



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, November 25, 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
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- To Superintendent's Information Items, School Improvement Plan and Sensory Rooms
- To Secretary Treasurer Decision Items, Capital Project Bylaw
- To the Chair Report – Deputy Minister's meeting
- To Trustee Motions – Stepan Vdovine

ORIGINAL - Motion P162 – 09/10

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

A letter had been received to invite the Trustees to an event at the Hive HUB, but it was not moved to the Chair report for any further discussion.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES1. November 10, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

- Gladys on page 7 of 8, is with CUPE not DPAC

ORIGINAL - Motion P163 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the November 10, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair then asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak to any items the agenda.

A question was asked about Sensory Rooms in that if a sensory room is necessary in one school, it should be in all schools. Director Laurie Meston responded by saying that many sensory activities in sensory rooms are very valuable but not necessary in every school because not every school will have students who benefit from sensory rooms. She thinks that sometimes the rooms are used in a way that isolates children as well and so they are going to go back and do a full review of Sensory Rooms because there are safety issues that need to be looked at as well.

PRESENTATIONS1. School Improvement Plan

The Superintendent introduced her three directors who were there to present the School Improvement Plan; David Vandergugten, Stewart Sonne, and Laurie Meston.

Laurie Meston explained that this year they are using a different process and it has come a long way since the process last year. This year there is clear indication between school growth plans and school improvement programs. They have really focused on what the teachers think should be focused on. Also, from receiving suggestions from Teachers and Principals, they have moved the planning day. The planning day used to be in June for the School Growth plan and now it has been moved to the fall and this has been an improvement - a very positive move. They also changed the template and allowed schools to do it differently as long as they included a growth plan.

David Vandergugten then went on to say that the schools are being very creative and are looking inwards as to what data they are collecting. This is a year of exploration and they are deciding what data tells their story. They are having these conversations at the staff level and they didn't have that kind of buy in from before.

Stewart Sonne then passed around the template that was used at the Secondary Level. The collection of data is one thing that he thinks is important and has been lacking outside of standardized testing. Celebrating successes is not done nearly enough and that is important for continuous growth. While

SIPs are a requirement, the action planning and growth planning is more effective. People buy into the growth plans when they establish them and we are seeing evidence of that already. There was a great amount of time and work put into the SIP process but far more has been put into action and growth planning. They are hoping for more buy in from students and staff.

Laurie, one that that we also have done, is that have been given so many pots of money for different things, at elementary level, went through all the budgets and pulled money in order to align all schools for their school growth plan.

The Directors then opened the discussion up to a question and answer period.

The Superintendent advised that she is so happy to be working with the team that she has. She believes that the schools have never seen more senior team people in their buildings, than they do now. They are working on some really important things that are really going to move this district forward.

Laurie Meston then advised that they will be distributing what each school is doing, to all the other schools as well.

The Board Chair then asked about how this will be celebrated out to the public so that not just the people in the buildings/schools hear about it; we need the whole community to know how we are helping our students meet their achievements. David Vandergugten advised that some schools are looking at publishing their information directly to their websites.

CHAIR REPORT

ORIGINAL - Motion P164 – 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. The December 9th Public Board Meeting Room Change

The location of the Public Board meeting on December 9th will be moved from the D.E.O. Boardroom to the downstairs Resource Room. The Thomas Haney Rotunda was considered as a possible location but the acoustics are not good there. This will be posted on the S.D. 42 website, and there will be signage in the building, but the Communications Officer will post it in the newspaper as well.

2. Deputy Minister's Meeting

The Board Chair, Superintendent, and the Secretary Treasurer will be having a breakfast meeting with the Deputy Minister while at the upcoming BCSTA Academy. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss some of the things we are facing in our districts around the budget shortfalls and how we are going to meet the challenges. She wanted everyone to know that this is happening but that it will be the Secretary Treasurer who will be doing the brunt of the work.

She asked that if anyone has any other concerns, they want to put it out there as concerns for S.D. 42 and so they will carry the message forward to the Deputy Minister's meeting.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Partners in Learning Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P165 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board lift the previous meeting's Partners in Learning discussion from the table.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that he met with both partner groups and that one was strongly in favour of the program and one was strongly opposed to the program. He would recommend that the Board does not approve the Partners in Learning program at this time. He feels it is worthy of more review until both partner groups are in favour of the program.

The Superintendent advised that it's important for everyone to understand that it's not a veto, but actually about whether the program could be successful if one partner group was so opposed to it. Therefore, they want to do more research and have more discussions so that the program can be successful eventually. They would be setting it up for failure if they were to go ahead even though one partner group is strongly opposed.

ORIGINAL - Motion P166 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Partners in Learning Update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P167 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board not approve the Partners in Learning Program at this time.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion ensued.

The Vice Chair asked about whether the program currently exists in other school districts such as Abbotsford, as previously mentioned. The Deputy Superintendent responded by saying that the program is not actually in operation until next week.

Trustee Vdovine expressed that he believes this to be a public matter now that it's been presented at a Public Board meeting. He therefore thinks that CUPE should be encouraged to make their concerns public, and explain their concerns. He doesn't feel it needs to be lifted and that it should remain tabled

until the time that we can definitely say we are proceeding with the program or that we are not. If it is tabled then discussions can continue around it.

The Board Chair advised that the motion had to be lifted in order to have discussions around it right now.

Trustee Vdovine agreed but said that he thinks it would be wise to table it again.

ORIGINAL - Motion P168 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table the Partners in Learning Program.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Capital Project Bylaw

The Secretary Treasurer advised that this Capital Project Bylaw recently came to light and that he would appreciate consensus on approving it tonight. It is to keep the facilities in good condition and the project is currently underway. The Capital Project Bylaw has to be passed unanimously in order to do the three readings in one meeting, otherwise would have to go out for 30 days.

The Board Chair asked if being we are using our capital funds, does the Ministry reimburse us? The Secretary Treasurer advised that after the Capital Project By law is passed, we will have access to 65% of the capital funding immediately and upon completion of the project, the District will receive the remainder of the funds. It is removed from a pool of funds but then will be replenished in terms of reimbursement.

Trustee Huber asked if it was urgent enough that the three readings have to take place right away at this meeting. The Secretary Treasurer advised that he thinks it is fiscally prudent to have access to the funds immediately, rather than waiting for 30 days.

ORIGINAL - Motion P169 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That pursuant to Part E, Bylaws and Resolutions, Section 3.01 subsections c) and d), the Board advance the Capital Project Bylaw No. 126095 through to final stages in one meeting (November 25, 2009).' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P170 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant first reading to approve Capital Project Agreement Bylaw No. 126095 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$650,000.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P171 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second reading to approve Capital Project Agreement Bylaw No. 126095 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$650,000.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P172 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant third and final reading to approve Capital Project Agreement Bylaw No. 126095 specifying a maximum expenditure of \$650,000, and that it is hereby adopted.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The Superintendent advised that this was the last Board meeting before the recommendations are made by senior staff. She thought it was important to reiterate that the packages will be ready on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. They are also currently working on the minutes from the last two school closure meetings they will be posted as soon as possible. Any other information that comes forward will also be posted in the meantime.

Trustee Vdovine questioned about where students will go if their school closes. The Superintendent advised that catchments would have to be redrawn.

Trustee Vdovine then expressed concern about the kids from schools that were closed being a priority even before kids who are out of catchment; because he thinks that the kids that have been displaced should be given a priority in a school of their choice. He also thinks priority should be extended to their siblings as well. The Superintendent advised that there would really only be 2 or 3 schools where that would potentially be an issue. The regular process is in catchment, then out of catchment with sibling, and then out of catchment.

Trustee Vdovine advised that he has a motion regarding this that can be moved at the December 9th meeting or else now; but that it can be a notice of motion only at this meeting if people would like more time.

ORIGINAL - Motion P173 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That in the case a decision is made to close Riverside and/or Mt Crescent, the Board of Education allow a onetime exemption from the current waiting list procedure for students currently enrolled at one of the schools and their siblings and be given the following priority order should they choose to attend a school that is placing students on a waiting list for 2010/11 school year:

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1. In catchment students;
 2. Students enrolled at Riverside and Mt Crescent during 2009/10 school year and their siblings;
 3. Out of catchment students.'

Trustee Vdovine moved the motion so that it could be discussed.

The Trustees agreed that they would prefer it to be a notice of motion and not move the motion until after the decisions are made at the December 9th meeting.

ORIGINAL - Motion P174 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table the motion around catchment until after the decisions are made on December 9th.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Alternative School Survey Results

ORIGINAL - Motion P175– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the Alternative School Survey Results for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent advised that they only have raw data at this time. Whatever way the survey came back, it has been compiled as raw data in order to take the first look at it. They need more information however, before understanding what it all means.

Only 137 out of the 956 who said they were interested in a traditional school, left contact information in order for us to get back to them and get their input.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Vdovine advised that he would like staff to look at what the district can realistically commit to doing at this time with the money we have.

The Board Chair inquired about the cost of analyzing the survey results and the Communications Officer advised that there is a contract for 40 hours, and they haven't used all that time up yet, so the bulk of the work is going to come still.

The Board Chair then asked about what a reasonable timeline would be in order to allow for further analysis on the results. The Communications Officer responded by saying that 2 or 3 weeks would be reasonable in order to put something together with the kind of detail we are looking for, so it will be possibly early January when the information is brought back to the Board.

The proposing programs options will determine what can be done or not.

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION ITEMS

1. School Improvement Plan

ORIGINAL - Motion P176– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the School Improvement Plan as presented, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Sensory Rooms

ORIGINAL - Motion P177– 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the School Improvement Plan as presented, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

We need to review how well the sensory rooms are being used. Once a review has been done, Laurie Meston will come to a public meeting and explain what the parameters for the use of these rooms are.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Aboriginal Ed.

Trustee Carr submitted a written report.

2. Anti-vandalism

The next meeting is scheduled for November 30.

3. Communications Advisory

There is a meeting tomorrow (November 26).

4. DSAC

Trustee Carr submitted a written report. She also wanted to mention that they are going to be working with the Christmas Hamper Society down at Albion in the barns on December 15th starting at 1:00 pm. If anyone would like to volunteer and help out, they would love to have you.

5. Advocacy Committee

ORIGINAL - Motion P178– 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the 2009-2010 Annual Advocacy Plan, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the committee. He then went over the progress timeline. At this point, they were able to show their annual advocacy plan, which will be their framework for the year. He also gave an overview of the potential challenges as well as their objectives and then opened it up for questions and answers.

The Trustees complimented Trustee Vdovine and the Advocacy committee on all their work so far. They think that all committees could benefit from having a more structured framework like the one Trustee Vdovine presented for the Advocacy Committee.

The Board Chair inquired about costs and advised that the Board cannot bring any dollars to any committees. Trustee Vdovine advised that at this point in time, the Advocacy Committee will utilize the facilities and people within the district and that they had extensive conversations around that.

ORIGINAL - Motion P179– 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant approval to the Action Items presented in the 2009/10 Annual Advocacy Plan.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUESTION PERIOD1. Public questions

A question was raised around the guarantee that Staff is giving to find a place for every single student if the decision is made to close one or both of the schools. The Superintendent advised that as soon as they know which way the decision will go on December 9th, they will then start the process of working with schools on contacting students and parents and setting up a transition models that will include one on one through to larger groups. They don't want to go too far until knowing what the next steps will be after December 9th.

A question was raised about Sensory Rooms and how it would seem that it is the choice of the Principals as to what rooms they give up for a classroom setting and she wanted to know if senior staff actually oversee principals in order to make sure that they are making wise decisions for their students. The Superintendent advised that Senior Staff make sure that students are getting what they need.

2. DPAC questions

Todd Hill asked how if the Board does not make the right decision that the Ministry will do so, but his understanding is that the decision to close schools is done at the Board level. The Board Chair stated that he is correct and that it is the Board's decision.

3. Employee group questions:

The Board Chair had a question for Leslie, as hers was the only school that inquired about the flag proposal, and so she wanted to know if her school had gotten a new flag. She answered by saying that they hadn't received a new one yet.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation
On May 14th they will be hosting their annual fundraising dinner; it's a very key event in terms of their fundraising.
2. Social Planning Committee – There will be a meeting next week.
3. Municipal Advisory – Met on Tuesday last week and the minutes from their meeting are posted on their public website.
4. Arts Council – At the last meeting they planned for upcoming events, scholarship grant proposals, fundraising, and also approved the 2010 meeting schedule. There are also some new directors on the arts council.
5. DPAC – Next meeting is December 7th
6. Tzu Chi – The next meeting is on December 10.
7. Youth Society – Trustee Carr submitted a written report.
8. Other Trustee Reports – The Fraser Valley Branch meeting will be at the BCSTA Academy and one of their requests was for the committee structures of each school district. The Trustees agreed to leave the committee structures the same for the year, until December and so the Board Chair has sent submitted the committee structures as they are. There was also a request by the Metro Branch for the Fraser Valley Branch to meet with the Metro Branch, at that time they asked for clarification of purpose in order to garner more information. The two executives from each branch met, and that included the Board Chairs from each school district in the discussion. They realized from the discussion, that there are a lot of similarities between the two branches in their initiatives.

Good news items:

- The Superintendent wanted to thank Stewart Sonne as he enters into his last board meeting as the Deputy Superintendent. As of December 1, Laurie Meston will be the new Deputy Superintendent.
- Trustee Rempel advised that from October 25 to November 8, he hosted ten students and five adults from Russia. He really enjoyed taking the five adults to SRT and Thomas Haney to show them those two unique schools and he was really proud to show them what we offer our students.

- The Board Chair advised of a new soccer organization for students who wouldn't normally be able to learn the skills. She also wanted to mention that the recycling society will be putting containers into schools so that students can recycle right at their desks.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P180 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) 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: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer