



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, November 10, 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
Trustee – Dave Rempel

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Deputy Superintendent – Stewart Sonne
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson

Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

ABSENT

Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- Trustee Questions by Susan Carr
- Under Chair Report – Board Question and Answer period during the school closure meetings

ORIGINAL - Motion P152 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) 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: 7
Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Correspondence

There was none.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. October 28, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes
 - Motion moved by Trustee Rempel (#138) however Trustee Rempel was not in attendance, Trustee Huber's name to be added as the replacement.
 - Advocacy Committee, delete last paragraph, page 8 of 11

ORIGINAL - Motion P153 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the October 28, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Partners in Learning – Connex Program, by Michelle Schmidt

Michelle Schmidt gave a presentation about the Partners in Learning program. Partners in Learning is a program that connects inmates with students. The program currently exists in Mission and Abbotsford.

The Education Options Programs at Connex and Greg Moore Youth Centre offer students opportunities to graduate and develop personal skills in an environment different than the conventional school setting. The needs of these students differ from others in that they generally do not have the same support at home. Consequently, these students have experienced behaviours uncommon to many. Allowing adults to work with these students who have first-hand experience with our judicial system, allows for increased knowledge, guidance, and an opportunity for our students to reflect on decision making. The inmates benefit from the opportunity to mentor and it allows each of them a quality transition into community life.

Michelle explained how the program works and what it entails. She then opened it up to the floor for a question and answer period.

Trustee Rempel mentioned that the Rotary Club is working on a similar program where Rotary members will be going into schools and working with kids and that perhaps the two programs could work together.

2. Eric Langton Hub

The Community Connections Grants originally applied in 2005, have allowed the school district and community partners to work collaboratively to realize the vision of a Community HUB in one of our schools. This process has entailed many hours of visioning, consultation, dialogue, collecting and synthesizing information, prioritizing ideas, renovating and developing useable structures and systems.

They are now ready to “officially” open the Eric Langton Hub which will be named the “Hive Neighbourhood Centre”. In order to have a structure within which the school district and partner groups can work collaboratively, they have developed an MOU that is to be approved by the Board following the presentation.

A HUB is a community based place of belonging in local schools with programs and services determined by the neighborhood’s needs. They are instrumental in early childhood development and this HUB will help to make Eric Langton a Community school.

The details of the HUB were explained and then they opened the discussion up to a question and answer session.

The Board Chair then asked if anyone wanted to speak to any item on the agenda.

A French immersion parent inquired about full day Kindergarten in French Immersion.

Laurie Meston advised that the Ministry came out with some very clear criteria that had to met in order for a school to apply for full day kindergarten. They went through a long process and a piece of importance was vulnerability as well as space. The decision of the committee was to not have it in areas of choice such as in French Immersion or at Kanaka Creek because they did not meet the criteria.

The Superintendent then added that they are still waiting for information from the Ministry before making the information public.

CHAIR REPORT

ORIGINAL - Motion P154 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) 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: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Ballot Voting Discussion for December 9th meeting

The Board Chair advised that this was brought for the Trustees to weigh in on and if it is decided that the Board will proceed with voting in this manner, it will be a bylaw change. Discussion ensued and some Trustees felt that based on the seriousness of the decision, closed ballot voting may be the best method so there will not be room for delays in voting and so that the votes are done more discretely due to the sensitivity of the vote. The Board Chair advised that she fundamentally does not believe in a closed ballot.

Trustee Rempel left the meeting at 7:20pm.

ORIGINAL - Motion P155 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board use a closed ballot voting process for the alternate facilities decisions on December 9th.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (the Board Chair opposed and Trustee Rempel was absent).

The motion CARRIED.

2. Board Q & A Session at School Closure Meetings

ORIGINAL - Motion P156 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That Trustees have the option of speaking to the assemblies around the alternate use of facilities decisions at the meetings on November 16 and 17th.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Partners in Learning

The Deputy Superintendent questioned if the program had already been discussed with the MRTA and CUPE or not, as he had some concerns. Until he can find out if the correct process was followed, he asked for the approval of the program to be tabled until the next Board Meeting in November.

ORIGINAL - Motion P157 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table the approval of the Partners in Learning program until the next Board meeting in November.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Eric Langton MOU

The Board Chair expressed concern about funding. Laurie Meston agreed that it is a concern but that it is actually a push as well.

ORIGINAL - Motion P158 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS**1. School Closure Update**

The Superintendent stated that she had included everything in her update that has been done since the last meeting. She also explained that Seamus Nesling, the Communications Officer is off ill but that they will be ready and will provide all of the information at the meetings.

The Superintendent then expressed concern that there can be a misunderstanding that the decisions have already been made but the role of staff is to gather every bit of information and bring it forward to the Board and there has not been one single decision or discussion made around the decision regarding whether or not to close schools. Staff also has not written their recommendation for the Board yet either. Some discussion ensued.

ORIGINAL - Motion P159 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Code of Conduct

In 2007, the School Act was amended to make it mandatory for schools to have codes of conduct. In addition, a Ministerial Order entitled Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order was enacted that set the standards for codes of conduct.

The Superintendent explained that the goal is to align all codes of conduct with the Ministry framework. She received the last one last week. All of the codes of conduct adhere to everything in the school act and ministerial order and the Superintendent has copies of all of them.

ORIGINAL - Motion P160– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on School Codes of Conduct indicating all schools are in compliance with the Provincial standards.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. Inclusive Ed**

Trustee Clarkson submitted written report. He also explained that it is a place for parents to come and have their concerns addressed. He said that based on a lot of the concerns that were raised at this meeting, that perhaps something to think about would be offering a course through RMC Continuing Education to parents, to help them with advocating for their child in the public school system; specifically those parents who have children with special needs.

2. Aboriginal Ed.

Trustee Carr advised that the group is meeting on November 18th to start planning for the enhancement agreement.

3. Anti-vandalism

The Board Chair wanted to report, that due to all of the extra efforts at Halloween, only three schools were hit which makes this one of the best years ever. The next meeting will be on November 30.

4. Communications Advisory

The next meeting will be on November 26.

5. DSAC

The next meeting is on November 17th.

6. Social Wellness Committee

A letter has been sent to inquire about the status of the committee, but there has been no response yet.

7. Advocacy Committee

The next meeting will be in January.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Carr advised that she had received a question from a member of the public asking if there is a Board Policy around sensory rooms and or a past motion that was put forward by the last Board regarding sensory rooms.

The Board Chair advised that she doesn't recall a motion being passed, but that there were a number of discussions around how they value sensory rooms.

The Executive Assistant will look for any motions and or policies regarding sensory rooms in our district.

2. Trustee Clarkson asked about the status of the alternative survey. The Superintendent advised that they are working on organizing it even though Seamus is absent and not around to help. There has been a lot of responses received.
3. Trustee Vdovine inquired about the safety of youth on social networks and if there is anything in the district to address the growing concern and if there are any local initiatives regarding that. The Superintendent said that it is one of the things the RCMP are working on and they would like to do presentations around that to high school students. The Deputy Superintendent added that all the

principals and vice principals met with the RCMP last week, and that was one of the topics, but it wasn't as much about privacy as it was about cyber bullying.

4. The Board Chair advised that only one response had been received from the PAC chairs in regards to the meeting scheduled for November 23rd regarding gaming funding. She thought that at that point, they should wait a little longer because most PACs meet in the first or second week of the month. By the end of next week, the Board Chair will check with the Executive Assistant to see if any more responses had been received.

QUESTIONS

1. Todd Hill – had a question around the Partners in Learning program, and if it would it be just for Connex or all the schools. The Deputy Superintendent said that the proposal was for all the alternative programs.
2. Todd Hill – then asked about what security measures will be in place so that the inmates will not know the students that they are matched up with. The Deputy Superintendent agreed to take that question forward.
3. Gladys from CUPE – asked about when catchments will be changed because parents want to know what the boundaries will be. The Secretary Treasurer advised that they will rely on what they see as obvious and will redraw the catchment areas in terms of where the natural breaks are. The decisions will also be assisted by the student breaks as shown on the software. The Superintendent added that first things will be first, and they will embark upon that next body of work after the decisions are made on December 9th.
4. Todd Hill – asked about as far as the decisions on December 9, will the recommendations and rationale will be in the board package? The Superintendent said that they will be.
5. Todd Hill – had a question around the deadline of the alternative schools survey because the survey link is still on the website even though the deadline has passed. The Superintendent advised that it will be corrected right away.
6. Todd Hill – then asked how the district will share the information with the public, around what decisions are made at the December 9th. The Superintendent advised that it will be available to the public when it is on the next Board meeting agenda.
7. Leslie from CUPE – wanted to mention that tabling the Partners in Learning program approval was a good decision because CUPE had not been contacted or made aware of the program and there will be some CUPE concerns.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Leisure Service – next meeting on November 12.
2. Social planning – Trustee Huber advised that they had met at the beginning of the week. However, they didn't have a quorum to make some of the decisions that needed to be made.
3. Municipal Advisory – Next meeting is November 19.
4. DPAC – Trustee Carr submitted a written report.
5. Youth Society – Meets next on November 16.

6. BCPSEA – The Board Chair advised that she attended the last meeting as the alternate because Trustee Palis was not able to attend. She also advised that she had handouts for the Board if they wanted them.

Good news items:

- The Superintendent attended the Social Justice Club and they put on a phenomenal Remembrance Day ceremony. They even brought in a very young soldier who had been to Afghanistan to speak – it was very powerful.
- Trustee Carr was at Connex for the Halloween pumpkin carving event. It was really nice to see the youth who attend Connex connecting with the younger kids. She recommended that the other Trustees definitely go to check out Connex sometime.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P161 – 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 8:20 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer