



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, February 23, 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 – Stepan Vdovine

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Deputy Superintendent – Stewart Sonne
Communications/Community Relations – S. Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

ABSENT:

Trustee – Dave Rempel

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Correspondence

Ridge Meadows Home Show

3. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

Additions:

- Trustee Motions: Ridge Meadows Home Show – Trustee Carr
- Superintendent Information Item: Local School Calendar Update – Superintendent Unwin

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 9, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Minutes of the February 9, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

WiFi in Schools – Dr. Samantha Boutet

- Provided a Powerpoint presentation highlighting concerns with respect to WiFi, electrohypersensitivity, and other adverse health effects suspected to be triggered from WiFi.

- Data provided arose from Health Canada, the Journal of American Pediatrics and what Countries are doing globally in response to the risks of WiFi.
- Other areas of concern included parental informed consent; adverse effect reporting processes, and equal access to education by eliminating wireless and offering a hard-wired school option.
- Dr. Boutet encouraged everyone to visit the Citizens for Safe Technology website: www.citizensforsafetechnology.org.

Trustee Vdovine thanked Dr. Boutet for an informative presentation supporting her position and point of view however is not certain the Board is able to take on the responsibility of other Governments.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board in consideration of funding and budget pressures respectfully support the 2011 Home Show with the Bronze level amount of \$250 in recognition of the Board's long standing relationship and involvement of students in our District. This amount of \$250 will be taken from the Administration/Trustee/Advertising/Public Relations/Account; and

THAT the Board will direct staff to refer future funding requests to the Budget process.

Discussion ensued seeking a process advising the community there is a monetary component attached and that the Board is seeking methods to incorporate funding in future budgets.

The Chair called for a vote on the original motion.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board support in principle the expansion of bargaining on a local level; and

THAT the Board direct staff to meet with the MRTA early in March to explore local bargaining protocols.

Chair Clarkson read a statement regarding the local bargaining highlighting his reasons for bringing the motion forward for consideration.

Trustee Huber proposed a friendly recommendation to remove the word "principle" from the original motion.

AMENDMENT:

Moved: Trustee Huber

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board support the expansion of bargaining on a local level; and

THAT the Board direct staff to meet with the MRTA early in March to explore local bargaining protocols.

Discussion ensued regarding the strong relationships the community has built between the parties involved, practical costs, democracy and advocacy agreeing with the omission of wages and benefits.

The Chair called for a vote on the amended motion.

CARRIED

Trustee Vdovine proposed a motion urging BCTF and BCPSEA to meet to discuss other items exempt from the 47 approved.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board write a letter to BCTF and BCPSEA, copied to Boards of Education in the Province, urging the two parties to come together to expand on the scope of local bargaining.

Caution was displayed the letter should contain substance. Others hoped that by sending a letter, other Boards will also write wanting the two parties to realize letters of support.

The Chair called for a vote on the original motion.

CARRIED (Opposed: Trustee Huber)

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

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

Financial Statements – Quarter Two

The Secretary Treasurer indicated with great confidence the District has a balanced budget and a plan that fits within the District's education plan.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Moved: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's Second Quarter Financial Statements for information.

CARRIED

Amended Budget – 2010 /11

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT pursuant to Part E, Bylaws and Resolutions, Section 3.01 subsection (d), the Board advance the Amended Budget and Bylaws through to final stages in one meeting.

CARRIED

Chair Clarkson removed himself as Board Chair appointing Vice-Chair Palis to take his place due to what he felt was personal conflict.

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board grant **first reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board grant **second reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board grant **third and final reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Chair Clarkson joined the meeting returning to the position of Chair. Trustee Huber provided reasons for his participation with the vote spoke to the roles defining potential conflicts.

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board grant **first reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Palis
Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board grant **second reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board grant **third and final reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Palis
Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board grant **first reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board grant **second reading** to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board grant **third and final** reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2010-2011.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools

Kindergarten Registration: French Immersion

Trustee Vdovine exited the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The Superintendent provided a report speaking to the increased surge in French immersion kindergarten registration highlighting the actions taken to facilitate all students including: adding one class to Eric Langton Elementary; adding one class to Pitt Meadows Elementary; and having already added a class to Laity View Elementary. The School District has accommodated all students.

Trustee Vdovine joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Moved: Trustee Palis

Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's attached report on French Immersion Kindergarten Registration for information.

The surge in French immersion is more impactful as it leaves a smaller number in the English programs. The surge is a larger, faster rise the District has seen in a long time.

Trustee Ward referred to an independent study done in approximately 2007/2008 regarding trends in French immersion and suggested it be brought back for review.

The Chair called for a vote on the original motion.

CARRIED

French Immersion Withdrawal Numbers

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The Superintendent referred to the French Immersion Withdrawal Report provided in response to an inquiry made at the February 9, 2011 Public Board Meeting. Superintendent Unwin reviewed the Report attached to the Agenda package.

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's French Immersion Report on French Immersion withdrawal numbers for information.

CARRIED

Local School Calendar

The Superintendent provided an update indicating the Consultant is nearing the completion of her research. The final project includes meeting with both elementary and secondary students on Friday, February 25th. Once complete, all information will be compiled with information collected from the Learning for Tomorrow forum which has been the driving force on how the School District wants to move forward. At the March 9, 2011 Board Meeting, it is the District's intention to bring options and recommendations. It will also be presented to the public for 30 days forming part of the consultation process. The final calendar decisions are required prior to the end of May.

Kindergarten Registration Process

The Superintendent reported kindergarten registration has increased by approximately 100 students compared to this time last year. Every year, the District is on a continuous improvement cycle regarding the registration process. In response to a recent newspaper article, and in order to address concerns at a previous meeting, the District is seeking ways to improve including placing the 'choice programs' registration in a different week and reviewing future registration criteria such as catchments and if siblings attend the existing school.

All students in catchments have been accommodated.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

Budget Timelines

The Secretary Treasurer was asked to make minor revisions to the schedule. We want to publicize what the time lines are and the work expected for you to adopt then we can post to website.

Moved: Trustee Huber

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board approve the recommended 2011–2012 Budget Committee of the Whole timelines for reference and use in the development of the 2011–2012 Preliminary Budget and the Board website provide the public with an opportunity to offer feedback.

Trustee Palis exited the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Comments were made with respect to the budget website component. Trustee Vdovine proposed creating a section on the website such as Survey Monkey collecting feedback and providing the public with the same information as the Board so they are able to make informed decisions. A further suggestion was to have a ranking system of budget item importance.

Trustee Palis joined the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

The Secretary Treasurer agreed to take the information under advisement for an upcoming Budget Committee of the Whole meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding a conflict on June 29, 2011 whereby Board Meetings and Westview Secondary School's graduation are scheduled for the same day. It was agreed to explore options at the next Budget Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Chair called for a vote on the original motion.

CARRIED

Off-Leash Dog Parks – Interim Report

The Secretary Treasurer has worked closely with both the Facilities/Maintenance and Parks and Recreation Departments. To the best of Administration's knowledge, there are no issues of concern at Davie Jones or Laity View Elementary. The matter has been added to the Agenda of the Joint Use of Public Facilities and Coordination of Services meeting scheduled for March 8, 2011.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's interim report on the creation and operation of two off-leash dog parks at Davie Jones Elementary and Laity View Elementary for information.

CARRIED

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee & Advisory Committee Reports

Human Resources Committee. Trustee Palis provided a brief report with respect to BCPSEA.

District Student Advisory Committee. Trustee Carr provided a handout regarding her attendance at the February DSAC meeting where the topic included plans for the annual Core Project. This year, the group will be working with CURE International to help raise money for kids with deformities such as club foot.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

Member of the public questions:

When the final draft of the Preliminary Budget is released on May 11th will cost centres be included?

Response: The Board will be following the Ministry of Education's format.

Can you make sure the information regarding bussing options to academies and partnerships are provided on the website and on the brochure for next year?

A list of questions was provided to the Executive Assistant.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BCSTA Ad Hoc Committee Report

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive the Provincial Councilor's summary for information.

CARRIED

Provincial Council Motions

Trustee Ward reported the Provincial Council is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 25th and 26th. Five motions are presented at tonight's meeting for the Board's feedback. Feedback received included validity and necessity of the meetings and the importance of the motions. The Annual General Meeting is in April and if motions are non-emergent they could have been delayed until the Annual General Meeting to save costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the merit in discussing the topics, events occurring at the Provincial Council meetings, emergent motions, costs associated with the event, cutbacks to funding, justification of meetings and accountability.

It was agreed to recommend the association review their processes.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board of Education provide Provincial Councilor, Kathie Ward with direction regarding the Provincial Council Motions.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

Trustee Ward reminded the Board this is the last opportunity to provide input into the budget which will be passed at the Annual General Meeting in April.

THAT the Board of Education provide Provincial councilor, Kathie Ward on input into the BCSTA Budget (item 6.1).

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

According to BCSTA Bylaws, all late motions must be deemed to be of an emergent nature in order for debate at the Provincial Council Meeting. The motion cannot be debated until it is voted on as being emergent at the meeting. It was agreed to bring it to the floor but then defer it to the Annual General Meeting.

THAT the Board of Education provide Provincial Councilor, Kathie Ward, with as to whether they believe that ITEM 8.1 Late Motion: Avison Report on BC College of Teachers meets the criteria of an Emergent Nature allowing for it to come to the Assembly for debate at the February 25/26 Provincial Council.

CARRIED

Youth Society Committee

Trustee Carr provided a handout regarding her attendance at the Youth Centre Society meeting on February 21st at the Greg Moore Youth Centre. The group plans to repeat last year's success whereby volunteers drove the shuttles and collected donations at the Ridge Meadows Home Show. Members also spoke to the progress of the Pitt Meadows Skate Park.

Trustee Palis also attended the skate park meeting in Pitt Meadows which was attended by many youths of the community. The facility will be 14,000 sq. feet.

Trustee Huber commented on recent community awards which highlighted people doing great things to bring awareness to the ones who could do more. Our community has instituted great initiatives to encourage others. There are so many great teachers in our community and is encouraged to see schools such as Davie Jones Elementary lend a hand to Whonnock Elementary with respect to the music program.

Trustee Vdovine attended his first Joint Parks and Leisure Services meeting where one of the major items for discussion was off-leash dog parks.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Good News Items

Trustee Ward attended the recent Pitt Meadows Community Policing Committee/Social Media presentation. Key highlights included statistics that females text 4000x per month on average, while males

text 2500x; once on Facebook, always on Facebook; employers are using Facebook as a means to screen applicants; Twitter lacks filtering for malicious content. The policing community would rather see use of recreation as an alternative to social media. The Youth Centre empowers youth to empower themselves and encourages parents to be involved with kids. Trustee Ward thanked the Executive Assistant and Superintendent for getting the information out. There was a record number of people in attendance.

Trustees Carr, Palis and Clarkson assisted with the Pitt Meadows Secondary School grade 10 Interview Fair today providing invaluable job interview experience that many students may have little or none of yet. Trustee Carr spoke to the great opportunity this provides and overheard interviewers ask the students Facebook questions. The event is offered through the Career Centres.

Trustees Palis and Carr went to Whonnock Elementary yesterday to say farewell to Principal, Gwyneth Dixon-Warren who commences Maternity Leave on March 1st. In return, Gwyneth showed them the book, "The Penguin who wanted to Fly" written by one of Whonnock's teachers, Susanna Westby who had her class create the characters. Another example of greatness in our community.

Chair Clarkson supported the notion by commenting on his discussion with Sid Midtal, Teacher Librarian at Pitt Meadows Secondary who confirms elementary teachers are fostering reading in elementary schools as students 'love to read more than ever'.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

CARRIED

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer