



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, September 29, 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

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Deputy Superintendent – Stewart Sonne
Director, Elem. Education/Early Learning – Laurie Meston
Director of Instruction/Advanced Tech. – David Vandergugten
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

ABSENT:

Trustee Kathie Ward

OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

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

1. Correspondence
Sky Buller – Thank you (J.M. Suddaby Scholarship)
Hyung-Jin Jo – Thank you (Board of School Trustees Bursary)
Alexander Shkuratoff – Thank you (Eric Williams Memorial Award)
Webster's Corners PAC – Thank you (Overall School Improvement)
Ministry of Finance (Accounting Standards)
2. Ordering of Agenda

Additions/Corrections:

Superintendent of Schools Information Items - BCeSIS Update
Trustee Motions: Trustee Carr – BCeSIS
Secretary Treasurer Decision – Pitt Meadows Artificial Turf Field Name
Move Webster's Corners letter to Chair Report

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. September 8, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Minutes of the September 8, 2010 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

A. PRESENTATIONS

2010 Achievement Contract Highlights – David Vandergugten

David Vandergugten, Director-Deputy Superintendent, provided highlights of the Achievement Contract called, “Summary of Results Developing 21st Century Skills through Technology Integration” and spoke to the one-to-one laptop program.

The presentation included benefits of the program including the decrease in behaviour issues; shifting thinking on deliverance of education; challenging 21st century skills; preparing youth for the future; utilizing skills to analyze information attained ‘online’; focusing on citizenship. Is more process based vs. information based.

Goals: Increase opportunities for educators to share strategy; support teachers in transitioning their use of inquiry based learning in all subject areas; create opportunities for students to share their inquiry projects and presentations.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. How many classes involved? 26.

Comments were made that the program is more inclusive, collaborative, less subject labeling.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Webster’s Corners Letter. Trustee Vdovine would like to share the letter with senior management and school based staff to which all agreed. The Executive Assistant will forward the letter.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

1. Decision Items

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

Naming of Pitt Meadows Artificial Turf Field

The Secretary Treasurer spoke to the recommendation brought to the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding both communities and the Board.

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board recommend to the City of Pitt Meadows the following name for the new artificial turf field at Pitt Meadows Secondary as “Pitt Meadows Community Field”.

Friendly amendment proposed adding: ‘the Board ratify the decision’.

THAT the Board ratify the decision by the City of Pitt Meadows for the following name for the new artificial turf field at Pitt Meadows Secondary as, “Pitt Meadows Community Field”.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Unwin spoke to the deficiencies of BCeSIS. Due to the volume of users upon school start, delays were felt across the Province and many teachers and staff were unable to access the system during regular hours. This is a Provincial problem. Superintendent Unwin spoke to the late hours and hard work of all staff but unfortunately, there is still sporadic usage. The School Superintendent's Assoc. has been vocal in bringing the Ministry's attention to the matter. The Ministry is unable to extend Bill 33 deadlines.

Discussion ensued to support educators and all support staff. The Superintendent spoke to the safety issues, (lack of access to medical alert/attendance) information surrounding the deficiencies. It was suggested the Board write to the Ministry.

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board direct staff in consultation with the Board Chair, to compose and send a letter to the Ministry strongly communicating the extreme level of frustration in our District over the BCeSIS deficiencies the District staff are currently struggling to work with. We respectfully request immediate attention and resolution to the system so our staff and those Province-wide, can focus on our students' learning.

Suggestions were made to copy the letter to BCSTA. Suggestions were made to bring the letter to the Advocacy Committee.

b) Deputy Superintendent

Preliminary Organization of Classes Report

Deputy Superintendent Sonne introduced Laurie Meston, Director of Instruction Elementary and Early Learning to speak to enrollment. Director Meston referred to the handout provided. SD42 has survived Bill 33 unlike our surrounding districts. The District's numbers are consistent. This task is a testament of the skill and ability in the field of all who have responded in a calm and elegant manner – those on the front lines. Deputy Superintendent Stewart commented the projection starts in mid April as to where the District expects enrollment to be, and staffs according to that projection. Staff projected within 20. The District is up slightly over our projection from April.

Elementary is similar in number. At this point, staff projected in April 7,936 and anticipate coming in around 7,960 which is up slightly. Compared to the year before, the District is down about 50. District staff expressed delight with administration, teachers, staff and parents at Webster's Corners regarding the reorganization.

Deputy Superintendent Sonne and Harry Dhillon, Acting Director of Human Resources, met with the Bill 33 Committee on Friday and commended the MRTA on their hard work in speaking with teachers. The Superintendent commented on the number of hours spent by numerous people from day one has been astronomical. To get it down to the detail is phenomenal.

Summer School Update

Deputy Superintendent Sonne referred to the report in the Agenda package.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. Comments were made regarding the location change to Riverside Centre next year and how it will facilitate use by students of both Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receives the Deputy Superintendent's Summer School report for information.

CARRIED

Child Protection Services Update

Deputy Superintendent Sonne referred to the 'Timelines for Developing Child Protection Policies' as prepared by Michelle Schmidt, included with the Agenda package responding to child welfare concerns. The District believes it is steps ahead. The District has strong student support and a network of communication which speaks to getting to know the kids in your school and having them report. Although the District has a policy in place, it is currently under review for currency and relevancy.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the information on the Timelines for Developing Child Protection Policies for information.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

Aldridge Acres Connex Update

The Secretary Treasurer has been working closely with Deputy Superintendent Sonne on this project. This particular field experience will provide other skills to be applied to the students of Connex. In response to Trustee Huber's concern regarding property zoning, the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer met with the District of Maple Ridge Bylaw Officer regarding the terms of use which has been deemed suitable. Aldridge Acres will be a project based learning opportunity.

Deputy Superintendent Sonne has visited the property and has investigated concerns about chickens, cows and tractors. Upon review of existing academies, trades, cross school course usage, emphasis in 2005 on alternate learning grants, community garden, the District continues to look at engaging the learner and wants to foster same.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Secretary Treasurer report on the Aldridge Acres Proposal question concerning the appropriate zoning be received for information.

H. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Chair referred to a report provided from the Inclusive Education Committee and provided highlights of same.

I. QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Rempel volunteered to be an alternate on the Joint Parks and Leisure Services committee.

Trustee Carr requested a report on All-Day Kindergarten from Director Meston to which she responded that at a meeting yesterday and received positive feedback. The teachers sense they have more time with the kids and feels it has been an extremely valuable experience. Classes have 20 kids maximum.

A member of the public inquired into accessing the cost centre budget items from the June 23, 2010 Committee of the Whole Finance Meeting in addition to requesting copies of 2009/10 cost centre reports.

The Chair responded by stating 2010/2011 cost centre reports have been posted to the District website. District Policy states the Board cannot extract information from the budget to the public until it passed on June 30th.

The Secretary Treasurer noted he will look into the 2009/10 cost centre reports and report back to the Chair.

J. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Ridge Meadows Education Foundation. The Board held its Annual General Meeting appointing Directors. Perry Bateson has been elected as Chair.

Social Planning Advisory/Municipal Advisory and Accessibility. Trustee Huber commented on the connection with kids in the schools and suggested the Chair invite both organizations to provide a small presentation to the Board giving an understanding of how well these groups work together.

Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council. The Chair will be attending the upcoming AGM.

Tzu Chi Foundation. Is finalizing its upcoming bursary event on October 7th.

Youth Society Committee. Trustee Carr attended the meeting on September 20th. Conducted nominations of roles and everyone returned in original capacities. Participated with raising money for the Iron Horse Safe House showcasing a booth at the Home Show. Money raised was used to create a computer homework lab in the house. In addition, money raised went to support a disabled riding group.

Superintendent Unwin wanted to thank senior staff for being at the at West Coast Express train stations at 5:30 a.m. this morning collecting donations for the Vancouver Sun newspapers on behalf of the Raise-A-Reader campaign.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CARRIED.

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer