lisa Lake did of the maple leaf and it garnered the reaction that we were hoping it would. She wanted to send out a huge thank you to Max Low and his crew who spent hours setting up and taking down, as well as to Rick Delorme and his crew for moving the leaf and disguising it. Also a big thanks to the choir from Harry Hooze, the other choir & dance team, all the people who provided the silent auction, SRT's culinary students for desserts, TH's culinary students for the meal, SASS group at Garibaldi, and Jessie's Hope. She then advised that smaller renditions of the leaf are available in sets of 4 coasters and they are for sale. There was a 20% increase in attendees this year and next year's event will top this year's.

2. Joint Leisure Services

Reminder that tomorrow night is the planning session.

3. Social Planning Advisory

Trustee Palis submitted report.

Trustee Huber said that they elected a chair and a vice chair and it is actually run like ht Hub at Eric Langton. There is an ever growing number of youth at risk in our district and the number of kids at the food bank who are under 12 years old is 2000.

4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

Trustee Ward submitted a report. She explained that there was one late motion brought forward that deemed to be emergent because of the funding announcement that normally comes out on 13 or 14th, which made it too late for that motion to go to the AGM. There were no further recommendations on the preliminary budget.

7. District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Palis submitted a report. The next meeting is Mon. April 6, at TH.

Ms. Kathy Froelich wanted to comment that DPAC is not sponsoring district literacy, they are only asking for feedback, Suzanne Hall is the district librarian. She also wanted everyone to know that Yennoden School Carnival has been cancelled due to economic times.

Trustee Huber wanted to address that by saying that times like this is when the community needs to have events like that to come together and be supportive.

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

9. Youth Society Committee

10. External Representative Reports

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Vdovine and Trustee Clarkson went to the Columbia Institute Conference over the weekend. It was around the issue of sustainability and local governance and Trustee Vdovine wanted to say that what really impressed him was the work Clyde Hansen is doing around EDI. He is blown away by the kind of research going on out there and to base a policy on it spoke to the kind of resources we have in this province.

Trustee Carr wanted to give a big shout out to the Comparative Civilization classes at MRSS. She said that if you get a chance to go see this, it is unbelievable – it's called Diversity and it's during the Social Responsibility Week - March 9-12. It is the students' last project before leaving school and going out to the world. Kids that are normally unengaged in grade 12 are even highly involved now. Also a great opportunity to see Me to We on March 3. The nice thing was that they also invited grade 6 & 7 which was a very good idea to get them thinking at a younger age.

Trustee Palis was invited to MRE for a presentation. She said it was awesome - they had a music teacher come in and work with students for 9 weeks, and worked with marimbas (xylophones) and it was amazing.

The Board Chair attended the MR Community Foundation Awards and it announced the citizen of the year. Mr. Bob Thompson was the citizen of the year. All his acknowledgments went to all the people who helped him and his wife. This gentlemen volunteers with so many organizations throughout the community, it was a really nice event.

Trustee Huber stated that with being part of Parks & Leisure, something he just witnessed that speaks to the coming together of the community, was that an email went out to soccer players asking for help to clear the snow off the field. He drove by and noticed dozens of people out at 7 am clearing the fields. What an incredible community we live in for people to do that. Trustee Palis added that there were 30 coaches there by 10 in the morning.

The Superintendent said that he heard David Vanderguten talk about things he is doing and he is currently rolling out a smart board project that has teachers working in pairs with the smart boards and it is a really great thing.

The Deputy Superintendent wanted to add something regarding ME to WE, just a head's up that she thinks we are going to end up needing to budget for buses because they are thinking they will get 30 kids per school to the Dahli Lama event downtown at GM Place.

L – OTHER BUSINESS

M – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.