



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 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

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Deputy Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Communications/Community Relations – S. Nesling
Director of Secondary/Adult Education – S. Sonne
Acting Director, Human Resources – Harry Dhillon
Director of Instruction, Advancing Tech. – D. Vandergugten
Executive Assistant – Tracy Smith

ABSENT:

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

Motion: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

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

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Correspondence

- British Columbia Teachers' Federation – S. Lambert
- British Columbia Public School Employers' Association – H. Finlayson

2. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

Additions:

- Trustee Motions: Trustee Vdovine
- Superintendent Decision Item: Proposed Local School Calendar
- Secretary Treasurer Information Item: 2010-11 Year Capital Plan – Ministry of Finance

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 23, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The following change was made to the minutes:

Page 1 A.3. "Trustee Motions: Ridge Meadows Home Show – Trustee Carr"

THAT the Minutes of the February 23, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

A member of the public spoke to correspondence presented at the meeting regarding WiFi research to which the Chair reported the said correspondence would be added to the next Public Agenda allowing time for Trustees to review same. Curtis Bennett, introduced himself as an expert witness serving the Canadian parliamentary hearings finding errors (or omissions) qualifying electromagnetically induced damage to humans.

C. PRESENTATIONS

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – Carlos Silva, Kyle Ludeman, Educators at Garibaldi Secondary School

- Mr. Silvan and Ludeman thanked the Board for the invitation and introduced the Garibaldi Secondary students: Lukas Bunsko, Michelle McDonald, Zoe Herron, Richard Mozisek and Carmen Watson.
- The initiative provides grade 9 students the opportunity to explore local social issues and helping organizations in our communities.
- The students are required to meet with non-profit organizations (“NPOs”), conduct interviews and site visits.
- Upon compiling information, the student groups are required to make a formal presentation on behalf of their NPO hoping to earn them grant money in the amount of \$5,000.
- This year’s award-winning students were motivated and inspired by Jude Platzer of the Josh Platzer Society for Teen Suicide Prevention. The students provided a compelling presentation on the social matters surrounding suicide including a poster and overhead presentation.
- The students made a presentation in front of a grade wide assembly.
- The Josh Platzer Society for Teen Suicide is funded solely by donations.
- <http://www.teensuicideprevention.org/joshplatzermemorialfund.html>

Chair Clarkson reported he was one of many Trustees who were invited to judge the presentations stating that what the students are doing is ‘real’ and shows the students how important charity is to our communities and how it affects our own lives.

Jude Platzer was scheduled to attend tonight’s meeting.

Trustee Palis exited the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board contact Provincial and Federal health authorities to report local incidents around WiFi and attempt to seek counsel and how to proceed in resolving this.

CARRIED

A suggestion was made to work with other levels of Government working towards solutions of concerns of parents. As such, the Board wished to acknowledge concerns, document and seek guidance from other levels of Government on the WiFi matter.

Trustee Palis joined the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Trustee Ward inquired into a report she thought Judy Dueck may have prepared and suggested it be brought back to the Board to which the Secretary Treasurer said he would seek a copy of same.

The Chair called for a vote on the original motion.

CARRIED.

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Proposed Local School Calendar

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Palis

Superintendent Unwin thanked senior staff for attending tonight's meeting and noted the calendar originally distributed prior to the meeting has some changes. New handouts were provided. The changes are reflective upon the wish to honour a two (2) year commitment with respect to Common Professional Development days with the MRTA.

As part of the Learning for Tomorrow Forum, continued financial pressures and in order to bring options to the Board seeking creative ways to save money, build efficiencies and fairness across the District, an independent consultant, Horizon Research & Evaluation Inc. was engaged to assist with the evaluation process. Research conducted indicates the proposed changes would not have an adverse effect on student learning and would alternatively provide other opportunities.

The Superintendent presented a powerpoint summarizing the consultant's process. The Board is asked tonight, to approve a public feedback component for 30 days in accordance with the *School Act* prior to making a final decision.

Additional supportive comments provided if approved:

- The District would work with community groups;
- A transition team could be provided if the need is there;
- Meet with community groups to see what the District can offer;
- Public information night is scheduled for March 29, 2011 at Thomas Haney Secondary School;
- Will continue discussions with CUPE regarding particular groups who are not tied to students;
- Continue discussion with MRTA to discuss local school calendars;
- Work with Kanaka Creek Elementary regarding inclusion;
- Benefits of teacher collaboration time;
- Possible introduction of new subjects to students;
- Grade 7 elementary schools collaborating with secondary catchment schools;
- Health and wellness benefits;
- Greater efficiencies in balancing schedules for better time-share opportunities for staff;
- Zero impact on excluded staff;
- First step is to seek parental feedback.

Suggestions were made to review this over a two (2) or three (3) year program as one(1) year is too short of a timeline to measure.

The consultant has completed her work and it is up to the School District to determine which plans work best for everyone. Support for the consultant was provided in the added benefit of her questioning 'why we do the things we do' compelling the District to review past practices.

Acting Director, Human Resources, Harry Dhillon exited the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Concerns were raised regarding added child care costs for both families who can and cannot afford the extra costs associated.

THAT the Board approve the attached Proposed Local School Calendar to go out for public consultation from March 9 to April 10, 2011 as per the *School Act*.

CARRIED

b) Deputy Superintendent

c) Secretary Treasurer

Capital Project Amendment Bylaw

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

The Secretary Treasurer referred to the report in the Agenda package.

THAT Capital Project Amendment Bylaw 126150A be given three (3) readings at this meeting (vote must be unanimous).

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT Bylaw 126150A re: Capital Project Amendment Bylaw No. 126150A All Day Kindergarten Modular Units be approved as read a **first** time.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT Bylaw 126150A re: Capital Project Amendment Bylaw No. 126150A All Day Kindergarten Modular Units be approved as read a **second** time.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT Bylaw 126150A re: Capital Project Amendment Bylaw No. 126150A All Day Kindergarten Modular Units be approved as read a **third and final** time.

CARRIED

Stewart Sonne, Director Secondary and Adult Education and David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, Advancing Technology in Education, exited the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Trustee Remuneration

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The Secretary Treasurer referred to information contained in the Agenda package. The Executive Assistant will be providing BCSTA with the requisite information in due course. Concerns were raised regarding the increases when School Districts are faced with cutbacks. Future consideration is needed in order to determine remuneration. The Secretary Treasurer will review other Boards.

The Secretary Treasurer agreed to review the Trustee Remuneration policy.

THAT the annual base remuneration for Trustees for January 1, 2011 be increased by 2%, as per the Metro Vancouver Consumer Price Index (CPI) change, for December 2010 compared to December 2009.

CARRIED (Opposed: Trustees Huber and Rempel)

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Personnel Update

The Superintendent stated there will be announcement made tomorrow regarding the appointment of the new Principal, Aboriginal Education.

b) Deputy Superintendent

Kindergarten Registration Update

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The Deputy Superintendent reviewed the report attached to the Agenda. A majority of students will be able to attend either first or second choice schools and there is no waitlist for any of the French immersion programs.

THAT the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's Kindergarten Registration update for information.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

2010-2011 Year Capital Plan Ministry of Education – Project Report

The Secretary Treasurer referred to the report attached to the Agenda. The School District's projects have received high ranking in the Ministry's office obtaining endorsement and a budget of \$12 million. The District continues to seek efficiencies to facilitate the process of a new South Albion elementary school competing against other high need areas such as Surrey. A new elementary has been placed in highest priority. Although the District is faced with declining enrollment, there is also still a need for an expansion to Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary. The projects are currently in the three (3) year portfolio.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the Ministry of Education 2010/11 year Capital Plan for information.

CARRIED

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

J. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was raised regarding the review of Chilliwack and Abbotsford School Districts who are reviewing the return to a one (1) week Spring Break.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Ward referred to the motions provided in the Agenda package.
The link for the synopsis was sent out via email.

Good News Items.

Trustee Vdovine commented on International Women’s Day wanting to express the importance of acknowledging women everywhere, recognizing women in the school system, and the women in the room while handing out roses.

Trustee Carr thanked Fairview Elementary for including her in their reading event which included week long activities fostering reading.

Trustee Carr thanked the Maple Ridge Teachers’ Association and the justice committee for organizing the event at the ACT in celebration of International Women’s Day.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

CARRIED

Ken Clarkson, Chair

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer