



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, January 13, 2010 (6:00 PM)
DEO Resource Centre

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair – Ken Clarkson
Vice Chair – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee – Kathie Ward
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 Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6: 04 pm.

2. Correspondence

A letter had been received from the BCSTA in response to a letter that the Board had sent to them, asking them to identify how they distribute their funding to all the School Districts.

A letter had also been received from a student to say thank you for a bursary the student had received.

ORIGINAL - Motion P204 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) 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: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- Trustee Carr requested that both her motions to be moved to Trustee Question, because the Deputy Superintendent and the Superintendent would be speaking to both topics and in order for everyone to make an informed decision when voting on her motions, it would be best to hear them first.
- Trustee Ward added the BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch Trustee appointment to Executive under Trustee Reports.

ORIGINAL - Motion P205 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) 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.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. December 9, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P206 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the December 9, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Spirit of BC Presentation – by Kyle McLellan & Cheryl Johnson

Kyle was a torch bearer in Ontario during December. The Spirit of BC has been working since 2003 when Vancouver was awarded the Olympics. They wanted to share some of the things that have happened so far and the things that will be happening in conjunction with the Olympics and Paralympics relays as well as opening ceremonies etc. They first explained the committee and how it works and then outlined some of the community legacy projects in MRPM, and then shared other ways to help celebrate in the community.

February 12 will be the Opening Ceremonies for the Olympics. At the ACT theatre, the Opening Ceremonies will be broadcasted live.

The torch relay celebration will be on Monday, February 8th, in the morning. The torch will be coming through Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows and it will be community celebration.

The Paralympic torch relay will also be coming through on Wednesday, March 10.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Election of BCSTA Representative

ORIGINAL - Motion P207 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board elect a Trustee to be the BCSTA Representative for the term January 2010 to January 2011.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward nominated herself.

No one else was nominated so Trustee Ward was declared the BCSTA representative by acclamation.

2. Election of the BCPSEA Representative

ORIGINAL - Motion P208 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board elect a Trustee to be the BCPSEA Representative for the term January 2010 to January 2011.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine nominated Trustee Palis. No other Trustees were nominated so Trustee Palis was declared the BCPSEA representative by acclamation.

3. Adoption of the Committee Representatives for 2010

ORIGINAL - Motion P209 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board adopt the committee representatives for 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward asked for clarification around the Joint Leisure Committee having two alternates listed. The Board Chair advised that there were two because both Trustee Ward and Trustee Rempel wanted to be a part of the committee, so in case the other Trustees can't attend, they are listed as alternates. Trustee Ward responded by saying that she would step aside to allow Trustee Rempel to be the alternate for that committee.

4. Acceptance of the DPAC and DSAC rotation schedule

ORIGINAL - Motion P210 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board adopt the DPAC and DSAC meeting rotation schedule for 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward asked if there is going to be a DSAC in May and June because there were none listed for those months and they normally do meet then as well. The Executive Assistant agreed to find out and let the Trustees know.

5. Advocacy Group Funding Cuts

It was added to the Agenda Package. This issue is being raised all across the province.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT’S DECISION ITEMS**1. Registration Procedures**

The Deputy Superintendent advised that they are asking the Board to approve the amended registration priority criteria. The current criteria for registration priority at schools in SD42, is:

1. IN catchment or daycare in catchment
2. OUT of catchment with siblings
3. OUT of catchment without siblings
4. OUT of district with siblings
5. OUT of district without siblings

Feedback from parents and principals in regard to priority 1 criteria, has led to the following recommendation.

That the Registration Priority Criteria for 2010/2011 be:

1. IN catchment
2. IN catchment daycare OR OUT of catchment with siblings
3. OUT of catchment without siblings
4. OUT of district with siblings
5. OUT of district without siblings

Trustee Ward asked how the new information would get out to parents. The Deputy Superintendent responded by saying that it will be in the newspapers as soon as possible as well as in the school newsletters. It will also be mentioned at the Elementary Principals’ meeting the following day, if approved.

ORIGINAL - Motion P211 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ‘That Board approve the new Registration Priority Criteria for 2010/2011.’ Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER’S DECISION ITEMS**1. Temporary Borrowing - Operating**

The Secretary Treasurer advised that this is just another housekeeping matter that comes up every six months. The school district has never had to borrow any money but this is just a procedural precaution that is for a 6-month term.

ORIGINAL - Motion P212 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That in accordance with the provisions of Section 139 of the School Act and Regulation 10, the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) authorize the Secretary Treasurer to request the approval of the Minister of Education for the borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000. These funds would be in the form of a \$3,000,000 line of credit and additional funds of \$3,500,000 if required to meet current operating and debt services expenditures, but all money so borrowed shall be repaid not later than the 30th day of June, 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS1. Greybrook Academy

The Superintendent advised that this was the final impact statement in terms of where all the kids went. The District has applied for a special grant for funding because 41 new students coming into the District has an impact. It is a very special and very unusual case. This isn't the only district who took on some of the students though, so everyone will be asking the same question as to if the funding can follow the students. The new students were able to fit into spots that had already existed. Edith McDermott Elementary had the biggest impact with taking in 15 new students. The District will come up with creative ways to give extra support as needed but they don't want to get too far until they know if funding will be available or not. Bill 33 is also not an issue with the changes. Parents' and students' needs are being met and this will be monitored going forward.

ORIGINAL - Motion P213 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. FSA Update

The Superintendent explained that every year, particularly in last few years, the FSAs have caused angst in all the school districts. The District has tried hard to come up with solutions to the ongoing problem but there will still be glitches that they are working diligently to resolve.

She also advised that the numbers are low due to the students who did not write, getting zeros. This brings down the average when the results are reported out.

Discussion ensued and the Superintendent addressed some questions from the Trustees.

ORIGINAL - Motion P214 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's FSA update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Alternative School Survey Results Update

The Superintendent advised that she basically just wanted to keep everyone in the loop and wanted to bring back where they have gone with the next level of questioning, in order to get all the information pulled out from the survey. It will come back to the Board along with a recommendation at next board meeting.

ORIGINAL - Motion P215 – 09/10

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's Alternative School Survey Results Update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. School Closure/Transition Update

As promised, once the vote was made to close schools in December, Senior Staff are now working with the schools involved and keeping everyone in the loop as to what has been done and what will be done next. This will be an ongoing update until all needs are met and everyone is settled. On Friday of this week, Senior Staff will be meeting specifically with Glenwood, Mount Crescent, and Riverside Principals. They will be discussing the possibility of having a new principal, neither from Mount Crescent nor Riverside, in order to have a fresh start. They are also going to meet with the Mayor and going to sit down and see what the District of Maple Ridge can possibly do to help us make things safer for the students. The information on these two mentioned meetings will be brought back to the next Board meeting.

ORIGINAL - Motion P216 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's School Closure/Transition Update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Full Day Kindergarten**

The Deputy Superintendent advised that the school district has been allocated 462 full day kindergarten seats. They had asked for 480 seats in their proposal, so this is a good number. Students who are ESL

(Aboriginal or Special Needs) have been allocated 32 seats. There are 494 full day kindergarten spots all together. If we were to offer 495 spots, we would have to pay for the additional half day as a district. The criteria was based on space availability, EDI data (vulnerability data), and relative information which is the presence of Daycare and Strongstart programs in the school. Blue Mountain, Eric Langton, Edith McDermott will all offer full day kindergarten in English only and they will only offer full day kindergarten, not half and full. Their understanding is that all kindergarten will be full day by 2011-2012.

Discussion ensued and Trustees raised some questions.

ORIGINAL - Motion P217 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's update on Full Day Kindergarten for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Literacy Information Update

The Deputy Superintendent advised that for the last 5 years, school districts have been receiving a Literacy Innovation Grant to promote literacy initiatives in the districts. Our school district needs to look at what has been done and whether it should continue to be done.

The Board Chair has been directed to share this information with the BCSTA, as per their email request.

ORIGINAL - Motion P218 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's Literacy Information Update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Education Committee – Trustee Palis advised that she received a letter from Clayton Maitland saying some wonderful news that the Grant application was accepted and awarded for his proposed Enviro-school. This will now bring about more questions as to what the next steps are.
2. Advocacy Committee – Trustee Vdovine submitted a written report. The committee has had extensive conversations around FSAs and there a concern among the committee members around the issue of zero's being awarded to students who do not write, and how it's being reflected in the results. They will draft a letter on behalf of the Advocacy Committee and will bring it forward to the Board. Michelle Neale is quite adamant that we do something about the scoring of zeros.

QUESTION PERIOD1. Trustee questions

- Trustee Carr asked the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent about getting an update on Sensory Rooms. She was advised that there will be a report brought back to the Board in February.
- Trustee Carr then moved her motion around FSAs.

ORIGINAL - Motion P219 – 09/10

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board write to the Minister of Education, calling on the government to urgently work with the BC Teachers' Federation and other relevant partners in order to find a mutually agreeable resolution to the FSA dispute.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward wanted to make an amendment.

AMENDED - Motion P220 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion That the Board write to the Minister of Education, calling on the government to urgently work with the BC Teachers' Federation and other relevant partners in order to find a mutually agreeable resolution to the FSA dispute; and that the Ministry to review its policy on reporting the results and to also not include the names of the schools and the districts in their report.'

Trustee Ward explained that her rationale is that in conversations at the Provincial Council level, she heard that each Ministry has the ability to review their own policies. For example, the Ministry of Health reviewed their policies and no longer include the names of hospitals in their test results. If this is in fact true, then by asking the Ministry of Education, in Trustee Carr's letter, to amend their policy as well, it doesn't then give the Fraser Institute any power what so ever to rank schools.

Trustee Vdovine thought that should be a new motion and not an amendment.

The Board Chair then stated that perhaps there should be a second letter written to the Ministry for that.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 1 (Trustee Ward) Nay: 6.

The AMENDED motion was DEFEATED.

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- Trustee Ward then moved another motion.

ORIGINAL - Motion P221 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That that the Board write to the Minister of Education requesting that the Ministry review its policy on reporting its results of the FSA's, to not include the names of the schools and districts.'

Discussion ensued.

Trustees Huber and Vdovine did not agree with the Ministry withholding information. They want all of it fixed, not just pieces of it fixed and they don't think this will address all the issues.

Trustee Ward expressed her disappointment that the Trustees did not agree with the motion. She felt that as Boards of Education, they have sent letters to change the way the tests have been run; and time and time again, what the Fraser Institute does with the information, has come up. If they take the ability away from them so that they cannot rank our schools and districts, then their power would be taken away.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 1 (Trustee Ward) Nay: 6.

The motion was DEFEATED.

- Trustee Carr then moved her second motion around the Literacy Funding Cuts.

ORIGINAL - Motion P222 – 09/10

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board write to the Minister of Education, requesting that the decision to cancel the Literacy Innovation Funding be reconsidered.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward wanted to make an amendment.

AMENDED - Motion P223 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board write to the Minister of Education, requesting that the decision to cancel the Literacy Innovation Funding be reconsidered, and that the letter include examples specific to our district and the impacts to our students and staff.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The AMENDED motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Trustee Palis then raised a question around Olympic torch relay. The Board has been requested to have representation at both the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows community celebrations. For Maple Ridge, Trustees Carr, Rempel, and Clarkson will attend. For Pitt Meadows, Trustees Palis and Ward will attend along with Superintendent Jan Unwin.
- Trustee Rempel then asked about when students receive bursaries or awards, if they are told about the background of the awards. He thinks it's important that they know where the award came from. The Superintendent advised that Doug Hoey is the lead on the scholarships but that

she didn't think the history is disclosed to the recipients all the time. Trustee Rempel advised that he would talk to Doug Hoey about it.

- Trustee Ward then asked about the “*Twice in a Lifetime Grad Dress Sale*.” She explained that it is a mother of former grads who saw an opportunity to make grad a bit better for less fortunate girls, so she works with a group of other ladies to re-sell grad dresses. One of the organizers was wondering if it is possible for them to contact school councilors and get their posters put up at the schools. The sale is taking place between February 5 to 7. Trustee Ward advised that she has the information electronically and can send it through, if the Board is not opposed. The Trustees all agreed it was a good idea and Trustee Ward then said she would send the information to the Superintendent electronically.
- Trustee Ward also asked about the committee regarding 15-passenger vans and whether there had been any developments yet. The Secretary Treasurer advised that he is working on setting up the first meeting.

2. Public Questions:

- A question was asked about the construction and development going on around the Albion area and whether that will mean that the district is looking at changing that catchment boundary.

The Deputy Superintendent advised that they had actually done a couple of boundary changes, and met yesterday. She said the district also has learned about another development on a lot beside Albion. She explained that it is a challenge, however being that Blue Mountain and Websters Corners are not at capacity, they are looking at changing those boundaries.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Community Arts – there is a meeting next week.
2. Tzu Chi Foundation – there is a meeting next month and a report will be given at that time.
3. DPAC – Trustee Carr advised that she attended the first meeting along with Trustee Clarkson at Westview. They had a presenter there from the “Force”, which is a society for kids with mental health issues. The *Force* is instrumental in helping schools initiate the “*Friends for Life program*”. After the presentation the Trustees encouraged the presenter to get their information out. They encouraged her to contact the Board at any time.
4. Social Planning Advisory Committee – Trustee Huber submitted a written report.
5. Joint Leisure Service Commission – Trustee Huber submitted a written report. He also stated that with the transition of the committees for this year, he wanted to point out that it was brought up and talked about, as to the contributions both Trustees Ward and Rempel have made to the Joint Leisure committee over the years, and the many subcommittees that they are a part of because of it. He wanted to thank them for their commitment to that committee.

6. BCSTA Provincial Council
 - a. Trustee Ward advised that the Provincial Council Motion Deadline is the 22nd of January, which is prior to the next Board meeting on the 27th. She reminded that the motions have to be emergent in nature and that there are guidelines to these motions. If any of the Trustees have motions to submit, they are to send them to Trustee Ward and it can be discussed at the Board Work day on January 20th.
 - b. Trustee Ward also wanted to remind about the BCSTA AGM and that if there are any changes to the BCSTA Bylaws, they have to be in by February 11 and the Substantive Motion deadline is February 19.

7. BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch Executive – Trustee Ward advised that each Board can appoint a member of their Board to sit on the Executive or they can elect a member of the board to sit on the Branch Executive.

The Board then appointed Trustee Ward to sit on the BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch Executive.

Trustee Ward also wanted to remind the Board about the next meeting Fraser Valley Branch meeting, taking place on February 4th, where they are going to talk about motions for the AGM.

8. BCPSEA – Trustee Palis had sent all the Trustees an email with the information for the upcoming BCPSEA AGM the following week. She wanted to make sure that everyone was ok with her to go ahead to the meeting.

Trustee Ward stated that only 9 people will be running for the 9 positions, but that from time to time, some nominations can be made from the floor.

The Board agreed that as the BCPSEA Representative, Trustee Palis is to use her judgment in order to act on the Board's behalf.

9. Good News Items – The Trustees and Staff then shared their good news items.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P224 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) 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 8:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer