



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Wednesday, April 13, 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  
Communications/Community Relations – Seamus Nesling  
Executive Assistant, Recorder – Tracy Orobko

**GUESTS:**

David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, Advancing Technology in Education  
Stewart Sonne, Director of Secondary and Adult Education  
Harry Dhillon, Acting Director, Human Resources

**A. OPENING PROCEDURES**

**Call to Order**

**Motion:** Trustee Vdovine

**Seconded:** Trustee Rempel

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

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

**1. Correspondence**

- Melanie Joy, Chair – BC Public School Employers' Association
- Bob Cicci – Parent
- George Abbott, Minister - Ministry of Education
- Michele Despots, Music Teacher, Laity View Elementary and Eric Langton Elementary

**2. Ordering of Agenda**

**Moved:** Trustee Rempel

**Seconded:** Trustee Palis

THAT the Agenda be ordered as circulated.

**CARRIED**

The Chair asked the audience if there is anyone else who would like to speak to the Agenda.

A member of the public spoke to the proposed District Local School Calendar item wishing to thank the Board for the survey to CUPE members. A common start and end time for all schools would be of more value than a two week Spring Break and would rather the Board consider the Kanaka Creek Elementary model of a Balanced Calendar.

A member of the public spoke to the options related to the proposed District Local School Calendar and read a statement of her opinions to the options. Options C and E are seen as the only viable options and does not want instructional days lost.

**B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. March 30, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes

**Moved:** Trustee Rempel

**Seconded:** Trustee Carr

The following change was made to the March 30, 2011 minutes:

Trustee Ward was added to the "Attendance" list of Board Members.

THAT the Minutes of the March 30, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

Student Support Services and Learning Disabilities – Laurie Smith, District Principal

- Katherine Shearer and Deirdre Way, Facilitators of secondary education, joined Ms. Smith.
- SSS has been monitoring the six year graduation rates in special education which have gradually been increasing. The goal is to improve and strengthen outcomes for students with learning disabilities.
- Thanked Chair Clarkson for joining the meeting groups.
- Provided a powerpoint presentation displaying the perspectives of students with learning disabilities. Individual stories were told by the students themselves.
- Research is showing awareness and self-advocacy. In the past, the perception has been students with learning disabilities are not as clever as others. Progress shows perception is shifting from shame to advocacy.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Supportive comments were provided on the successful strategies.

Next steps include working with the MRTA to establish a pilot project and would like to gain consultation with teachers. To date, the use of laptops and obtaining Kursweil has provided access to all students when needed.

The Superintendent supported the work of SSS and reflected it as part of the Achievement Contract. Staff is noticing results and the improvement of achievements.

**D. DELEGATIONS**

**E. CHAIR REPORT**

**F. DEFERRED ITEMS**

**G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS**

**H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

1. **Decision Items**

**a) Superintendent of Schools**

District Local School Calendar

Superintendent Unwin provided a background on the initiative including the research project which gave the District a picture of efficiencies and non-efficiencies.

One of the purposes of senior staff is always bring forward ideas help move the District forward in an effective way always keeping equitability at the forefront. The options before the Board today, are as requested. They either directly save money or indirectly save money with exception of Option E.

This proposal has never been about gaining an extra holiday. It was one idea to bring a savings of extra money to better cope with the \$2.2 million shortfall. It has become difficult finding big areas of money. We do understand that if the Board chooses not to make a change, we will have to go back to the drawing board however it will be hard to not effect programs or personnel. There were 92 pages of comments and the Superintendent thanked the Board for their consideration and thanked senior team members in attendance for their tireless efforts.

The Superintendent proceed to review the District Local School Calendar package starting with the feedback from the survey to which only 1200 parents responded.

Option A is the calendar that went out for the one month consultation. Everything is all in one place.

Option B is Option A except for the additional November non-instructional day (removed).

Option C is the Ministry of Education's standard school calendar but there is no extra minutes, no additional Spring Break, and no day in November. It does have four additional non-instructional days (not 6).

Option D is again option A but it has an adjustment and amendment instead of six common Pro-D days, there are four.

Option E is status quo – no change and remains subject to the *School Act*.

Discussion ensued regarding the whole experience of democracy and the consultation process. All Trustees felt this was a very challenging decision and not one taken lightly attributing staff who have worked countless hours.

Based on questions asked, additional facts provided included:

- Depending on the option, some savings are not easily measured in the same manner; the savings are in efficiencies.
- The *School Act* does not allow putting forth options due to limitations. Once a proposal is put forth, you cannot deviate.
- Senior Staff has been working with CUPE and commended them for their internal survey work. Flexibility and no loss of wages are priorities. 98% of custodial staff still wanted to work the week usual which is a true accolade to them.
- Option C includes common start / stop at both elementary and secondary levels. No more late start Fridays at the secondary level.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

**Moved:** Trustee Carr

**Seconded:** Trustee Huber

THAT the Board support Option E.

Comments included:

- Out of a possible 14,000 parents / guardians, SD42 received feedback from 1,200.
- Similarities to that of the school closure process; with more questions, more information comes to light and postponing a decision to do it right might be an avenue to explore as the Board did with school closure. Upon reflection, people were more educated in the decision.
- The Board appreciates changes need to be made. A suggestion was to take the time – one more year wanting every rock to be turned over before making a decision.
- A suggestion was made to not take a second week at Spring Break but to spread it out.
- Address inefficiencies during budget deliberations.
- Belief Summer time is the real place where people want to see a change.
- Support for a change in seeking an alternative to effecting classrooms.
- Short Fridays add up to 20 days off.
- If no change is made, the Board did not need to invest in a consultant. Some recommendations have formed an interesting pathway.
- The turnout of community to tonight's meeting is an indication the community is not fearful of the potential change.
- The community has been provided to have their say and does not believe the community in favour of "no change".
- The Provincial Government is not supporting education. It is about money.
- Members of the Board encouraged each other to remain committed to any decision made tonight.
- Six days out of the classroom.
- 42 BC School Districts currently schedule two week Spring Breaks.
- 16 SD42 schools presently add 5 - 25 minutes (8 are extended day schools).

The Chair called for a vote.

**MOTION DEFEATED (In Favour: Trustee Carr)**

**Moved:** Trustee Ward

**Seconded:** Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board move to adopt Option C.

Comments included:

- Money is not identified as a savings; it is about the money.

Trustee Rempel exited the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

- Efficiencies can be made in Options A, B, and D.

Trustee Rempel joined the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

The Chair called for a vote.

---

**MOTION DEFEATED** (In Favour: Trustee Ward)

**Moved:** Trustee Huber

**Seconded:** Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board move to adopt Option A.

Comments included:

- Some members believed this is the best option with the least impact on students; while others differed in opinion.
- Do not feel the extra week will be too detrimental.

A comment in support of senior staff included the belief that staff would not come back with unsound educational options such as another week next year. The core of relationships is trust.

The Chair called for a vote.

**CARRIED** (Opposed: Trustees Ward and Carr)

The Chair announced the Board's decision of Option A - the proposed District Local School Calendar exactly as it was disseminated for public consultation. The Chair congratulated his colleagues.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

**2. Information Items**

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

**I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**J. QUESTION PERIOD**

A member of the public asked the Board what it will put those savings towards? Superintendent Unwin and the Chair responded it will go towards balancing the budget.

Why did staff provide options rather than make a recommendation? Trustee Vdovine responded that the Board would have received any of the recommendations for consideration as educationally sound advice from staff.

MRTA President, G. Serra spoke on behalf of his membership expressing disappointment in the Board's decision of Option A. If the Board had chosen Option B, keeping in line with the professional development option agreement, there would only have been a difference of roughly \$4K. By picking Option A, the Board has ignored the work that has been done. The MRTA went to their members and said "you need to trust us as we trust the District". An agreement was made for two (2) years. In terms of Professional Development, will have to start over and advise their members accordingly.

**K. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Rempel attended the recent Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council Meeting where he took part in mapping the community and the cultural activities of the community.

Trustee Rempel announced the Tzu Chi Foundation's recent approval of \$9,000 for students and the upcoming celebration on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Eric Langton Elementary. The Board is invited. It is a celebration of what students are doing.

Trustee Ward reminded the Board of the upcoming BCSTA Provincial Council meeting on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and granted Trustee Ward authorization to vote on its behalf on the BCSTA Budget for 2011/2012 and the appointment of auditors.

Good News Items

Trustee Huber participated with Maple Ridge Secondary School Grad Transitions and had the pleasure of meeting one of the International Students who was quoted as saying his goals include "staying in Canada and get a proper education".

Trustee Rempel attended the Garibaldi Secondary School Arts Gala which is reflective of the direction in programs happening there. Student films, dances, choir, bands - a celebration of the arts at that school.

Trustee Carr thanked all the organizers, planners and volunteers who put on the district primary cross-country this week.

**L. OTHER BUSINESS**

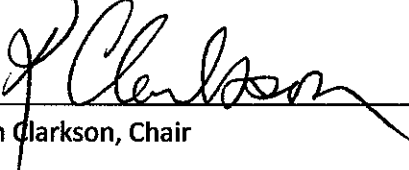
**M. ADJOURNMENT**

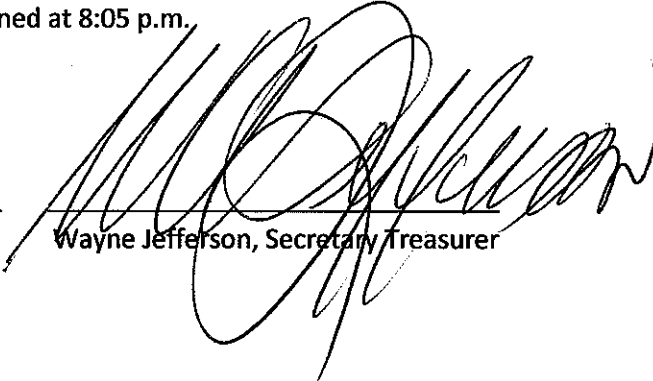
**Moved:** Trustee Rempel

**Seconded:** Trustee Palis

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**CARRIED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Clarkson, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer