



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, September 8, 2010 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

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

1. Correspondence

Jessica Barton – Thank you (Harry Hooge Memorial Scholarship)
Kari Hurtado – Idle Free Zone
Walter Peachey – Thank you (Retirement Tea)
Brian Ursic – Thank you (Bursary)
Jo-Anne Ursic – Thank you (Retirement Tea)
Jessica Wu – Thank you

2. Ordering of Agenda

Corrections:

Move Kari Hurtado email correspondence to Chair Report
Move Ministry of Education, Child Protection Letter to Chair Report

Additions:

Local Government Services Letter
Superintendent Information Items added.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. June 30, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Minutes of the June 30, 2010 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

A. PRESENTATIONS**D. DELEGATIONS****E. CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair welcomed everyone back reading the following statement:

I am sure you all had a good summer. My daughter had twins and watching her I thought about how she is having to do what she has never done before in order to learn how to do it. I think that's what learning is all about and it is definitely relevant, authentic and meaningful.

The day long Kindergarten classes will see students, teachers and parents having to do what has never been done before in order to learn how to do it. That's exciting.

It is exciting to see change occur throughout our school district as we adapt to the demands of the 21st century. I really feel as though the challenge of engaging the 21st century learner is at the top of our district's priorities. That's exciting.

As a Board, we have made the necessary decisions to enable us to face the inevitable changes. We are secure in our leadership: our Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and Executive Assistant. We are strong in our mission. Over the past two years, we have learned, we have grown, and we have reflected on our accomplishments. We are aware of where we have been which helps us to know where we are going. That's exciting!

Kari Hurtado–Idle Free Zone. In response to an email received, suggestions were made to contact the schools requesting, via newsletters, sending reminders to parents to avoid idling vehicles in school zones. It was also suggested to bring up at next DPAC meeting to assist in distributing this issue.

Ministry of Education–Child Protection. Superintendent Unwin addressed this issue by advising the person taking lead on reviewing this issue is Michelle Schmidt under Stewart Sonne's guidance. The Superintendent will provide follow-up on this issue.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS**G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS****CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT****1. Decision Items**

a) Superintendent of Schools

Accessible Resource Centre-British Columbia ("ARC"). Is a Ministry of Education funded response to the increasing demand for digital or alternate format alternatives to print in BC classrooms. The goal of ARC is to provide BC students with perceptual disabilities and the educators supporting them with high quality digital alternate format materials based on the BC K-12 curriculum. While the Ministry of Education recognizes the positive impact ARC has had on meeting the diverse learning needs of students, funding for ARC has not been continued for the 2010/11 year.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board approve the attached letter to the Minister of Education – Honourable Minister, Margaret MacDiarmid and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

CARRIED.

Suggestions were made to notify BCSTA of the said letter. All agreed. A request was made for the Superintendent to acquire data/proof of the benefits of the service to our students.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

Aldridge Acres-Connex Proposal. The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the exciting opportunity offered to our students enrolled at Connex: An opportunity acquiring additional life skills and working in partnership with the community. The agreement has covered aspects of responsibility, liability, and governance and provides an overwhelming growth opportunity for all partners involved. Dep. Superintendent Sonne added supportive comments in favour of the project stating it is a renaissance project driven by those 100 students that will provide connectivity with community members. The Secretary Treasurer thanked local farmers and all partners for their interest and support. The first stage will be to prepare the site for farming. Second stage includes plans to raise chickens and crops. Students will gain skills in operating a farm (business) combined with hands on experience. Community volunteers want to engage. If the agreement is approved, then it will go to the CEED society for the next stage.

Discussions regarding zoning and Silver Valley developments ensued to which the Secretary Treasurer confirmed that no conversations put the District offside in zoning. The agreement has been reviewed with both the Aldridge's lawyer and CEED society. The first level of this project sits with the Board.

The Secretary Treasurer committed to meeting with District officials to verify zoning.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board of Education approve the Aldridge Acres-Connex Project Memorandum of Understanding and direct the Board's Chairperson and Secretary Treasurer to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

CARRIED. (Opposed: Trustee Huber)

Audited Financial Statements ("FS").

The Secretary Treasurer introduced Donna Diskos, partner in charge of the auditor on behalf of Grant Thornton, to present the audit report. Ms. Diskos provided an overview explaining the audit process including meeting with management and confirmed the audit has been completed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. The auditor had no reservations in terms of the scope of the audit and confirmed no restrictions were placed by management. The audit is deemed a 'clean' audit and have had the opportunity to go through the detailed findings with management. September 8, 2010, is the earliest the auditors have provided the final audit report for this District which speaks to its organization in preparation of the audit.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board approve the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2010 for submission to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED.

2. Information Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent introduced Deputy Superintendent Sonne and provided an overview of the website which has been updated with the varied duties reflective of the three Deputy Superintendents' roles.

The Maple Ridge Teachers' Association has been working with the Human Resources Department meeting with each laid off teacher trying to solidify positions was pleased to report all teachers have found suitable assignments and are taken care of for at least one year. All that is left is small pieces.

In June, Superintendent Unwin presented the Achievement Contract (posted on the District website) and between the three Dep. Superintendents, will be sharing highlights of same during the next three public meetings.

Riverside Centre is moving along nicely; International Education is moving there in October; 250 students have signed up for various courses compared to past 50 – 70 which is a good reflection for the new location.

The schools are busy counting student numbers; working through elementary first ensuring staffing matches projections keeping Bill 33 in mind. Unfortunately, due to technicalities of BCesis (the Provincial computer database) being overloaded, problems occurred across the Province. The Superintendent will provide a full report at the next meeting.

At the 216th Crossing Guard, students were coming from both directions and the District is getting a sense of how many kids are using it. From reports received, the startup has been smooth. This crossing is a one year commitment and the District will continue to collect data.

Perry Bateson's Yuen's Family Martial Arts organization has been working with students on the effects of 'charity'. By doing so, the club has collected and donated school supplies to which four of SD42's schools have benefited and to which the District is grateful.

The first Wes Durksen Memorial golf tournament was held successfully raising \$3,800 towards Kids' Sports.

Discussion ensued around the success of the District's Senior Staff took around the school closure process. Suggestions were made it could be a model for District's elsewhere. Plans are in place to ensure follow-up is conducted with those kids/families that were displaced.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

H. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

I. QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Vdovine requested feedback on teacher laptop protocol, terms and conditions.

A Member of the public asked what money/value the District will be contributing with respect to the Aldridge Acres project to which the Secretary Treasurer answered "no dollars". Secondly, the Aldridge family can terminate in three months. A question was asked as to what would happen with the kids if terminated? The Secretary Treasurer responded SD42 has a chance to launch the project and is aware of other volunteers and potential partners in the community who could be approached to step up. The Steering committee will be providing a sense of this. The Superintendent commented SD42 would ensure kids had an opportunity to get those experiences at other alternate learning environments.

J. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BCSTA Provincial Council deadline: September 27th. Email vote appreciated. Reminder all motions have to be of an emergent nature.

Trustee Palis reported the Social Planning Advisory Committee is meeting tonight; Joint Leisure Services Committee, tomorrow.

Trustee Huber wanted to take a moment to reflect and thank the “sixth man” garnering him/her with the praise they deserve but are often overlooked. The parents who consistently drive and support, the coaches who gave the student extra ‘hoop time’.

Trustee Carr wanted to acknowledge and thank the teachers and administrative staff who go above and beyond to make Summer School at THSS the success that it was.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

CARRIED.

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer