



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 (6:00 PM)
DEO Boardroom**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair – Kathie Ward
Vice Chair – Ken Clarkson
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Stepan Vdovine
Trustee – Mike Huber

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Deputy Superintendent – Stewart Sonne
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

ABSENT – Trustee Rempel

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- School Visit Invitation/Request, to the Chair Report by Trustee Carr
- Advocacy Committee motion, under Committee Business by Trustee Vdovine
- Trustee Questions, by Trustee Vdovine
- Trustee Questions, by Trustee Ward

ORIGINAL - Motion P136 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board order the agenda as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Correspondence

ORIGINAL - Motion P137– 09/10

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 UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. October 14, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

- Correction on Page 2 under Chair Report, regarding the flag proposal, the first paragraph after motion to receive, at the end of the first sentence “through a joint initiative with the RCMP and the Legion”. “Flags are ALSO available through the Purchasing Department.”
- Correction on Page 5 under Anti Vandalism, “the committee is currently working on an anonymous hotline similar to Crimestoppers, for the public to report vandalism.”
- Correction on Page 7 – typo “Secretary Treasurer.”

ORIGINAL - Motion P138 – 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the October 14, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair then advised that Trustee Rempel would not be at the meeting because he is out escorting visiting Students.

The Board Chair then asked if anyone wanted to speak to any item on the agenda. There was no one.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

CHAIR REPORT

ORIGINAL - Motion P139 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Public Input for School Closure

The Board Chair announced that the Board is accepting input into the School Closure Process up until November 30, 2009.

2. Board Work Days

The Board is engaging in several work days in which they are going through Rules of Engagement and Board Goals which will then move into District Goals, and a work plan for the remainder of the term.

3. November 10th Board meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 being November 11th is a holiday.

4. Remembrance Day ceremonies

The Board has been asked for the names of the Board representatives who will be laying the wreaths at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Discussion ensued and it was decided that Trustee Carr and Trustee Clarkson would attend the Maple Ridge ceremony and that Trustee Palis and Trustee Ward would attend the Pitt Meadows ceremony.

5. School Visit Invite

Trustee Carr advised that she had been contacted by the Staff of Mount Crescent Elementary school and they wanted to send a request/invite to the Board to go on a school tour followed by a short program, resource information, and then a sit-down with the Staff after the students have dismissed, prior to the November 17th meeting.

Discussion ensued and it was decided that Trustee Carr would inquire about the possibility of a meeting over the lunch hour and that the Trustees would finalize a meeting time via email.

The Board also wanted to make sure that the MRTA is aware that this request has been made.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Bill 33 Final Report

The Deputy Superintendent copies of the final package for the Bill 33 submission. He advised that he had met with all the Vice-Principals of the Secondary schools, and that staff have spent hundreds of hours in preparing the package. A significant amount of time has also been spent by the MRTA, the Bill 33 Committee, as well as Senior Team. He then sited a couple of examples in respect to the analysis that has to take place and he went over what exactly the Ministry will get. Trustees then asked questions about the report and gave feedback.

ORIGINAL - Motion P140– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the final package for the Bill 33 submission to the Ministry.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Possible School Closure Update

The Superintendent advised that this is an update that will be ongoing as requested. The two final meetings will be an opportunity for people to give input, and Staff has also asked for the information ahead of time so that it can be addressed at the two final meetings. Some new questions have been received and will be answered at the final meetings as well. Staff will be receiving feedback up until November 30.

She then expressed that it's also really important for everyone to know that NO decisions have been made. At this point Staff are still gathering information and on December 9th the Trustees will make the final decisions based on all the information that has been gathered.

The Board Chair then asked about getting crossing guards and the costs associated with it because some parents have been asking about it. The Communications Officer responded by saying that it's already on the list of questions that will be answered at the meetings. She then asked what the implications are on the CUPE collective agreement because the crossing guards would be CUPE positions. The Communications Officer said that it will be added to the list.

Trustee Vdovine raised the point that technically speaking, the November 30th deadline is only for people who want their comments addressed at the meetings, but that the Board will be accepting input right up until December 9th, as that is a Public meeting and anyone can speak at any Public meeting. Therefore all information brought forward up to and including December 9th will be considered.

Considerable discussion followed and the Trustees felt that there's been ample time for people to give input and that even though technically anyone can speak at the meeting on December 9th, it would be preferred if concerns weren't brought forward at the last minute.

The final two meetings will take place on November 16th at Riverside and on November 17th at Mount Crescent, at 7 pm in the gymnasiums.

The Board Chair added that if Trustees happen to receive any emails, they are to forward them to all of the other Trustees and to Senior Staff so that everyone is aware.

ORIGINAL - Motion P141 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Deputy Minister's Conference Call

The Superintendent stated that this is being brought forward basically to keep everyone up to date on the kinds of information that are coming in. She has invited the Board Chair and the Vice Chair to sit in

on the conference call. She also currently has a team of people working on the full day kindergarten process and she distributed a handout to everyone.

ORIGINAL - Motion P142– 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Eagle Route

ORIGINAL - Motion P143– 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that on Friday, November 9, he met at City Hall with 2 representatives of group that has been looking at creating a 3rd bikeway in Maple Ridge. This new bikeway would be along 122 street and the route would go past Eric Langton Elementary school as well as the James Best Centre but the increased bicycle traffic would be a direct conflict with the entrance and exit of the Kindergarten wing of Eric Langton Elementary School.

After reviewing where the route was proposed to go, there was a realization by them that they were creating an unsafe environment and it would not be suitable. The proposal to create this new bikeway has been terminated.

2. Possible name change for Samuel Robertson Technical School

ORIGINAL - Motion P143– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the possible Samuel Robertson Technical School name change, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that this proposed name change is an issue that came up as part of Capital Plan. It was recommended for first time in four years, that the addition to Samuel Robertson Technical School (SRT) become first priority. With that, the name started to be discussed based on what programs are offered at the school and whether it is actually a technical school or if it is more so just a school that offers a few technical programs. There is general acceptance that the name is not reflective of what the school actually offers. Only 50 of the 1000 students at SRT are in technical programs. The possible new name for SRT would be Samuel Robertson Secondary School (SRS).

There will be further discussions and information brought to the Board as the issue progresses. Boundary changes will also be discussed.

Furthermore, there is a policy suggesting types of suitable names and stakeholders for new facilities but not a policy around changing the name of an existing facility. In this case, Samuel Roberston was the name chosen and the Technical portion of the name was just an added on portion, so it is not a big issue to change “Technical” to “Secondary”.

3. International Education Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P143– 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that Staff has circulated a new report, that has additional revenue being added rather than reduced, and it is an attachment in the agenda package. International Education will be part of the deliberations around the budget regarding what it contributes in terms of net positive revenues. International Education is meeting its target and in terms in overall approved budget, the preliminary budget will be complete in May. Currently, International Ed. is only \$400,000 away from meeting its year-end target. This is a good news story.

Trustee Vdovine asked if there is a mechanism for considering the fees that students pay. The Secretary Treasurer answered by saying that he will work on getting that information to the Board based on what the competition is charging, and it will take part in the deliberations in terms of market strategy and how to be more successful.

4. School Closure Legislation and Land Disposal

ORIGINAL - Motion P144– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer’s report on School Closure Legislation and Land Disposal, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that this is being brought to the Board as information because the issue was raised at the last Board Meeting as to whether the District is within the guidelines for Ministerial Orders around school closure and land disposal. We have indeed met the criteria because these two properties would have a use that would be proposed if the Board decides to close them. Staff are looking at possible alternate uses for the two schools if they were to close.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. Anti-Vandalism Committee**

Trustee Ward wanted to highlight some of the things that are going to happen starting October 30th through to November 2nd. There will be two more patrol cars, which will be a total of three now, additional lighting is being added to school areas, as well as security guards at all the schools. Mr. Jim Pasquill from Maintenance will be monitoring all of the schools and will make any changes to security as needed. The Anti-Vandalism Committee can't stress enough how much they appreciate the public's help with trying to prevent vandalism and Halloween is typically the worst night of the year for it.

2. French Immersion Advisory

Trustee Ward attended the last French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting on Trustee Palis' behalf. She also submitted a written report. An interesting point to mention is that more than 10% of students in the District are in a French Immersion program.

3. Nutrition Committee

Trustee Carr submitted a written report. She also advised that it has been recommended that the Committee dissolve at this time but that if an issue does arise in the future, everyone is willing to come back together on the committee if needed.

ORIGINAL - Motion P145– 09/10

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board terminate the Nutrition Committee at this time.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AMENDED - Motion P146– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board suspend the Nutrition Committee at this time.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair felt that the word "terminate" was too final and that simply suspending the committee would allow it to be brought back if needed.

4. Advocacy Committee

The terms of reference were distributed by Trustee Vdovine and were reviewed in order to go over the nature of the information. The Committee has identified its purpose and Trustee Vdovine will bring back the Committee's timeline plan, as to when the Board could expect an annual plan for approval.

Trustee Huber added that perhaps all committees should have an annual plan.

ORIGINAL - Motion P147– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive and review Advocacy Committee Terms of Reference for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P149– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant an approval to the Advocacy Committee Terms of Reference.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AMENDED - Motion P150– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant an approval to the Advocacy Committee Terms of Reference in principle with the addition of a date for the annual plan.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Ward asked if there has been any response regarding the replacement of flags for schools under Cst. Jeffery's proposal, as they would like a member of RCMP and a member of the Legion to present for the replacement.

She also added that a copy of the updated Procedural Bylaws need to be sent to the Ministry if they haven't been already.

2. Mr. George Serra from the MRTA asked what percentage of SRT students are out of catchment compared to other Secondary schools?

The Deputy Superintendent answered by saying that he can find out the exact numbers but that it's far less than any of the other schools.

3. Mr. Serra then asked what venue do teachers have to talk about International Ed. issues, specifically at the Secondary level, because the MRTA is finding that a lot of issues are going through the Bill 33 Committee but the issues are not around Ministry-identified kids. For example, if there are 14 International Ed. students in a class of 30, there will be a big impact on the class.

The Superintendent advised that she will address this issue and make sure that something is put into place.

4. Mr. Serra then asked about what happened to the Social Wellness Committee.

The Board Chair explained that the Social Wellness Committee hasn't officially been suspended and that it was set to do a "trivia night" as its last initiative and the Committee was in the planning

stages when they received a phone call that the event had been cancelled due to lack of participation. She hasn't heard anything regarding the Committee since that happened as she was only a Committee representative and has not been given any further information. She added that it was an MRTA representative who was Chairing the Committee and so perhaps Mr. Serra could look into it.

Mr. Serra then added that he doesn't think there needs to be a Committee that focuses purely on an event, more so one that would focus on issues and concerns. Basically a whole new terms of reference should be created for the committee, being this would be a totally different mandate than what the original Social Wellness Committee had.

5. A question was then raised about when the Lotus Notes to Microsoft Outlook conversion is going to be fully completed because a lot of things that are supposed to be working in MS Outlook, are still not working.

The Superintendent stated that she will get a definitive message around it to be sent out to the system.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Leisure Services

The next meeting will take place on November 12.

2. Social Planning Advisory

The next meeting will take place next Wednesday (November 4th).

3. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19.

4. BCSTA Provincial Council

The Board Chair recapped the motions that had been passed. The motions around the following topics were carried:

- 5.1 Annual Facility Grant Reinstatement
- 5.2 Harmonized Sales Tax
- 5.3 Increased Costs of Medical Services Plan
- 5.4 Predictable Funding (as amended)
- 5.5 Funding Advocacy (as amended)
- 5.6 Land/Property Disposal (as amended)
- 5.7 Deferral of Full Day Kindergarten (as amended)
- 5.8 Full Day Kindergarten (as amended)
- 5.9 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target
- 5.10 Carbon Neutral Plan for School Districts
- 5.11 Debt Service Grants Agreements
- 5.12 Proposed Review of Board of Education

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- 5.13 Class Size and Composition Legislation
 - 5.14 Annual Facilities Grant (as amended)
 - 6.1a Provincial Public Conference on Sustaining Public Education
 - 6.1b Provincial Public Conference on Sustaining Public Education
 - 6.2a Stagnant Rural BC Public Education Funding
 - 6.2b Stagnant Rural BC Public Education Funding
 - 6.3a Amalgamations of School Districts
 - 6.3b Amalgamations of School Districts
 - 6.4a Ministry of Education Removal of Annual Facility Grant Monies
 - 6.4b Ministry of Education Removal of Annual Facility Grant Monies (as amended)
 - 6.5a Redirect Funding for Retractable Roof
 - 6.5b Redirect Funding for Retractable Roof

She also asked Trustee Vdovine to provide feedback to Mike Gagle on the viewing the Provincial Council meeting online.

5. District Parent Advisory Council

The next meeting will take place on November 2nd, at Albion Elementary at 7 pm.

6. Youth Society Committee

The next meeting will take place on November 16th, at 5 pm at the Greg Moore Centre.

7. Other Trustee Reports

Good news items:

- Trustee Huber went and saw Mr. Romeo Dallaire speak. He said it was sold out and a huge amount of money went to the Youth Society and Safe Houses. One thing that he said that kind of struck his attention, was that Mr. Dallaire said that out of all the things he's seen, the number one thing asked for is a good education. Trustee Huber felt that really puts things into perspective.
- Trustee Ward attended the October 26th, National School Library Day. She really enjoyed reading to the grade 1 and grade 2 students. She also attended Bookfest on October 19, and wanted to extend a huge thank-you to Mr. Jim Graham and Ms. Susanne Hall. The Author was a great speaker and the knowledge that the kids have of all the books was so insightful. She also attended the Romeo Dallaire event and noticed that more than half of the audience was students. She then thanked Trustee Huber for making it possible for a number of students to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P151 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer