



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, January 26, 2011 (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 – Laurie Meston
Communications/Community Relations – S. Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

ABSENT:

Trustee – Mike Huber

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**

Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities for information.

2. **Ordering of Agenda**

Additions:

- E. Chair Report – Chair Clarkson

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **January 12, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes**

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Minutes of the January 12, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

Use of Technology to Support Online Learning of English 11/12 at Thomas Haney Secondary School
- Jamie Scoular, English Teacher and Claire Chang, Student

- Provides means to explore new ways of teaching students - 21st century learning will be different.
- Allows time/freedom to explore passions and allows student to choose topics they are interested in learning about, engaging the learner.
- Students are fueled with a passion to learn and share their curiosities; demands students to question themselves in the definition of excellence; students assist with collaboration, self-assessment.
- The Superintendent asked Claire what three things THSS models to engage students to which she responded that she like the self-directed system; working at own pace but having deadlines; can be self-motivated to do what she wants; is able to work ahead if she chooses and can get projects done quickly.
- Everyone is invited to visit the website: thssenglish.ca

In preparation for the course Mr. Scoular was motivated by setting aside time on both summer and rainy days. It is a constant work in progress and a passion to constantly refine the process.

Director Sonne asked what could be offered to facilitate this type of course in the future.

- Collaborative time would assist with these types of projects.
- Performance scales as suggested and supported by Superintendent Unwin during her days as Principal.

Chair Clarkson commended Mr. Scoular and Ms. Chang for the inspiring and refreshing views into finding new ways of learning.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Clarkson reported the Board of Education held meetings with CUPE and MRPVPA on January 19th. The Board was pleased with the positive comments and suggestions from both partner groups. The next Board Work Day on February 16th has been cancelled as it is a District Professional Development day.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board Chair write a letter on behalf of the Board to the Ministry of Education urging the Ministry and BCTF to work collaboratively in restructuring the FSA so it emerges as a useful tool enhancing and assisting the delivery of education in our Province.

CARRIED

Trustee Vdovine exited the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools

Mt. Crescent and Riverside Elementary Schools Transition Letter

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

The Superintendent referred to the draft letter included with the Agenda package outlining the purpose and intent of gathering information to determine how the students are managing through the school transition.

A suggestion was made to edit the letter specifically asking how the child(ren) and families are doing and gather feedback from staff (SEAs, noon hours, clerical, custodial, teachers).

THAT the Board of Education approve the draft letter to parents of students who attended either Mt. Crescent Elementary or Riverside Elementary and direct the Board's Chairperson and Superintendent to execute the letter on behalf of the Board of Education.

CARRIED

b) Deputy Superintendent

Board Authorized Approved ("BAA") Courses

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

Deputy Superintendent Meston turned the presentation over to the Director Sonne who reviewed the existing academies, integrated trades, partnership programs and all relevant learning opportunities engaging students the School District has to offer.

Director Sonne continued to review the attachments included with the Agenda package reviewing proposed courses.

THAT the Board approve the Board Authority Authorized courses called PE Leadership 11, European Languages & Cultures 11 and the Passport to Trades Program.

CARRIED

The last course proposed is the first of its kind in the Province which includes a partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University ("KPU"). The initial plan commenced with discussions with the University of the Fraser Valley ("UFV") however, UFV was not prepared to proceed at the time. KPU approached SD42 regarding the opportunity. Director Sonne is seeking approval 'in principle' as the plan is not quite 100% ready. Areas of exploration include SD42's ability to provide full service, transferability of credits, costs and MRTA teaching opportunities.

Discussion ensued regarding the meaning behind, "approving in principle".

The application deadline is April 30 in order to be available for September. Secondary school counselors have already gained information and feedback from prospective students.

Trustee Ward proposed an amendment to the original motion.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT the Board give direction to Deputy Superintendent to pursue talks around the University Academic partnerships to work out any potential issues.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

International Education Fees

The Secretary Treasurer referred to the attachment included with the Agenda package. The proposed increases will not detract from the offerings to international students to Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows. The reasons for the increases are outlined.

Trustee Rempel exited the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board approve the following tuition and other related fee increases, effective July 1, 2011:

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED FEE INCREASES	
MSP Fee	\$800/year (\$80/mo.)
Homestay Placement Fee	\$100 (Flat Fee)
Homestay Fee	\$8,000/year (\$800/mo.)
Legal Fee	\$100 (Flat Fee)
Airport Pick-Up Fee	\$60 (Flat Fee)
Tuition Fees	\$12,000/year (\$1,200/mo.)

CARRIED

Trustee Rempel joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Learning for Tomorrow

The Superintendent complimented Jamie Scouler on his inspiring presentation as it promises thoughtful motivation coinciding with the Districts "Learning for Tomorrow" vision and referred to the attachment in the Agenda package.

In follow-up to the forum held at THSS on November 16, 2010, where 200 participants were invited for the purpose of helping shape the future direction of learning in the Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District, the Communications and Community Relations Manager, Seamus Nesling will be placing an advertisement in the newspaper requesting the community to visit the website. There, visitors can review responses captured at the forum where discussion was centred around three key questions. As many as 750 responses were provided and compiled by Peter Drescher, the forum hired facilitator. A link will be added to the website seeking further community input.

Moved: Trustee Carr
Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the 'Learning for Tomorrow' update for information.

CARRIED

Special Education Audit

The Superintendent provided a brief overview referring to the information provided in the Agenda package. The District is pleased with the results although the audit cost us approximately \$100K. It is a great loss but it could have been much worse. Other Districts lose millions. The Superintendent commended Deputy Superintendent, Laurie Meston for her direction and succession ability to pass along good practice to our schools. She further commended the teachers, Special Education Assistants and Student Support Services teams. The audit team was enthusiastic about what they saw. The Superintendent extended a tremendous thank you to everyone who assisted with the process.

Deputy Superintendent Meston commended all personnel on their special education expertise. It is hard to find such great people who perform so well in their chosen field. We are lucky on all levels. Approximately 490 files were audited and all personnel were accommodating assisting with requests.

If families wish to appeal a decision regarding the coding of their child, there is a process in place and can be found on the website.

Moved: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Special Education Audit Results as presented by the Ministry of Education Audit team for information.

CARRIED

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

H. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Education Committee.

Trustee Palis recently attended the French Immersion Kindergarten information evening.

Trustee Carr requested the draft letters to Mt. Crescent and Riverside be presented to the Board prior to the mail out.

I. QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Rempel wanted to remark on comments made at the last meeting by two fellow Trustees however as neither are present, will save his remarks for next time.

A member of the public ("MOTP") inquired into the cost associated with the independent researcher regarding calendar schedules to which the Superintendent did not know the amount and would find that out. Further questions were asked regarding the budget line and how much is contained in that budget to which it was confirmed it is within the Superintendent's budget at an amount of \$40K.

MOTP inquired into the preliminary survey regarding semesters and asked if the District is considering the possibility of switching back to that system. The Superintendent reminded everyone it is merely an information gathering tool for future use when strategizing for the future. The Superintendent reminded everyone that SD42 was accused in the past of making decisions without gaining knowledge before changes

were made. The School District is changing practices in that it is gathering all information prior to the best strategic planning which includes hearing how the community feels.

MOTP questioned the Board Chair referring to a quotation in a local newspaper to which he was unable to speak to as it occurred during a Closed Board Meeting.

A question was raised regarding special needs students and the concerns of losing coding. Deputy Superintendent Meston responded urging the need for appropriate documentation and that there is an appeals process via Laurie Smith, District Principal, Student Support Services.

A question was raised regarding the daycare plan at Webster's Corners Elementary. The Secretary Treasurer commented it will form part of the review process on the use of facilities as we solidify our priorities regarding the capital plan.

MRTA President, George Serra commented in terms of discussions regarding the special education audit this is about underfunding; the extra efforts Student Support Services had to go through; BCTF class size and composition and directed those parents who are upset to forward their concerns to the Government.

J. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Ward reported the next Fraser Valley Branch meeting is scheduled for February 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the Chilliwack School District.

Trustee Ward reported BC School Trustee Association nominations are being sought for the positions of President, Vice-President and Directors. The deadline for receiving nominations to be included in the delegate information packages prior to the Annual General Meeting is March 15, 2011.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Rempel shared the events he attended at the River Rock Casino for an event hosted by the Tzu Chi Foundation and continues to be impressed with scope and passion of the foundation for kids.

Trustee Carr – attended a Spelling Bee at Alexander Robinson Elementary and was so impressed at the formality and skills of the students. "It was amazing".

Trustee Palis reported on the Great BC Shakeout where Chair Clarkson went up against Mayors MacLean and Daykin earlier in the Boardroom, to see who had the best 'grab-n-go' earthquake kit. Representing School District No. 42, Chair Clarkson came out the winner as attested by the esteemed judges.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

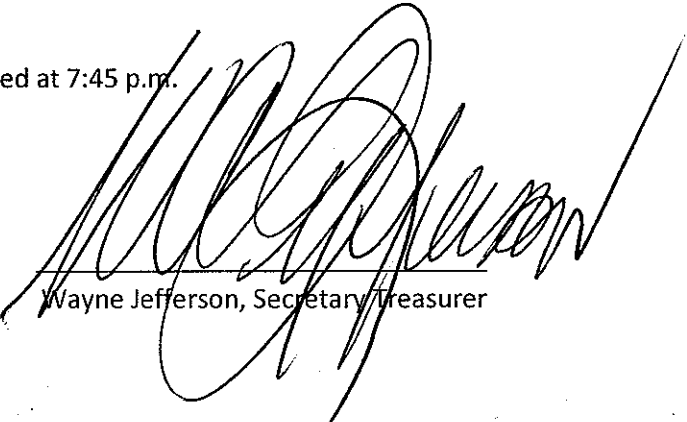
Seconded: Trustee Carr

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

CARRIED



Ken Clarkson, Chair



Wayne Jefferson, Secretary/Treasurer