



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, November 24, 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 – Kathie Ward

STAFF:

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

ABSENT:

Trustee Stepan Vdovine

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked the many members of the public for their attendance.

1. Correspondence

Ministry of Education – Accessible Resource Centre

Correspondence MRTA – Environmental School

2. Ordering of Agenda

Additions:

Chair Report – Learning from Tomorrow
Superintendent Information Item
Trustee Question/Information Item – Trustee Huber

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. November 10, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Page 4. “THAT the Board Policy Development be approved as first reading and posted to the website for 30 days.”

Page 4. “Trustee Rempel reminded everyone to contact him as alternate if unable to attend committee meetings.”

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT the Minutes of the November 10, 2010 Public Board Meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

C. PRESENTATIONS

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

The Board Chair read a statement regarding “Learning for Tomorrow” as captured from the Education Forum.

“Many of us attended the Educational Forum on November 16, 2010. Ted McCain gave a dynamic and informative presentation. I was pleased we were able to use one of our own. So often I attend these events to listen to a speaker who is from some far off place.

The process and format of the evening was excellent. Thought provoking questions produced insightful comments from a diverse group of participants who represented a cross section of our community. I heard wonderful comments from those attending from outside our community.

The entire event looked good on us and reflected a professionalism which I know we are all proud of. To Superintendent Unwin, the senior staff and all those involved in putting the event together; Congratulations!

I am really looking forward to the unfolding of the conversation and I want to emphasize that we do want to hear from the public.”

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

Board Policy Development

The Secretary Treasurer responded to the change made with respect to approving the minutes of November 10, 2010 whereby the Board voted to post the Policy for thirty (30) days. According to the *School Act*, there is no requirement for three readings. As the Policy had been agreed to in principle at the last meeting and as the Policy had been solicited to the Board for feedback, to which none has been received, the Secretary Treasurer was not sure if it is the Board’s intentions to grant thirty (30) days.

It was agreed to bring Policy 2500 back to the next meeting.

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board approve the following borrowing resolution:

WHEREAS Section 139 of the *School Act* and Regulation 10, provides that a Board may by resolution, with the approval of the Minister, borrow from time to time for a period not exceeding six months for purposes other than capital expenditures, by way of a temporary loan, such sums as the Board may deem necessary to meet current operating and debt services expenditures:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 139 of the *School Act* and Regulation 10, the Board of Education 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 \$2,500,000 line of credit and additional funds of \$4,000,000 if required to meet current operating and debt services expenditures, but all money so borrowed shall be repaid not later than the 31st day of May, 2011.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Intersection of 216 & 121

When Mt. Crescent was closed, the School District (“SD42”) made a commitment to put a crossing guard in place for the safety of children. SD42 has been working proactively with the District of Maple Ridge (“DMR”) which has now received the results of their intersection evaluation determining warrant requirements have been satisfied and accordingly, DMR will be installing a multi-stop intersection next summer.

Special Education Compliance Audit

We have received notice of a one week audit from the Ministry which is to commence the week of January 17, 2011. The purpose of the audit is to ensure all paperwork required is in compliance with the Ministry of Education. In particular, categories “D” and “H” will be reviewed. Last year, SD42 had been selected for an enrollment audit.

b) Deputy Superintendent

Proposed Environmental School Project

Deputy Superintendent Sonne spoke to the success of the recent Inquiry Forum hosted by SD42 outlining new ways of providing education including hands on learning and developing 21st century skills as he introduced Director of Instruction, Elementary and Early Learning/Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston who has taken the Environmental School project to heart. Director Meston welcomed the vast audience of support. For the past 2 ½ years, the collaborative group has been working diligently on the project. In January 2010, a motion was put forward for the proposal and development of an Environmental School. Staff has since monitored the progress and has worked through the guidelines step by step in accordance with the Proposing Program Options. Director Meston gave praise to so many in the room who have worked diligently on the project.

Director Meston reviewed the 72 page Environmental School Proposal document highlighting the many partners and collaborators.

SD42 Survey results exhibited 85% in support; and 14% requested more information.

Upon review of SD42's Vision, Mission and Core Value Statement in comparison to the Environmental School values there are immense similarities. Students will have the opportunity to learn in a diverse way but meeting the Ministry of Education's expectations. SD42 has a long history of partnerships with the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows communities and it has been exciting to see all groups working together.

Director Meston reviewed the learning outcomes of the program; spoke to the aspect of progressive assessment and the design of personalized learning programs for each child. The design of the program permits accessibility for all children. Program coordinators will be exploring information sessions and workshops ensuring awareness of safety considerations, and how 'different' looks identifying clear boundaries.

Staffing will be determined according to the District formula using student numbers and needs. Upon approval of the proposed school, registration could commence as early as February, 2011 in addition to seeking a facility for the school. Concepts and innovation include consideration of a 'school within a school'; 'school beside a school'; or using an existing facility taking into account All-Day Kindergarten.

The \$1 million research grant secured via Simon Fraser University has supported research and secured a 0.5 Vice-Principal Coordinator position for Clayton Maitland. Other support has been received from the Jesic support for educator network and other community grants such as the community connections grant.

The Evaluation Plan includes the viability and sustainability of the project as outlined on page 6 of the Proposal document.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. Trustee Rempel inquired into dates and instruments used in terms of the evaluation processes of the school to which Director Meston responded that each step of the way, there will be records, interviews and information gathering. Director Meston offered to bring a progress report back to the Board once registration and student enrollment has been determined.

c) Secretary Treasurer

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Education Committee – Proposed Environmental School Report – Trustee Palis

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

Trustee Palis thanked everyone for their hard work and support of the Environmental School. There is a real opportunity for this to branch out in so many positive ways and spoke in favourable support of the initiative.

In support, Trustee Carr commented on the clarity of the presentations. Teachers, parents, students, and the community are ready for it.

Trustee Ward inquired into the 'cap' for registration to which Director Meston commented class-size will be based on the same formula as existing classes in schools. Classes will be multi-grade with two to three classes to begin with. The primary class would ideally consist of 17-20 students; intermediate class would consist of 24-27 students. Overall, effectively, a minimum number of students would consist of approximately 40 students with a maximum of no more than 60 students.

Trustee Ward inquired into the fee structure to which Director Meston confidently replied fees and supplies will be different from the other schools. Most locations where studies will be conducted do not charge fees (ie. Cliff Falls at Kanaka Creek and Allco Park). The program will run with as minimal costs as possible.

Currently, coordinators are only considering fees parents would be putting out towards unique school supplies such as rain jackets, boots and the like.

Trustee Ward inquired if the proposal document has been available to the general public to which Director Meston confirmed in following due process and keeping in compliance with the Proposing Program Options, it has not yet been released to the public.

Trustees Rempel and Huber offered words of support given our geography of surrounding parks, recreation and community members allowing for integration of education and the outdoors.

Superintendent Unwin offered words of support commending the initiative offering yet another option to the students of SD42 and offered a proactive thank you to all who have taken part in the project.

Chair Clarkson commented the partnerships coming together to create the Environmental School is exemplary which he hopes will lead to other innovations in the education system citing the school is a fine example of how everyone should be included in the decision making process.

Trustee Palis read an email of support from a Horticultural Therapist.

Chair Clarkson called the question for a vote.

THAT the Board approve the Environmental School Project to proceed to commence in September 2011 with the understanding if there is insufficient student registration to ensure the viability of the project, the school opening for 2011/2012 will be postponed.

CARRIED

J. QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Question/Comment. Trustee Huber spoke to the initiative of “Snow Angels”. The concept includes helping neighbours; adopting sidewalks; and assisting with snow removal which can be difficult for the elderly or those who have mobility and other health issues. Suggestions were made to involve secondary school students – a great community work experience/volunteer opportunity.

A member of the public inquired into why the 72 page proposal document was not in the Agenda on Monday to promote the school for the public to gain access to it. As it was a report, not a presentation, she inquired if these initiatives always have to come to the Board first prior to getting to the public? Chair Clarkson responded that initiatives such as the Environmental School are always presented to the Board first in accordance with the Governance of the Board.

Todd Hill, DPAC representative supported the Environmental School as a parent who attended many presentations which were available to the public stating each presentation/information session was amazing and unique and further spoke to the great forward thinking initiatives of our School District and the educate of our future.

Suzanne Bonny, CUPE representative looks forward to reviewing the proposal document once posted to the website.

Trustee Huber hopes the School District will look at what it has done to ensure our schools are more accessible for students who face accessibility issues, challenges and limitations.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Inclusive Education Committee. Chair Clarkson provided a report on the November 15th meeting and will attempt to recruit a representative from the Committee to make a presentation on the work and initiatives taking place.

District Student Advisory Council. Trustee Carr provided a verbal report updating everyone on the presentation made by the Christmas Hamper society who partners with our DSAC students for the “Coins for Kids” program. Students will attend the barns in Albion in December where gifts will be wrapped.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Good News.

Trustee Rempel felt privileged to take part in the decision of the Blue Mountain Elementary Principalship and in assisting with the hiring process – is further pleased with the leadership our District has to offer.

Superintendent Unwin made reference to Trustee Rempel’s comment in that during the Closed meeting earlier today, the Board ratified a decision of Principalship. The announcement will be made tomorrow once all immediate parties have been notified.

Trustee Palis attended Garibaldi Secondary’s presentation of *Hairspray* and gave high accolades to Cindy Lacroix having ‘outdone herself again’.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

CARRIED.

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer