



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, May 26, 2010 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair – Ken Clarkson
Vice Chair – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee – Dave Rempel
Trustee – Stepan Vdovine
Trustee – Kathie Ward

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Deputy Superintendent – David Vandergugten
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

ABSENT:

Trustee – Mike Huber

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Correspondence

3. Ordering of Agenda

Corrections:

Ridge Meadows Home Show move to Correspondence

Added:

- Superintendent's Update
- Bylaw Re: All Day Kindergarten Modular Units – Engineering and Site Preparation – Secretary Treasurer

ORIGINAL - Motion P324 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) 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.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. May 12, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P325 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT the minutes of the May 12, 2010 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. PRESENTATIONS

Rory Payment Laptop Presentation

Student guests from Eric Langton: Laura Escueta, Taylor Forsyth and Rosie Elphick.
Technology Facilitator for the District: Rory Payment.

Mr. Payment gave a review of the Inquiry Project. The concept is students devise a question that is meaningful to them and that improves the community in some way. Students plan, obtain needed resources, collect, analyze, evaluate and assess the data that they gather and collaborate. The collection of data includes gathering information from surveying hundreds of community citizens: family, strangers, politicians and the like. Assessment and evaluation are conducted by students.

The project better prepares students for their future, and applies skills to real world situations. The laptops and inquiry together supports students taking ownership. Helps prepare students to develop the skills for success in the 21st century.

To view Inquiry Project samples, log on to www.sd42.ca/laptop-program.

The students were most impressed with the responses they received from members of the business community including Mayor Daykin.

Chair Clarkson asked the students about their assessment process to which the students responded that there are individual and group evaluations.

There are 20 grade 6/7 laptop classrooms servicing 540 students in the District.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

The Chair read a statement to the public in response to comments made at both the last public meeting and in the local newspaper.

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- The Board has committed to one day per month as a Board Work Day. The last work day encompassed evaluation and growth plans that included identifying the Board's strengths and weaknesses.
 - The Superintendent outlined for the Board the distinction between the plans. They are designed to educate and to ensure her practice is aligned with the goals of the Board.
 - At the last public meeting, an employee group representative made a comment that the public meetings are too short and in her opinion, the length of the Board meetings reflects on the effectiveness of the Board. It was also implied too many of the decisions are made in closed meetings. As the Board deeply respects their commitment to the people they represent, the Chair felt compelled to respond.
 - To become as informed as possible in moving along the road to excellence in the District's student achievement, which is the primary focus of this Board, Trustee Palis and the Chair have attended three other School District Board meetings: Surrey, Burnaby and Coquitlam. At those Board meetings, they noticed how brief the District meetings were by comparison to SD42s.
 - It is the Board's belief that it has improved operations and efficiencies and has worked hard to achieve this remaining focused on receiving reports from senior staff and remaining properly focused on business on behalf of our students and the public.
 - While three hour meetings may be entertaining for a few they often do not serve the goal of efficiencies in serving the students of the District.
 - The Board is conscious of its obligation to the public to ensure as many of their decisions are in public as possible and they take this responsibility seriously.
 - Currently much of the Board work is focused on budget. As such, many of the implications of decisions affect staffing, which by law deems they be discussed in closed meeting format.
 - The Board has held meetings with all partner groups where they had the opportunity to hear each other the Board met with each group individually. In addition the Board has sent a letter inviting the public and staff to provide valued feedback.
 - Making decision as to whether an item gets debated in closed or public requires a fine balance. However, if a decision affects a program in the best interest of the public but affects someone's job, it is felt that discussions remain in closed meetings due to the sensitivity of personnel.
 - The Board believes the shortened public meetings reflect an increased respect and cohesiveness amongst Trustees which leads to efficiency for the benefit of the community serves.

The Chair reminded everyone of the upcoming partner group meeting on June 2, 2010, at 9:00 am in the District of Education Boardroom.

The Chair reminded everyone of the upcoming June 3, 2010, school closure celebrations at Riverside Elementary: 3:00 pm; and Mt. Crescent: 7:00 pm.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools
- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

Policy – Trustee Professional Development and Attendance at Conferences – Second and Final Reading

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the Policy Structure reiterating currency and relevancy. The existing policies will remain on the website as standing policies and as each new policy is posted, old and new will co-exist. Discussion ensued around the actual Policy Committee. The Secretary Treasurer has taken direction and has made changes in conjunction with requests. The language now reflects the Board's direction.

The cap on Trustee expenses is \$2,500 - personal professional development. The other professional development, formerly a 'pooled' expense fund has been divided equally amongst all Trustees: \$16,900\7).

ORIGINAL - Motion P326 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second and final reading of the draft policy titled *Trustee - Professional Development and Attendance at Conferences.*' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy – Trustee Provision of Resources

The existing policies will remain on the website as standing policies and as each new policy is posted, old and new will co-exist. The Secretary Treasurer has taken direction and has made changes in conjunction with requests. The language now reflects the Board's direction.

A policy is considered to be a 5 – 10 year statement of beliefs and guidelines. The original allocation of money that was subscribed has now been divided to each of the Trustees who are provided a report on a quarterly basis.

Trustee Vdovine questioned the preamble of the Trustees – Provision of Resources to include ‘computer’ and ‘district email’ and to remove the reference of the \$35 expenditure of internet services. The Secretary Treasurer stated that there will be an overarching policy referring to the review of all policies. The policies provide more transparency.

Discussion ensued regarding the overarching policy. It was suggested that policies dealing solely with Trustees should be reviewed at the same time that the Board does their review prior to the appointment of the next Board which would add clarity to what the expectations of the Trustees.

The Secretary Treasurer stated there will be a policy development section where each policy will be reviewed in its own right.

ORIGINAL - Motion P327 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second and final reading of the draft policy titled *Trustee – Provision of Resources* with one revision.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Master Agreement on Joint Use of Public Facilities and Coordination of Services

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to an Agreement in place since May 2001 which still meets the needs of both District of Maple Ridge and City of Pitt Meadows communities and School District. As a member of the Master Cultural Committee, the Secretary Treasurer added that members from each of the municipalities and School District have representation. Due to the retirement of Mike Murray, the Secretary Treasurer has agreed to assume Chairmanship.

Trustee Ward made mention of the inconsistent wording between “Board of Education” and “Board of School Trustees”.

ORIGINAL - Motion P328 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT the Board approve the revised Master Agreement on Cooperation for the Joint Use of Public Facilities and Coordination of Services dated May 2010, and direct the Chairperson of the Board and the Secretary Treasurer to execute same.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bylaw re: All Day Kindergarten Modular Units – Engineering and Site Preparation

The Secretary Treasurer has been in contact with the Ministry of Education which has recognized a need for engineering and site preparation. Central Maple Ridge has seen little if no growth and has capacity to absorb all day Kindergarten.

The Ministry of Education has approved a capital proposal requiring Board approval for all day kindergarten modulars. The Bylaw in the amount of \$191,088 is to fund the engineering and site preparation costs for the much needed space requirements for all day kindergarten. The funds cover the placement of nine (9) modulars on the following sites:

Albion Elementary	one (1) modular
Alexander Robinson Elementary	one (1) modular
Edith McDermott Elementary	one (1) modular
Kanaka Creek Elementary	two (2) modulars
Pitt Meadows Elementary	one (1) modular
Webster’s Corners Elementary	two (2) modulars
Whonnock Elementary	one (1) modular

Looking at Albion South as a possible school approval, the Secretary Treasurer has had conversations with the Ministry regarding schooling in the east, the use of existing seven portables and using funding in order to find a creative solution to assist with the installation of our own portables rather than buying modulars at the cost of \$350,000 - 400,000 each. The District is trying to be creative in using exiting portables and having conversations with the Ministry regarding a capital plan. The School District acknowledges conversations at the Municipality level and hears what they are saying.

Portables are cheaper than modulars. The Secretary Treasurer is seeking creative ways to secure a school in South Albion. In September 2011, the District is unable to accommodate all day Kindergarten which the Ministry has acknowledged.

Trustee Vdovine asked if space is being saved at Webster’s Corners to which Superintendent Unwin clarified there is no space being held for an environment school.

With three readings tonight, the Secretary Treasurer can apply for funds. The Ministry has supported the rationale and which has taken six months of discussion to get to this point. The West/Central/East has now been recognized by the Ministry.

Trustee Ward wanted clarification as to the timing of the modulars to which it was confirmed that they are planned for September 2011. Under SD42s utilization plan, it currently has identified the numbers which indicate from two studies that sometime prior to 2018 the School District will grow again. SD42 believes it will still see a reduction but nowhere near what the numbers originally had projected.

The District believes it has reacted well to information from the Ministry however would be concerned about any ‘pre-kindergarten’ decisions. Superintendent Unwin commented that if the Ministry announces a new program, it would be problematic and the Ministry would have to announce a new plan to accommodate same.

Although the modulars cost \$350K-400K each, the bylaw amount needed for approval today is for the engineering and site preparation costs.

Discussion ensued regarding modulars vs. portables. Modulars are much more permanent and have a lifecycle of 35-40 years and are plumbed as well.

Portables cost \$80K–90K, are not as well built and have a lifecycle of approximately 15-20 years.

The cost of a new elementary school: \$12–14million.

Trustee Carr was pleased to know and wanted to relay the importance and commitment we have as a School District, we are looking forward and conversations are taking place to get amenities in those areas of Maple Ridge. Families will recognize that it is not so easy just to build a school and is pleased the partnerships are working well together.

ORIGINAL – Motion P329 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Carr) Moved, Member (Trustee Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT Capital Project Bylaw #126150, All Day Kindergarten Modularity – Engineering and Site Preparation be given **three (3) readings** at the meeting (vote must be unanimous).' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 6 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P330 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT Bylaw 126150 re: Capital Project Bylaw 126150 All Day Kindergarten Modular Units - Engineering and Site Preparation be approved as read a **first time**.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P331 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT Bylaw 126150 re: Capital Project Bylaw 126150 All Day Kindergarten Modular Units - Engineering and Site Preparation be approved as read a **second time**. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P332 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT Bylaw 126150 re: Capital Project Bylaw 126150 All Day Kindergarten Modular Units - Engineering and Site Preparation be approved as read a **third and final time** and finally adopted. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Information Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Unwin introduced everyone to the first edition of the SD42 Connections publication and commended the Communications Officer, Seamus Nesling, for a job well done. This is a no cost item and asked the Communications Officer to bring a distribution list to one of the upcoming meetings. The publication has a variety of subjects and has something for everyone including providing a list of books for boys, artwork, farewells from Mt. Crescent, Maple Ridge Museum, 21st century skills, and features

student reporters. Overall, the Superintendent is pleased to say that it is a nice compilation that featuring the School District's kids. The publication will occur four times per year.

The Communications Officer commented there 2,500 copies are set aside just for community organization and service groups.

Superintendent Unwin commented on some conceptual thoughts regarding a 21st century public forum in the fall where all schools are represented. This would consist of round table discussions: what our schools could look like by addressing skills and abilities. In addition, SD42 is hoping to ask feedback for two or three words to form a motto that matches the logo.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Anti-Vandalism Committee Trustee Ward thanked the Communications Officer for all of his work on the Anti-Vandalism Committee including the Powerpoint he did on Graffiti for a meeting held in Pitt Meadows. The Anti-Vandalism Committee will be well represented at the upcoming Davie Jones carnival Friday, May 28th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

Inclusive Education Committee Chair Clarkson spoke to the handout and his attendance at the last meeting which focused on the accomplishments to date. Discussion included more formal meetings next year with aim of having motions that are brought to the Board and recommended there be more than one Trustee having a voice on the Committee.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public questioned policies regarding Trustee expenses to which the Secretary Treasurer responded that he will look into having someone send an email responding to the question regarding the specific expense budget line.

A member of the public inquired into the existing daycares, their roles in 2011 and when will they get their notice to which the Board answered that any outgoing daycares will be notified this September/October for the following year.

A member of the public inquired into the Pitt Meadows area. Now that it is full and the District has land in Pitt Meadows suggested Pitt Meadows Elementary moved to the property down by the ice rink. The Secretary Treasurer responded that the District is required to go through a facility audit whereby the school will undergo a lifecycle/deterioration review. It is more economical to repair vs. replacing. The District undergoes constant review of the facilities. In addition, the District has to determine what the facility audit rating was at the last lifecycle review. Refurbish vs. replace? At present, the District is facing pressures in the east which is being received and understood by the Ministry who recognizes that the west and east cannot be put in one category.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Employee Group Question:

George Serra questioned the portables and who would get to work in the them? What is the intent of the motion that passed? The Secretary Treasurer reminded the public that in all fairness to the discussions, this stage is still exploratory and has not been reduced to paper yet. Great efforts are being made to get a permanent facility and the District is asking for funding which proposal may not be accepted. The default plan is receiving modulars. The District is hoping for a creative solution. The number one priority is to relieve pressure around Albion Elementary. The District of Maple Ridge is dealing with approvals in that area. SD42 is seeking a creative solution to get a school in stream vs. waiting until 2018.

The Facilities Manager is searching for the best existing 7 portables, declared surplus to our needs, out of 31. The best education decision will be made at each school.

The Secretary Treasurer reiterated that this process is truly exploratory to get the best advantage for Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. At present, the Ministry has not agreed to a new school in the east.

Good News

Trustee Ward will be attending Riverside however, is unable to attend Mt. Crescent due to the awards ceremony occurring at Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary that evening and felt there will be Trustee representation at Mt. Crescent.

Trustee Carr wanted to take a moment to recognize parents, children and staff who have been diligently working so hard to pull off the upcoming school farewell events with pride, dignity and enthusiasm.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P333 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee 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 7:40 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer