

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

Wednesday, April 8, 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 – Dr. Dave Rempel

Trustee – Stepan Vdovine

Trustee – Eleanor Palis - ABSENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Superintendent – Jan Unwin

Secretary Treasurer – Don Woytowich

Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

Superintendent – John Simpson – ABSENT

Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling - ABSENT

A - OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Ordering of Agenda

ORIGINAL - Motion P312 – 08/09

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

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

3. Correspondence

ORIGINAL - Motion P313 – 08/09

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) 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

B - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. March 25, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P314 – 08/09

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion That the Minutes of the March 25, 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

C - PRESENTATIONS

The Board received the following presentation for information.

1. Laptop 1 to 1 Presentation

Mr. David Vandergugten, the Director of IT for District, introduced the Grade 6/7 teacher from Alouette as well as some students from Alouette to do a laptop presentation on what the Laptop 1 to 1 program means to them.

The teacher announced that there is an open house at 1:30pm at Hammond tomorrow (April 9th) for it. She then explained that Alouette has had the program now for 2 years and it has opened up the classroom to many other things. The students here have had 2 years experience and there are 17 classes with laptops in the school district, with a total of 86 divisions in Maple Ridge.

The students then made short presentations and explained how their laptop have helped them with organization, keeping track of assignments, math - graphs and charts. Personal goals or notes are listed as visual reminders in assignments on "stickies" and there is a forum for blogging conversation with other classmates, which makes it more comfortable to speak up for conversations. Reminders can be set the night before for everything they need to do the next day, there is a homepage for the class, recent activities updates, there is a compliment section for complimenting other students to help their self esteem, and electronic presentations and websites can be used instead of doing traditional hands-on type projects. It is very secure and only the students have access to the site.

It changes the way we deliver education. The kids can personalize their computers and take ownership, and it also builds confidence within the students in other aspects of their lives too.

The Board Chair then asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to ask any questions or make any presentations to the Board. At which time the following conversations took place:

1. Mr. Todd Hill, Vice Chair of DPAC – Asked about the possible amalgamation/school closure – he wants to ask the Board if it is entering into possible school closure or amalgamation to take a leadership position this time and make a decision and make it quickly so that the school can have closure and move on. His son has attended Riverside for the past 4 years, and there have been numerous scares and many changes and so he wants a quick decision so can parents plan ahead.
2. Ms. Gladys Hewson, CUPE – Agreed with Mr. Hill in that the decision needs to be made quickly. The Board needs to make it a positive step and move on.
3. Ms Alison Pagett, a Parent from Mt. Crescent – Agreed too. She is personally against school closure and wants buildings to be used for what they were meant for, parents had a difficult time with closing schools to open others. This time it is about debt and declining numbers but we're not hearing about what the cost savings will be or what will be saved by closing schools. She understands that it's more of a government issue and she is willing to take a stand as a community member and as a parent who wants the best. She also wants the Board to be creative and think outside of the box this time and not necessarily close schools. Are there any other avenues that we can take?
4. Jackie, a Parent from Thomas Haney – wanted to comment on the common timetable. Both her boys attend THSS and it has a special model as a school. There are 5 blocks a day and it works extremely well for most kids. The common timetable talks about reducing it to 4 blocks a day. If so, the “contact” blocks would be reduced per week and it works for us the way it is.
5. Leslie Franklin, the President of CUPE - agreed that the closure decision should be done quickly but she's hoping the board won't be in the same predicament as the last three such as what happened with Thornhill, for when enrollment goes back up (speaking to the Disposal of Property Policy). We should be keeping schools, not selling them.
6. Nigel Taylor, the PAC chair at THSS - wanted to add to the timetable debate – he wants to draw attention to the difference of available teaching hours and accessible teaching hours. THSS has many ways of utilizing the days and having access to teachers relies on that, so going to a smaller number of larger blocks has a definite effect on accessible teaching hours. It also would affect the different types of courses that students can take. If teacher advisor time is limited or altered it will debilitate the system that is something that will affect the core. He wanted to make the Board aware of some of the concerns that are arising.
7. Gladys Hewson, from CUPE – asked about the Protocol agreement – she was wondering what kind of work the women inmates will be doing? The Secretary Treasurer replied by saying that they would be maintaining the community gardens in the summertime when no one is around, and that's all right now.

E - CHAIR REPORT

1. Heritage Day Email

The Board Chair advised that this was put on the agenda because it asks the Board to send a representative for the Class Reunions Committee. The Chair didn't know there was a Class Reunions Committee in this district. Normally the alumni from that class are the ones who organize the reunion. We have a Heritage Committee but it's not the same.

ORIGINAL - Motion P315 – 08/09

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board consider the request from Mary Robson and the Heritage Day 2009 Committee.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 1 Nay: 5. (Trustee Vdovine voted in favour)

The motion FAILED 1 – 5.

2. Community Connections Grant Motion

The Chair advised that this motion was done via email as it was needed to be into the Ministry by the 31st of March and it had no implications to the Board as a whole. She explained that it is being brought to the Board now to be ratified at the public meeting as it normally would have been, but from time to time these things have to be done via email.

ORIGINAL - Motion P316 – 08/09

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

The motion CARRIED 6-0.

H - CEO DECISION - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Beginning the process for possible amalgamations or school closures

Following the Cornerstone report and several subsequent board meetings where declining enrollment and small school issues were presented, the Board has asked for options to be brought forward to begin the process for possible school closures.

The Deputy Superintendent explained that on behalf of Senior Team, she brought back the following 5 options for the Board to consider:

Option 1: That staff begin a public consultation process to determine the viability of amalgamating Riverside Elementary with Maple Ridge Elementary school for September 2010.

Option 2: That staff begin a public consultation process to determine the viability of amalgamating Mount Crescent Elementary school with Glenwood Elementary school September 2010.

Option 3: That staff begin a public consultation process to determine the viability of amalgamating Webster's Corner with Blue Mountain Elementary school effective September 2010.

Option 4: That staff undertake a catchment review immediately upon and in conjunction with whatever options staff are to pursue regarding possible school closures.

Option 5: That staff initiate a long term review on the impact of declining enrollment on any remaining schools to determine possible need for potential further school closures and catchment re-alignment in 2011 and beyond.

She then explained that once discussion around these possible options conclude, and a direction is given by the board, process and timelines for data gathering, catchment reviews, meetings, and potential cost

savings will be determined and brought forward at subsequent board meetings. The consultations can begin in 08/09 and conclude with final decisions prior to April 2010 for possible implementation September 2010.

A long and thorough discussion ensued and resulted in the following motions:

NEW - Motion P317 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board direct staff to explore and enter into a consultation process related to alternative schools including progressive and traditional and bring the options back to the board.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Ward did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 5 – 1.

AMENDED - Motion P318 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That staff begin a public consultation process to determine the viability of amalgamating Riverside Elementary with Maple Ridge Elementary school.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Rempel did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 5 – 1.

NEW - Motion P319 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board amend its current school closure policy to exempt Riverside Elementary and Maple Ridge Elementary.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 2 (Trustees Rempel & Ward did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 4-2.

NEW - Motion P320 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board amend the policy on the creation of Board policies to exclude the school closure policy as it relates to Riverside Elementary and Maple Ridge Elementary'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 2 (Trustees Rempel & Ward did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 4-2.

NEW - Motion P321 – 08/09

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board combine and approve options 2,4 & 5 into one option with the exception of any reference to specific dates.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 3 Nay: 3 (Trustees Rempel, Ward, & Huber did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 3-3.

NEW - Motion P322 – 08/09

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board direct staff to review catchment for Webster's Corners and Albion.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 2 Nay: 4. (Trustees Clarkson & Carr were the only Trustees who voted in favour).

The motion FAILED 2 – 4.

NEW - Motion P323 – 08/09

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board direct staff to treat option 3 in the same manner as 2,4 & 5.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 2 (Trustees Clarkson & Vdovine did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED 4 – 2.

2. Late French Immersion Registration Update

The issue of low enrollment in Late French Immersion has been reviewed by Sr. Staff and the French Immersion Advisory Committee. Several options were presented to the Board along with the information below.

Historically, Late French Immersion (LFI) takes place the last week of February. Last spring, following the Board motion, it was anticipated that Late French Immersion registration would take place at the same time as kindergarten registration. In January 2009, it was decided to change the kindergarten date and registration process, which in turn affected the time line of the LFI registration. LFI registration began March 9, 2009.

Preparation for LFI registration:

- ✓ LFI teachers, principals and students from each LFI school visited catchment area schools and talked to grade 5 students about the LFI program.
- ✓ Parent letters were sent home with all grade 5 students inviting them to attend a district meeting about LFI.
- ✓ Ads were placed in the local papers announcing the district meeting on February 19th at the DEO.
- ✓ Arrangements were made by our FI facilitator to drive students to LFI schools to visit the program.
- ✓ Ads were placed in the local papers announcing LFI registration.
- ✓ Information about the LFI meeting and registration date was placed in all school newsletters.

Registration numbers:

School:	Projected School Enrolment (does not include Int. students)	Grade 6 English	Grade 6 LFI	Grade 7 LFI
<i>Highland Park</i>	289	22	12 (all from HP)	20
<i>Fairview</i>	277	31	12 (8 from FV)	27
<i>Golden Ears</i>	457	38	20 (16 from GE)	19

Possible reasons for low registration:

- ✓ Declining enrolment
- ✓ Parents are working and unable to drive their child to a program of choice

*Please note that other school districts are experiencing the same decline in their LFI programs.

French Immersion Advisory recommendation:

The FI advisory recognizes that LFI is a program of choice and that the Board of Education is not required to provide this educational option to the students of SD 42. This said, the FI Advisory Committee is requesting that the Board of Education continue to offer Grade 7 LFI at all three schools next year.

Grade 6 LFI is 100% taught in French with students having no knowledge of the French language. Grade 7 LFI is 80% French and 20% English. By grade 7 students are able to communicate in French both orally and in written form. It is not educationally sound to create a split grade 6/7 class.

Taking into account the district's 2009-10 budget challenges and continued declining enrollment, at its April 2, 2009 meeting, it was recommended that the Board of Education consider the following options regarding Grade 6 LFI:

Option 1:

To ask district staff to survey the parents who have registered their child in Grade 6 LFI at Fairview to see if they would be interested in having their child attend the LFI program at Highland Park. The District would no longer offer the opportunity for students to attend Grade 6 LFI at Fairview.

Rationale: If there was sufficient interest, this would allow the district to offer a grade 6 LFI class both in Maple Ridge (Golden Ears) and Pitt Meadows (Highland Park). It is anticipated that each program would have approximately 20 students enrolled in their grade 6 class.

Option 2:

To ask district staff to survey parents who have registered their child in Grade 6 LFI at Fairview and Highland Park to see if they would be interested in having their child attend the LFI program at Golden Ears. It is anticipated that the 4 students who are from schools other than Fairview may choose to drive to Golden Ears bringing registration to a minimum of 24 students. The District would no longer offer the opportunity for students to attend Grade 6 LFI at Fairview or Highland Park.

Rationale: Golden Ears has a larger student population from which to attract LFI students.

Option 3:

To offer a Grade 6 LFI class at Golden Ears even if the registration remains at 20 students for September 2009.

Rationale: There would still at least be one Grade 6 LFI class that parents could choose to have their child attend for September 2009.

Discussion ensued and the Board agreed on the following new motion as a result:

NEW - Motion P324 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board direct staff to undertake whatever options are required to offer a Grade 6 LFI class at Golden Ears even if the registration remains at 20 students for September 2009.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED 6 – 0.

H - CEO DECISION - SECRETARY TREASURER

1. Additional Daycare Space Requests

The Secretary Treasurer explained that we have received requests for the rental of additional space for either the expansion of daycare operations or to establish new daycare operations in our schools. At the current time, there is space in several schools where additional rooms could be made available for rent. However, with the possibility of potential school closure consultation and the implementation of full-day kindergarten in the near future, it is difficult to determine space requirements at this time.

Space has been requested for the following locations: Harry Hooge, Edith McDermott, Davie Jones, Whonnock, and any some have just made a generic request for space.

He recommends that the Board defer any additional rental for daycare space until discussions regarding possible school closure and catchment review have been concluded

AMENDED - Motion P325 – 08/09

Member (Dr. Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the AMENDED motion 'That the Board defer any additional rental for daycare space until discussions regarding possible school closure and catchment review have been concluded or it becomes evident that space will be available.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 6 - 0

*Trustee Rempel left the meeting at this time.

2. Draft Policy Property Disposal

A draft policy for the disposal of property for the Boards consideration was presented. The policy aligns with the template recommended by BCSTA legal counsel.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that this is the template that was developed by Keith Clark at the BCSTA and it is being adopted by Districts across BC. It is required that the Board has a policy on this.

NEW - Motion P326 – 08/09

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the NEW motion 'That the Board receive the draft policy and move it to first reading.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED 5 – 0.

H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Update on Coordinated Timetable

A preliminary update of the Coordinated Timetable was presented by the Deputy Superintendent. She also explained that Stewart Sonne, the Director of Education, will bring the complete package of information to the Board in May. She also noted that the Thomas Haney block module will not be affected by the newly coordinated timetable – it is not something that will change.

ORIGINAL - Motion P327 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the preliminary update of the Coordinated Timetable for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED 5 – 0.

H - CEO INFORMATION ITEMS - SECRETARY TREASURER

1. Protocol Agreement

The Secretary Treasurer explained that the Community Gardens projects are encountering issues related to weeding and upkeep during the summer months. The City has a protocol agreement in place for allowing ACCW inmates to work on city property under supervision. He presented the Board with the protocol agreement that has been modified for the School District and that would allow for the same practice at our gardens. They would be low-risk inmates who would be well-supervised and would come and weed the gardens during the summer months only.

ORIGINAL - Motion P328 – 08/09

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the protocol agreement to allow ACCW inmates to work in school gardens.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED. 5 - 0

I - COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Education Committee
2. Aboriginal Education Committee
3. Inclusive Education Committee
4. Finance Committee

Trustee Huber advised that there are constant meetings right now and they are getting down to some decisions.

5. Anti-Vandalism Committee

The Board Chair submitted a written report. She highlighted that we expect that Vandalism costs will surpass last year's. They are in the process of making plans to do a community forum type initiative in the Pitt Meadows area as the unique situation of the Pitt Meadow's schools. The next meeting is May 25th, and it will be discussing summer strategy.

6. Policy Advisory Committee

Third & Final Reading of Electronic Devices Policy.

This policy has been out in the system for close to 90 days and there has been no feedback to date. Therefore it is here for 3rd & final reading.

ORIGINAL - Motion P329 – 08/09

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the third and final reading of the Electronic Devices Policy.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 1 (Trustee Vdovine did not vote in favour).

The motion CARRIED. 4 - 1

7. Communications Advisory

8. French Immersion Advisory.

A report was submitted by Trustee Palis.

9. District Student Advisory

Students are doing their COR Project – “Me to We” at the Greg Moore Youth Centre and the Act on April 9th.

10. Social Wellness Committee

11. Nutrition Committee

A report was submitted by Trustee Carr.

12. Historical Committee

The meeting has been postponed.

J - QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions

Trustee Vdovine wanted to ensure there was clarity around the decision on Riverside, he thinks it important to indicate what has taken place and what the intent is and what the outcome will be around the timeline.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that Senior Team will sketch out a reasonable consultation process and will bring back for next the meeting on April 29th.

2. Staff Questions

3. Employee Group Questions

George Serra from the MRTA asked about the employee satisfaction survey. The MRTA would like the data collected to be sent to a group to be properly analyzed. The Board Chair suggested that he put his concerns into a letter and send it to the Board to be addressed by the HR Committee.

4. Public Questions

There was a question about amalgamation and the existing daycares in the schools, i.e.) Websters Corners - what commitments have already been made - how does daycare play into it?

The Secretary Treasurer advised that even if a school were to close, they can still operate a daycare and it will play into the consultation process regarding amalgamation.

There was then a question around Bill 33 – if amalgamating schools where those issues are already in effect, how does it work?

The Deputy Superintendent replied by saying that they would have to see what exactly it looks like when the two schools are brought together. It is the law and it would have to be compensated. It would play out, no matter how many kids and how many schools end up being a part of the consultation process.

5. DPAC Questions

Kathy Froelich asked if excerpts from this meeting could be posted online, before the meeting minutes are approved at next meeting i.e.) the motions that were passed. Having the motions immediately posted under a “school closure link” on the website would help alleviate rumours and help anxiety.

The Board Chair replied by saying that our Communications Officer is currently away however she would see what she could do in order to have them posted as soon as possible.

K - TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

The Board Chair stated that she missed the last RMEF meeting due to having oral surgery. She tabled the minutes from the April 26th meeting.

2. Joint Leisure Services

There is a meeting tomorrow night (April 9, 2009).

3. Social Planning Advisory

4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

Trustee Huber advised that they are going on a tour of all the schools for the Disability Games and they are still looking for volunteers. He is also going to bring the book of their Work Plans for Municipal Accessibility to the next Board meeting.

5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

There won't be any activity until after the AGM that is taking place April 23-26.

7. District Parent Advisory Council

They had a meeting on Monday (April 6) and it was a very good discussion/meeting. The next meeting is the AGM on June 1st and there is a forum on May 4.

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

9. Youth Society Committee

They haven't met because they are in the process of working on the Home Show. They are also going to meet every 2 months instead of monthly.

10. External Representative Reports

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

The Board Chair wanted to comment on the official Strong Start Openings. She said it was so good to be amongst all the little kids. She felt bad for the students cutting the ribbon with the MLA, he has big hands compared to theirs, but they helped cut the ribbon! She was also talking with the parents about how much they value the centers in their schools and it was very enlightening.

Trustee Carr mentioned all the high schools that are doing their job interview fairs right now. Grade 10 students come in with resumes and cover letters and the community volunteers to interview them. To the teachers and staff who organized it – it's a great thing in that it is a great way to prepare kids for the future.

The Board Chair also wanted to mention the Public Speaking Finals that took place at Thomas Haney, this was the final week for it. She helped to judge some of the Grade 7 students last week and she said they had great topics. Kudos to all the teachers and students involved - Ron Lanzotta has always done a great job organizing it.

L – OTHER BUSINESS

M – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:03pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer