



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, January 12, 2011 (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 – Laurie Meston
Manager, Communications – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Correspondence

Stephen Hansen – British Columbia School Trustee Association’s Annual General Meeting and Provincial Council Motion Deadline.

2. Ordering of Agenda

Additions:

- Decision Item: H1.b) Deputy Superintendent – Local Government Program Services
- Decision Item: H1.c) Secretary Treasurer – Local Education Agreement with Katzie First Nations
- Committee Business I2.h) Communications Advisory – Trustee Carr

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. December 8, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

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

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

Social Planning Advisory Committee (“SPAC”)

- Shawn Matthewson, Coordinator of Social Planning and Child Services; and

-
- Christine DiGiamberardine, Recreation Coordinator, Neighbourhood Development.

SPAC provided a powerpoint presentation and handout regarding their mandate to enhance the well-being of present and future community residents by addressing social issues and initiating projects, such as working with the School District to develop community hubs and gardens. The Committee also works to bring individuals, groups and governments together to identify and address social issues by developing coordinated strategies to improve and sustain the overall quality of life for the community.

Municipal Advisory and Accessibility Committee (“MACAI”)

- Petra Frederick, District of Maple Ridge Staff Liaison
- Greg Turnbull, Chair; and
- Manfred Wuensche, Vice-Chair.

MACAI, in existence since 1993, provided a powerpoint presentation sharing their past successes and current initiatives around dealing with accessibility issues in the community. It is the Committee’s belief a community which is planned and designed to accommodate all of its citizens celebrates potential, quality of life, and diversity of ability. In 2009, the Committee received UBCM Community Excellence award for Best Practices – Leadership and Innovation.

The Committee has developed and promoted a book, “Plan and Design for Choice – Universal Design Guidelines for Outdoor Spaces” which ensures accessibility within communities including outdoor or natural areas which offer unique challenges. As part of the initiatives, the Committee has partnered with planners for the Golden Ears Bridge and Coast Mountain Bus Company identifying the need for accessible bus stops and side-walk improvements.

In addition, MACAI provides annual updates to the District of Maple Ridge and the City of Pitt Meadows. providing feedback to Parks and Leisure Services ensuring accessible trail systems and playgrounds.

MACAI has assisted with developing employment opportunities, developing promotional pamphlets and increasing participation of youth (13-19). As such, they are currently seeking a youth representative to join the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the accessibility at Westview Secondary School which at one time, Mr. Turnbull was unable to access and was pleased the District has facilitated the access to the field at the North parking lot by not only installing two handicap parking spots but also re-grading the access path and re-pouring concrete and correcting the setback for accessibility.

Discussion ensued regarding accessibility at PMSS. Mr. Turnbull will take note and report back to SPAC.

Maple Ridge Teachers’ Association – George Serra – Local Bargaining

President George Serra made a presentation regarding local bargaining and provided a powerpoint presentation and detailed binder for each Trustee highlighting the desire for local bargaining due to many non-cost items that could be negotiated locally, benefiting students, improving teacher morale and contributing to positive relationships within the School District. The existing contract expires June 30, 2011 and expressed the current model is not working for teachers or kids. One area of concern is simply updating contract language to modern times. Mr. Serra further expressed interest in a contract being ‘owned’ by everyone with pride, fostering respectful relationships and maintaining positive and productive collaboration.

Comments were made regarding the timing and cost factors of local bargaining with some Trustees expressing support with the assistance of the right personnel to handle the bargaining garnering success and feel for the first time in a long time, that local bargaining may be attainable.

Comments were made regarding District teachers have had to suffer for past bargaining practices including benefit plans from 20 years ago. Trustees support the need for more conversation however opinions were provided indicating support for local bargaining as long as Provincial partners' involvement is kept at arm's length.

Dialogue continued regarding what a local bargaining committee could look like and the issues at hand.

With final comments, the Board Chair commented he fundamentally believes the people being affected by the decisions, are the best to make decisions. With local bargaining, communities are stronger and can prepare for the 21st century.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

1. Election of BC School Trustee Association ("BCSTA") Representative

Trustee Rempel nominated Trustee Ward who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Trustee Ward was declared the BCSTA representative by acclamation for 2011.

Trustee Ward reminded the Board of the upcoming BCSTA motion deadline.

Nomination of BCSTA Alternate Representation

Trustee Vdovine nominated himself for BCSTA Alternate representative. There being no further nominations, Trustee Vdovine was declared the BCSTA Alternate representative for 2011.

2. Election of BC Public School Employers' Association ("BCPSEA") Representative

Trustee Vdovine nominated Trustee Palis who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Trustee Palis was declared the BCPSEA representative by acclamation for 2011.

Nomination for BCPSEA Alternate Representation

Trustee Huber nominated Trustee Ward who accepted the nomination for BCPSEA Alternate representative. There being no further nominations, Trustee Ward was declared the BCPSEA Alternate representative for 2011.

The Board Chair called for a vote, THAT the Board elect the Trustees for BCSTA and BCPSEA representatives for 2011.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Committee Representatives for 2011

The Board Chair provided a DPAC and DSAC rotation schedule and a list of Committee representatives for 2011.

Concerns were raised regarding the process of appointments indicating Procedural Bylaws had not been followed as such one of the Board members is not in support of the committee list.

Changes from 2010 to 2011 include representation at Ridge Meadows Education Foundation ("RMEF"). Dissention ensued regarding the representation. In particular, Trustee Rempel, having been involved since inception, would like to continue and plans to continue to work with the Committee.

The Chair reiterated his request for feedback since December whereby only six (6) members responded. It is the Board Chair's responsibility to determine final decisions. The Chair has not only spoken with Trustee Rempel via phone but has also met in person and it is his conclusion that process has been followed. The Chair further echoed at the last Board Work Day some members rushed away prior to finalizing conversations regarding committee work. In particular, the Board was requested to provide feedback regarding committee work.

Trustee Ward was 'saddened' at her removal from the Foundation commenting her relationships have been built within committees and offered a level of commitment which she still supports.

Trustee Vdovine supported the Board Chair avowing process has been ensuing since the beginning of December and there has been more than sufficient time for input and accordingly, is surprised at the reaction of his two fellow Trustees at this late stage; believes anyone at this table is able to do well at each of these committees and the process had been endorsed.

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board bring the topic of committee appointments to the next Board Work Day on Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

Neither the Board Chair nor Trustee Vdovine will support this motion and provided independent justification. Trustee Huber denied support as he wants to move forward with the business of the meeting.

Ultimately, two Board members are vying for one position. Accordingly, it is the Board Chair who ultimately determines the final outcome.

After much discussion it was decided December is the wrong month to meet regarding Committee appointments.

Lastly, the Chair reminded the Board that on December 8th, the Board was requested to meet on December 15th where Committee representation was discussed and to which everyone agreed to do it the way it was carried out.

The Board Chair called for a vote.

MOTION DEFEATED (In Favour: Trustee Palis)

The list of Committee Representatives is now public knowledge and is provided as information.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools
- b) Deputy Superintendent

Deputy Superintendent Meston referred to the November 10, 2010 meeting, wherein the Board supported a joint partnership for a grant application. The Local Government Program Services has subsequently requested changes therefore, the School District is now re-submitting two separate grant applications: one focuses on the support of the development of a school neighbourhood garden at Eric Langton Elementary; the other focuses on school community connections in support of the "Glenwood Elementary School –

Neighbourhood Learning Centre Satellite Consultation”. A key goal is the garden supplementing and supporting the community kitchen at Glenwood. The applications are being submitted on the understanding the Board of Education would provide written support.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board approve the letters of support to the Local Government Program Services and authorizes the Chair to sign the letters on behalf of the Board.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer announced after years of conversation and consultation, an agreement has been reached benefiting all students which has culminated into a proud moment for School District No. 42 and Katzie First Nations. Superintendent Unwin was pleased to report on the phenomenal amount of events and achievements this Board has celebrated with Katzie First Nations. Through extra efforts of positive partnership and collaboration, the School District wishes to continue fostering a positive relationship with the Katzie First Nations. Praise was given to the extraordinary members of the Aboriginal Education Department led by Principal, Doug Hoey.

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board ratify the new Local Education Agreement dated January 11, 2011.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

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

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Trustee Carr provided a detailed background and history of the Communication Advisory Committee providing a written report of same.

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board of Education supports the recommendation of the Communications Committee Chair to suspend the Communications Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT as the Communications Officer answers to the Superintendent, the Board of Education direct the Communications Officer to keep the Board informed as appropriate of communication projects and strategies through the Superintendent’s reports.

CARRIED

J. QUESTION PERIOD

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Palis is planning to attend the upcoming French Kindergarten information night at THSS.

A Member of the Public inquired into the process of the Committee appointments and the apparent displeasure of some Trustees. The Chair responded reminding her that process was followed by consulting with Trustees, assessing the Committees and ultimately appointing members.

Joint Parks & Leisure Services. Trustee Palis provided a verbal reported on a meeting recently attended. Few issues affected the School District and referred to an upcoming Spin-a-thon fundraiser for the Asante Centre at Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre on February 26th.

Trustee Ward reminded the Board of the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council and Annual General Meeting. The deadline for BCSTA to receive Provincial Council motions: January 24, 2011.

Trustee Huber suggested each Committee be contacted to make a presentation to the Board.

The Chair requested the Executive Assistant to keep a running list of items for new Trustees regarding new Trustee orientation.

Trustee Rempel reported on Rotary's new Dare to Dream program. The Dream Team met with DSAC Executive in the DEO Boardroom and is working to 'package' the program for the School District funded by Rotary. The main focus is motivating and guiding students.

Trustee Carr asked if BCSTA Provincial Council motions can be received via email. Trustee Ward reminded the Board Provincial Council motions must be of an emergent nature. It was suggested BCSTA motions be a standing Agenda item. Trustee Carr proposed a motion to write a letter encouraging other Boards to consider bargaining locally.

L. OTHER BUSINESS**M. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: Trustee Huber

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

CARRIED.

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer