



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, December 9, 2009 (6:00 PM)
DEO Resource Centre**

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 – Laurie Meston
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Superintendent welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She then introduced Laurie Meston as the new Deputy Superintendent. She called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and explained that she will be the Chair Pro-tem until the elections for the new Board Chair and Vice Chair take place.

2. Correspondence

Letters had been received regarding:

1. Social Planning Advisory Reappointment
2. Davie Jones Community Connections Program
3. Historical Society Storage Space

ORIGINAL - Motion P181 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board move the letter regarding the Historical Society storage space to the Chair report for further discussion.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Ordering of Agenda

Trustee Vdovine asked if the school closure items could be moved to be the first item of business, in consideration of all who were attending the meeting for specifically that portion.

ORIGINAL - Motion P182 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board move the school closure agenda items to be the first item of business.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2 (Trustees Ward and Rempel were opposed).

The motion was DEFEATED.

Added:

- BCSTA Provincial Council Motions Update to Trustee Reports, BCSTA Provincial Council Items, by Trustee Ward
- FOIP under Secretary Treasurer's Information Items
- Projects and Initiative report under Superintendent's Information Items

ORIGINAL - Motion P183 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) 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.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MATTERSa) Election of Board Officers**ORIGINAL - Motion P184 – 09/10**

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board proceed with the Election of Board Officers.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent of Schools advised that in accordance with current bylaws, that she would act as Chair pro-tem, that the Secretary Treasurer is appointed as Returning Officer, and that Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston is appointed as Scrutineer for the election of Board Officers.

The Returning Officer outlined the balloting procedures to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Board for the period December 9, 2009 to December 2010.

i) Chair of the Board

- Nominations

The Chair pro-tem requested ballot nominations for the position of Board Chair for the term December 9, 2009 to December 2010.

Upon completion of the nomination ballot count, the Returning Officer informed the Chair that Trustees Clarkson, Rempel, and Ward had been nominated for the position of Board Chair.

The Trustees were asked whether they agreed to their nominations. Trustees Ward & Rempel declined and Trustee Clarkson accepted.

It was then announced that by acclamation, the new Board Chair for December 2009-2010 would be Ken Clarkson.

ii) Vice Chair of the Board

- Nominations

The Chair pro-tem requested ballot nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair for the term December 9, 2009 to December 2010.

Upon completion of the nomination ballot count the Returning Officer advised that Trustees Rempel, Carr, and Palis had been nominated for the position of Vice Chair.

The Trustees were asked whether they agreed to their nominations. Trustees Rempel and Carr declined and Trustee Palis accepted.

It was then announced that by acclamation, the new Board Vice Chair for December 2009-2010 would be Eleanor Palis.

ORIGINAL - Motion P185 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board destroy the nomination ballots.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b) Remarks of Board Chair & Vice Chair

The new Board Chair and Vice Chair were then asked to assume their roles and say a few words.

The Superintendent then passed the gavel to Trustee Clarkson and congratulated the new Board Chair and Vice Chair.

c) Annual Report of Past Chair

The previous Board Chair, Kathie Ward, gave her report on the past year that she spent as Chair.

d) Re-adoption of District Policy Manual

ORIGINAL - Motion P186 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board re-adopt the current School District Policy Manual for the period December 9, 2009 to December 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

e) Appointment of Signing Authorities

ORIGINAL - Motion P187 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the signing authorities for 2009/2010 in the form circulated with the agenda.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. November 25, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

Corrections:

- On Page 10 of 11, under other Trustee Reports, number 8, under BCSTA Branch Meeting, should read “the Fraser Valley Branch meeting will be at the BCSTA Academy.”

ORIGINAL - Motion P188 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the November 25, 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

There were no presentations.

CHAIR REPORT1. Paper Ballot Voting

The Board Chair explained the Paper Ballot Voting process.

ORIGINAL - Motion P189 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board use paper ballot voting for the school closure decisions.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2 (Trustees Ward and Rempel opposed).

The motion was DEFEATED.

2. Historical Society Storage Space letter**ORIGINAL - Motion P190 – 09/10**

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the letter regarding the Historical Society's storage space, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward advised that it was brought to attention at the joint leisure meeting, and in all fairness to the society; she thinks that staff should be directed to look into it and that a letter be sent back to the society telling them so. By the end of January there should be some idea as to what can be done.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS1. School Closure Recommendation, Riverside

Each Trustee shared their thoughts and feelings towards the potential closure of Riverside elementary and indicated which way they would be voting.

Trustee Ward wanted to add for clarification that students leaving MRE or Hammond will garner room for new students if one or both schools end up closing.

ORIGINAL - Motion P191 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to close Riverside Elementary effective 2010-June 30.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine expressed concern around the district-wide elementary school catchment review process being implemented immediately and being completed by January 15. He believes there needs to be time for public consultation and that date does not allow for much time.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that January 15th is when Staff will bring forward information but not when the decision will be made and so the language needs to reflect that.

The Superintendent added that if a school closes, an automatic catchment review needs to take place but the urgency is more so for kindergarten registration being that is required in January.

ORIGINAL - Motion P191 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That a district-wide elementary school catchment review process be implemented immediately and be completed by 2010-01-15.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P192 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That a transition team be initiated at Riverside Elementary including school and district staff and parents so that the transition process can occur as seamlessly as possible.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward asked when this would be initiated. The Superintendent advised that they will begin conversations in the school before Christmas and then immediately following Christmas, they will begin the planning process.

Trustee Vdovine had some questions around the process. The Superintendent advised that they don't want to get too far into details until decisions are made. However they are in discussions and the Deputy Superintendent will go to the school and will have teachers, the MRTA, CUPE, the PAC and the Principals involved. At that point, they will start to address issues that will be caused by the school closing; that would be the preliminary agenda in theory.

Trustee Vdovine expressed that he would like to receive regular updates and perhaps have a Board representative on the team, but not at this point in time.

The Deputy Superintendent explained that the plan needs to be tailored to the school and what the school wants, in order to design a plan. The bottom line is that we want to be listening, transparent, and working together collaboratively. They would like to see the first meeting take place during the first 2 weeks after Christmas.

The Superintendent added that they might also consider the Education Committee to be one of the places that the role of that committee would sit down with the staff. She thinks the transition should be a standing item on each board meeting agenda, just as school closure has been.

2. School Closure Recommendation, Mount Crescent

Trustee Carr advised that after much consideration and after consulting legal counsel, she respectively withdraws from the school closure conversation and voting due to conflict of interest; as she has a child who attends that Mount Crescent.

The Superintendent explained that there is a little bit of difference between the recommendations for Mount Crescent than the recommendations for Riverside. They tried to put many options together to try and prevent having to come forward with this recommendation to close Mount Crescent. The biggest difference in recommendations was in the second recommendation; “that as part of a district-wide catchment review, strong consideration be given to expanding the current Glenwood Elementary catchment to incorporate most of the Mt. Crescent Elementary catchment. This would allow us to maintain the many valued programs, people and culture as possible, thereby aligning with the “message” heard from Mt. Crescent Elementary parents.”

Each Trustee then shared their thoughts and feelings towards the potential closure of Mount Crescent Elementary and indicated which way they would be voting.

Trustee Ward wanted to add for clarity sake, that one of the concerns of the parents of Mount Crescent is that if their child were to go to Glenwood, they would have to walk across 216th street. She too has real concerns around that and so she asked for the cost of a crossing guard but was unable to find out.

The Secretary Treasurer responded by saying that he would estimate that the cost would be around \$1600 - \$2000 a year. He doesn't know the local circumstance around CUPE employees and who should do it, but there is a commitment from Senior Staff to look at that and to offer the safest pathway for students to attend Glenwood.

The Superintendent added that regardless of the cost, they would commit to looking into getting a crossing guard being it is a safety issue.

ORIGINAL - Motion P193 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to close Mount Crescent Elementary effective 2010-06-30.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Huber was opposed).

The motion CARRIED.

ORIGINAL - Motion P194 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That as part of a district-wide catchment review, strong consideration be given to expanding the current Glenwood Elementary catchment to incorporate most of the Mt. Crescent Elementary catchment. This would allow us to maintain the many valued programs, people and culture as possible, thereby aligning with the “message” heard from Mt. Crescent Elementary parents.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent expressed that a school is not the building; it is the people inside of the school who create it. They hope to move the majority of the school as a group, so that they are kept together.

Trustee Ward asked why the entire catchment would not be incorporated into the Glenwood Catchment. The Superintendent responded by saying that they may well do that as they look into it, but that they didn't want to commit to doing it in its entirety because there were some odd things that may

move it the other way. Even if part of the catchment is kept out of Glenwood's, those students would still be given priority.

Trustee Vdovine advised that a motion around giving priority for school choice to the students from the closed schools (and out of catchment) had been tabled, because it was said that catchment would only come into play for the schools that are at capacity; and the schools around Mount Crescent are not at capacity anyway. Therefore, he was wondering why they would draw catchment boundaries and continue to nail in the message that we want an amalgamation, but yet we didn't do an amalgamation. The reality is that the students from Mount Crescent can still go anywhere they like.

The Superintendent explained that when looking at catchment, Glenwood is at a similar enrollment number as Mount Crescent. Therefore, they would draw a catchment that would make sense, where if all students in the area stayed with their catchment school, there would be enough students to bring Glenwood close to capacity. However, they want people to know that Mount Crescent was a special school and so they didn't want to leave any students out, based on catchment. Any student can go wherever they want, as long as there is space.

ORIGINAL - Motion P195 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That a transition team be initiated at Mount Crescent Elementary including school and district staff and parents so that the transition process can occur as seamlessly as possible.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward advised that she would like to amend that motion to include that crossing guards also be set up for Glenwood. Trustee Rempel seconded her motion.

Trustee Vdovine felt that it should be a separate motion. Trustee Ward responded by saying that she was not opposed to rescinding her amendment.

ORIGINAL - Motion P196 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That crossing guards be set up for the Mount Crescent students to cross 216th street and now attend Glenwood Elementary; and that the Staff work with the District of Maple Ridge in order to look at all safety needs.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent advised that she is hoping that one of the things that come from of the transition team is that, and so it may come back to the table from them. If they don't see this happening, then the recommendation will come in a little later after they have talked to all the people. However, if no one chooses to attend Glenwood, the recommendation will not be of service to kids. She is wondering if it makes more sense to start the transition process and then come back to the Board during the process, and not make recommendations before knowing what the needs might be.

Trustee Ward agreed but doesn't want to take the chance that it is over looked. She would feel much better knowing that it's being looked at in conjunction with the transition process. Trustee Rempel agreed by saying that he thinks it needs to be addressed now, in order to make sure it doesn't slip.

ORIGINAL - Motion P197 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Huber) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That Board Meeting recess for five minutes.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7
Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Chair called the meeting back to order at 7:40 pm.

3. Superintendent's Report on Achievement

The Superintendent explained that this is another report that has to be produced for the Ministry, on or before December 15. It is a snapshot on how the District is doing at the Elementary level, Secondary level, with special needs, and with Aboriginal Education achievements. It involves a lot of people and many hours and so it will not be out until Monday. The achievement contract is where there is a lot of specific data.

Trustee Ward pointed out a typo on page 13, under Special Needs, where the date should read June 30, 2010, not 2008.

ORIGINAL - Motion P198 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That Board approve the Superintendent's Report on Achievement.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Financial Information Act Statements (SOFI Report)

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the SOFI Report is a requirement under the Financial Information Act and it is on the web for everyone to view. If anyone wants their own paper copy, they can purchase one for \$5 from the receptionist.

Trustee Vdovine asked about the line for Bell and the line for Bell Mobility.

The Secretary Treasurer stated that he is not familiar with all the details but that he knows they are for the use of cell phones and for the line charges for school telephones and other services. He was not aware of the actual details, but he would be pleased to provide it the next day.

Director David Vandergugten explained that those charges are also for internet and internet phone systems as well as the HTC handheld devices that the District used to have. They were very expensive in comparison to the Blackberry handhelds that the District has now.

Trustee Vdovine then stated that he would like to discuss expenditures like this during the budget process. He is also wondering if the time has come for the District to have an in-house lawyer. He thinks this is a conversation that also needs to take place as part of the budget process.

Trustee Ward asked for clarity, if the District has ever charged the public for copies of the SOFI report? The Secretary Treasurer advised that it is a requirement under the act to charge \$5 for paper copies but that it doesn't say that the report can't be provided electronically; and so that is why it will be available on the District's website.

ORIGINAL - Motion P199 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the Financial Information Act Statements of employee earnings and payments to suppliers for the period of 2008/2009 and the statements be submitted to the Ministry of Education.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Project Initiatives

The Superintendent advised that basically this was a project that started in September, when Staff had been asked to do so by the Board. She is going through the process with all Senior Staff to look at all the projects and initiatives that are currently underway. It was a great process to look at what all does not actually have an impact on student learning. They also noticed during the process that the Ministry School Act is where most time is spent.

ORIGINAL - Motion P200 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the review and process for projects and initiatives currently underway, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER INFORMATION ITEMS

1. FOIP Request

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Board of Education's coordinator, who is responsible for the administration and management of the school district's information and privacy matters, was requested to respond to the requirements of the current FOIPP Act with their comments.

The last review was undertaken in 2004 and with many operational changes and increased pressures on the present school system since then, the request is timely.

The BCSTA request dated December 8, 2009 has a deadline of December 15, 2009 and the school district will make the best effort to meet the deadline, but clearly the timeline is short. The special legislative committee has assisted in extending their submission deadline to February 28, 2010.

The school district's coordinator will be reviewing her work in preparation for the submission of any concerns and issues.

ORIGINAL - Motion P201 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the BCSTA request for feedback on the current Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine wanted to urge not to express concerns around legislation, as it is a process that takes an immense amount of time and energy. The District does not believe we have any concerns, and if so, we should support the view of the public.

Trustee Rempel advised that he would like to have a discussion around this another day so that Trustees can give it some thought.

The Secretary Treasurer responded by saying that he thinks it could wait until the 2nd board meeting in January.

Trustee Ward asked if the BCSTA needs to know whether our Board wants to put in a position and whether that is the only part they need by December. She thinks the Board should let them know that we would like to make a submission.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that he would prepare a letter regarding this, on the Board's behalf.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committees to report on.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee questions

Trustee Palis advised that she would like to make motion around the Riverside school closure because when talking about the Mount Crescent closure, it was mentioned to have crosswalk analysis and the District needs to make sure this is done for Riverside as well.

ORIGINAL - Motion P202 – 09/10

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That Staff work with the District of Maple Ridge in order to look at all safety needs such as crossing guards are met, in regards to the Riverside school closure transition.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 1 (Trustee Huber was opposed).

The motion CARRIED.

Trustee Huber advised that for consistency sake he would have voted in favour, but that he believes that Senior team will come forward with these recommendations when necessary anyway.

He also wanted to address that as a Board, every time there is a process that is going to be involved and Staff has to make recommendations, that the Board not be so detailed in telling them what they have to do. They are in the position to make the recommendations without direction from the Board and when they bring recommendations forward, that should be the time to discuss them.

Trustee Palis then wanted to explain her reasoning for bringing that crossing guard motion forward, but Trustee Huber then raised a point of order and the Board Chair ruled that it be discussed at another time and not under Trustee Questions.

2. Public Questions;

A parent from Mount Crescent advised that she sat through all of the school closure meetings but understood that most students from Mount Crescent did not want to move to Glenwood. Therefore the crossing guard and other safety concerns should be looked at for whatever school that the majority of the students end up going to. She thinks that 124th street is just as busy as 216th and therefore poses just as much of a safety concern for students who have to cross the street.

The Superintendent advised by saying that is why a transition review process has been suggested and will begin in order to look at these types of things.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

BCSTA Provincial Council Update – Trustee Ward advised that an email came through this morning to inform everyone that Provincial Council Motion 6.14b, regarding AFG funding, was reviewed and that the School Act gives the Ministry permission to do whatever they think needs to be done.

Good news items – the Trustees and Staff then shared their good news items.

ADJOURNMENT**ORIGINAL - Motion P203 – 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 8:17 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer