



**PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
6:00 p.m.

District Education Office
22225 Brown Avenue
Boardroom

A G E N D A

"The great leaders don't resist innovation, they symbolize it"

A - OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order
2. Correspondence
 - i. Samantha Boutet, N.D.*
 - ii. Tom Kosatsky, Medical and Scientific Director, BC Centre for Disease Control*
3. Ordering of Agenda

B- CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. April 13, 2011*

C – PRESENTATIONS

1. Full-Day Kindergarten – Noralea Pilgrim and Laurie Meston

D – DELEGATIONS

E – CHAIR REPORT

F – DEFERRED ITEMS

G – TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - b) Deputy Superintendent
 - c) Secretary Treasurer
2. Information Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - i. Kwantlen Polytechnic University Update*
 - b) Deputy Superintendent
 - c) Secretary Treasurer

I – COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committees of the Whole
 - a) 2010 - 2011 Finance
 - b) 2011 - 2012 Budget

*Enclosure

**To Be Distributed

2. Committee & Advisory Committee Reports

- a) Education Committee
- b) Human Resources Committee
- c) Inclusive Education
- d) Policy Advisory Committee
- e) Aboriginal Education Committee
- f) French Immersion Advisory Committee
- g) Anti-Vandalism Advisory Committee
- h) Communications Advisory
- i) District Student Advisory Committee
- j) Social Wellness Committee
- k) Historical Committee
- l) Advocacy Committee

J – QUESTION PERIOD

- 1. Trustee Questions
- 2. Staff Questions
- 3. Public Questions
- 4. DPAC Questions
- 5. Employee Group Questions

K – TRUSTEE REPORTS

- 1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation
- 2. Joint Parks and Leisure Services
- 3. Social Planning Advisory
- 4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility
 - i. Eighth Annual Accessibility and Inclusion Awards – Trustee Huber*
- 5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council
- 6. BC School Trustee Association Provincial Council
- 7. District Parent Advisory Council
- 8. Tzu Chi Foundation
- 9. Youth Society Committee
- 10. External Representative Reports
- 11. Board Liaison Representative Reports
- 12. Other Trustee Reports
 - a) Good News Items
 - b) Public Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business*

L – OTHER BUSINESS

M – ADJOURNMENT

**Enclosure*

***To Be Distributed*



To: Board of Education

From: Board Chair
Ken Clarkson

Re: **CORRESPONDENCE**

Date: April 27, 2011
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

1. Samantha Boutet, N.D.
2. Tom Kosatsky, Medical Director, Environmental Health Services Division; and
Scientific Director, National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health – BC Centre for Disease Control

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information.

Attachments

Samantha Boutet
11659 River Wynd St.
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 7G9
April 18, 2011

Maple Ridge School Trustees:

Ken Clarkson, Eleanor Palis, Susan Carr, Mike Huber, Dave Rempel, Stepan Vdovine, Kathie Ward

Maple Ridge School Superintendent:
Jan Unwin

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

I am writing to update you on the situation of wi-fi in B.C. public schools as it continues to unfold. Last week, Saanich School Board passed a resolution to adopt technology policy #3130 which will include the following:

Wireless installations will be managed as follows:

- a. There will be no wi-fi in elementary schools.
- b. In middle and secondary schools, managed wi-fi environments may be in adult workplaces including staff rooms and offices as necessary.
- c. Middle schools will have up to 25% coverage of student areas (with the understanding of some signal spillover) with the locations to be determined in accordance with educational needs as described in IEPs and overall educational needs for the school as determined with staff and PAC.
- d. Secondary schools will have school-wide coverage.
- e. The IT department will be responsible for all wi-fi installations and will ensure that all wireless access points are managed, commercial grade and localized as possible.

We are, of course, disappointed that high school students will as yet still not be afforded any protection from dangerous EMR in the Saanich school buildings, but at least the youngest and most vulnerable students will be spared further exposure. The Saanich school board should feel very proud. They are the first school board in the country to put young children's health ahead of industry interest and convenience. Shame on you if you do not follow their lead and choose to protect the children in the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows district. Adopting this technology policy, with the addition of one high school in the district that is hard-wired only, would be satisfactory for the needs of children of all ages who are reactive to this type of radiation, as well as protective of the health of the youngest students and their teachers.

I still await a response to my earlier correspondence concerning parental informed consent. This problem is not going away. Many of you are parents yourselves and should know that when it comes to the safety of their children, once parents are informed about a threat, they will not rest until they are confident that their children are safe again. Act proactively and prove yourselves enlightened leaders in our community. The children under your care deserve no less from you.

Attached you will find three letters. One is from a parent in Ontario and outlines very clearly what it means to have informed consent. The second is from an American cardiologist, Dr. Sinatra and the third is from Magda Havas, a veteran researcher at Trent University. I request that you respond to me in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Boutet N.D." with a stylized initial "S" and a period after "D".

Samantha Boutet, N.D.

Wireless Radiation Safety Council

April 18, 2011

For Immediate Release

**Statement by Kathy McDermid, occupational therapist and parent,
Peterborough, Ontario**

My name is Kathy McDermid, and I am the parent of two children who attend James Strath P. S. in Peterborough. I am here to speak to the fact that our school board is committing grave ethical transgressions in implementing its plan to install wireless internet, or Wi-Fi, in its schools.

I am not a doctor or a scientist, although I am a health care professional. I believe my professional background enables me to speak with some knowledge about medical ethics. Medical ethics are a set of principles that guide the practice of medicine and medical research. It is a vast field, which rests on three pillars: The Precautionary Principle, Informed Consent, and Transparency.

The precautionary principle is a core value of the health sciences – we recognize it most readily as part of the doctors' Hippocratic Oath, which states "First, do no harm". A more technical definition advises that "if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking the action." In other words, activities which present potential for significant harm, even if evidence is limited and contradictory, should be prohibited until the proponent of the activity can prove that there is no risk of harm. In lay terms, this means we have a responsibility to err on the side of caution.

Implicit in this, is that there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when science has found some evidence of risk. The public looks to its elected leaders to advocate for them, and to provide that protection.

My second point is around that of informed consent: This means that individuals can choose to engage, or not engage in an activity, based on their assessment of the risks and benefits associated with that activity. As individuals, we have the opportunity to weigh risks and benefits, and make informed personal decisions. As parents, we have the absolute right to do this risk-benefit analysis on behalf of our children. This right can be suspended only after due process, by the legal system. School boards do not have this right: they can't take my children's picture, take them on a class trip, or even take them across the street without my consent. They most certainly do not have the right to expose my children to non-ionizing radiation without my consent.

Informed consent is contingent upon a principle known as transparency. Transparency in health care, as in government, means that information is shared freely, enabling people to make their decisions around consent with full knowledge of the risks and benefits involved. Doctors do not perform surgery, prescribe a drug, or do an invasive investigation without fully informing the patient of the potential risks and benefits of the procedure in question. The same applies to researchers: In fact, the Nuremburg Code (1947) dictates, among other things, that voluntary consent of the research subject is essential, and that the subject must be informed of any potential risks associated with the research.

All research on humans must be approved by an ethics review board before it can be conducted. I took the liberty of consulting with a medical ethicist... I asked him this question: "Let's say I proposed a study to examine the safety Wi-Fi. My plan is to install Wi-Fi in a bunch of schools, then observe the children to see what, if any, health effects develop. I plan to do this without informing the parents of the potential risks of this study. Also, I would not obtain any parental consent for the children to participate in this study. In fact, I'm not even planning to tell the children or parents that I am doing this study until after the fact." (This is exactly what our local school board is doing.) I then asked the ethicist: "Would this study pass an ethics review?" His response was "Absolutely not". Allow me to make this point perfectly clear: A governing group of doctors and scientists **WOULD NOT ALLOW** other doctors or scientists to do what our school board is planning to do to its students. To my children.

We are fortunate in Peterborough that all four of our local federal candidates have expressed some level of concern regarding the safety of Wi-Fi in schools. In addition, our Conservative incumbent M.P., Dean Del Mastro, has indicated that he thinks "the school board needs to re-think what it is doing". I am hopeful that whichever candidate is successful in winning the Peterborough riding that she or he will continue to pursue much stricter federal safety standards regarding radiofrequency radiation. I also hope that, at a provincial level, restrictions on the use of Wi-Fi in schools can be enacted, along with policies put in place to ensure transparent, ethical process, and adherence to the precautionary principle on the part of school boards.

These are not the school board's children we are talking about. They are **MINE**. The school board is quite literally planning to do unauthorized, unethical research – without transparency, without consent, and completely ignoring the precautionary principle – on my children, and on every other child who attends one of its schools. The school board **DOES NOT** have the right to experiment on my children. It **DOES NOT** have the right to make decisions that may affect my children's health, now and in the future. And it **DOES NOT** have the right to decide whether the level of risk associated with prolonged Wi-Fi exposure is acceptable for my children. Only I have that right. And I say "NO".



STEPHEN T. SINATRA M.D., F.A.C.C.

F.A.C.N., C.N.S., C.B.T.,

Integrative Metabolic Cardiology

April 15, 2011

Chairman and Trustees
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Education Centre
1994 Fisher Drive
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J7A1

RE: WiFi in Schools

Dear Chairman and Trustees:

The heart is a delicate and complex electromagnetic organ that can be adversely affected by exogenous signals from wireless technology and microwave radiation. For this reason it is unwise to expose students and teachers to WiFi radiation for internet access, especially when safer alternative wired options are available.

Children are particularly vulnerable to this radiation and the incidents of cardiovascular events including sudden cardiac arrest, seems to be increasing, especially among young athletes (up to the age of 19). In some cases this is due to undetected heart defects, blunt trauma to the heart in contact sports, and heat stress during strenuous exercise, but in other instances these irregularities may be exacerbated by or due to microwave signals interfering with the autonomic nervous system that regulates the heart.

I know this because I am a board certified cardiologist and have been a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology since 1977. At the Manchester Memorial Hospital in Connecticut, I served in several roles, including Chief of Cardiology, Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Director of Medical Education.

In both Canada and the United States a large number of students are complaining that they feel unwell in classrooms that have WiFi technology. These complaints have been investigated and what emerges is the following:

1. Symptoms common among these students include headaches, dizziness, nausea, feeling faint, pulsing sensations or pressure in the head, chest pain or pressure, difficulty concentrating, weakness, fatigue, and a racing or irregular heart accompanied by feelings of anxiety. These symptoms may seem diverse but they indicate autonomic dystonia or dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system.

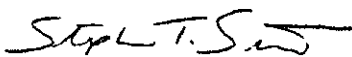
2. Symptoms do not appear in parts of the school that do not have this technology (WiFi-free portables) and they do not appear in homes that do not have wireless technology.
3. One student, scheduled for heart surgery, was able to avoid surgery by reducing exposure to microwave radiation.
4. We know that the heart is sensitive to and can be adversely affected by the same frequency used for WiFi (2.4 GHz) at levels a fraction of federal guidelines (less than 1%) and at levels that have been recorded in two Ontario schools with WiFi technology.
5. The incidence of sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) among young athletes is increasing and doctors don't know why. In one small Ontario community, the number of students experiencing SCA is disturbingly high. Whether WiFi and nearby cell phone antennas exacerbate SCA needs to be investigated further before students are subjected to these fields.

In conclusion it is unwise to install wireless technology (WiFi) in schools. We do not know what the long-term effects of low-level microwave radiation are on students and teachers. The safety of this technology on children has not been tested and I would advise that you follow the precautionary principle that states the following:

"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."
(Rio Conference 1992).

The principle implies that we have a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when scientific investigations have found a plausible risk. That "plausible risk" exists for microwave radiation at very low levels. These protections can be relaxed only if further scientific findings emerge that provide sound evidence that no harm will result. In some legal systems the application of the precautionary principle has been made a statutory requirement.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Sinatra, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.N., C.N.S.



Dr. Magda Havas, B.Sc., Ph.D.,

ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE STUDIES PROGRAM

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April 12, 2011

Chairperson and Trustees
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
Education Centre
1994 Fisher Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 7A1

Open Letter: WiFi in Schools is both Negligent and Dangerous.

Chairperson and Trustees,

I write this open letter to bring your attention to the potential harm you may be doing to both students and staff at schools in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board because of your eager rush to install wireless internet access. By your actions, you will expose young children (and their teachers) to microwave radiation for **6 hours each school day, 5 days a week, for 40 weeks each year. This exposure will be 1200 hours each year, year after year.** Never in history have children been exposed to such high levels of microwave radiation. No studies have tested either the short-term or long-term effects of this microwave exposure on children. Indeed, if I wanted to conduct such human experiments at Trent University, they would be deemed unethical and I would be denied permission to proceed!

While you have been assured by Health Canada that this radiation is safe as long as exposure is below Safety Code 6 (SC6) Guidelines (**1000 microW/cm² for microwave radiation**), be aware that the Canadian guideline is based on a short-term (**6-minute average**) exposure to protect against **heating** a 6-foot, 200-pound adult male! Also be aware that **SC6 Guidelines** are for federal buildings and **do not necessarily apply to schools**, although currently you may adopt their guidelines if you wish.

Other countries have more stringent guidelines than Canada. For example, in Russia, exposure to **1000 microW/cm²** (SC6 Guideline for microwave radiation, which includes

WiFi) is tolerated for only **15 minutes a day!** In Canada, children can be exposed **all day and every day** to this level.

The best guidelines in the world for pulsed microwave radiation come from the Czech Republic. WiFi is pulsed radiation, which is known to be more harmful than non-pulsed radiation. The Czech guidelines for pulsed microwave radiation allow exposure to **4 microW/cm² for a 6-hour day** (school day). This is **0.4% of the SC6 Guideline!** The reason for the lower maximum is that the several countries with stricter guidelines (Czech Republic, Switzerland, China, Hungary, Poland, etc.) do not base their guidelines solely on **heating**; these countries base their guidelines on **biological effects** that include changes in calcium flux, changes in the permeability of the blood-brain barrier, and damage to DNA.

In 1999, Dr. Sheela Basrur, Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto, asked that federal guidelines be reduced to **1% of SC6 Guidelines** to protect people. If you truly want to be a world leader in this, you will ask that exposure in schools not exceed **0.1 microW/cm²**, which was the Salzburg recommendation that was overturned by industry pressure.

Parents in Collingwood are concerned about their children being exposed to WiFi because a number of students return from school complaining about ill health: **headaches, nausea, dizziness, difficulty concentrating, weakness, pressure in the head, and a racing or fluttering heart** (these are biological effects). These symptoms occur only in classrooms with WiFi. They do not occur in portables that do not have WiFi, and they do not occur in homes that do not have wireless technology.

The **heart palpitations** are perhaps the most concerning as several students have experienced **sudden cardiac arrest**; the incidence of this in the Collingwood region seems abnormally high for a small community in Canada. One student was encouraged to have exploratory heart surgery. Her parents kept her in a microwave-free environment and her symptoms disappeared. No surgery was required.

I conducted a study (Havas et al. 2010. Provocation study using heart rate variability shows microwave radiation from 2.4 GHz cordless phone affects autonomic nervous system, Eur. J. Oncol. Library Vol. 5: 273-300.) showing that adults who are electrically sensitive react to this frequency (2.4 GHz) at levels **0.3% of SC6 Guidelines**. The reactions include heart irregularities, a rapid heart rate, up-regulation of the sympathetic nervous system, and down-regulation of the parasympathetic nervous system. These are biological effects and do not involve heating. What this means is that their body goes into a **fight-or-flight response** when they are exposed to very low levels of microwave radiation at the same frequency used for WiFi. Since children are more sensitive to stressors than adults, I would expect the same to occur among some students in schools at very low levels of microwave exposure.

In addition to the heart abnormalities, we have evidence of **damage to sperm** for those who use a laptop computer in WiFi mode. What WiFi exposure is doing to egg cells is not known. We have evidence of **DNA damage**—the same type of damage produced by ionizing

radiation. By exposing children to microwave radiation, we may be adversely affecting their ability to reproduce and the genetics of future generations.

To alleviate parent concerns, the Superintendent of Education, Area 3 (Mr. John Dance) hired a consultant to measure microwave exposure in two schools: Mountainview Elementary School and Collingwood Collegiate Institute (document attached). In one school, levels **above SC6** were measured (**1342 microW/cm²**), and this was downplayed because it was close to the computer. Yet this is where children sit and work . . . close to computers!

Fifty percent of the locations measured in these two schools exceeded the **0.3% of SC6 Guidelines** that affected adult hearts in our cardiac study. This is not comforting news for parents or teachers. Testing at one of the schools was after school hours and hence the levels are likely to underestimate real exposure.

Since it is possible to connect to the internet with **wires**, why is there such a push for **wireless** technology? Why is it that you are so willing and eager to expose children to this radiation? As a scientist who has studied this for the past 15 years, I would not want my grandchildren exposed at home or at school to microwave radiation. I would not risk harm to their little bodies for the convenience of wireless access. The risk is too great and the benefit too small.

In my own work, I use wired internet access at home and, whenever possible, I use wired internet access at Trent University, although wireless is available. So we are not limiting access to the internet if we use wired connections; with wired connections, we are simply flowing the radiation through wires rather than through the air and through the bodies that are in the area.

Another aspect that I see as morally reprehensible is that some of your **teachers** know they are electrically hypersensitive, which means they react adversely to microwave radiation and other electromagnetic frequencies. These teachers fear becoming ill and unable to work after WiFi is installed in their schools. These teachers are afraid to speak out for fear of losing their jobs. Their attempts to alert other teachers about the dangers have been thwarted by principals and others in authority. Their voices cannot be heard. I find this most disturbing. Is this the type of education we are providing to our students in Ontario? Do we not want our teachers to be role models and to teach their students to become engaged in the political process and to speak out about important issues? How can teachers do this if their jobs are at stake?

Why is it that **parents** are required to give permission with signed consent forms for student bus trips and photographs but are not consulted and asked for permission to expose their children to microwave radiation?

Why is it that you recognize that some students have life-threatening peanut allergies and you are willing to make schools nut-free, yet you are unwilling to make schools WiFi-free? Schools are **smoke-free** and **nut-free**; we need **microwave-free** schools as well.

We knew about the health effects of **asbestos** decades before Health Canada brought in more restrictive guidelines. The same is true for **cigarettes** and other carcinogens and toxicants in our environment. Are you so certain that Health Canada's guidelines are safe when other countries have much more restrictive guidelines and when scientific studies around the world are documenting **cancers**, **sperm abnormalities**, and various **health effects** among people exposed to microwave radiation?

Do you not realize that **industry** is providing misinformation as it did with the other pollutants mentioned above? Please read "*Doubt is their Product*" if you have any uncertainty that big business tries to prevent people knowing the truth about the harmful effects of their products. Billions of dollars are at stake, and the wireless industry is going to do whatever it can to convince you that their product is safe. By the time the lawsuits are filed, they will have made enough money to pay for the damages.

There is no place for wireless internet in schools—especially since wired internet access is safer, faster, and more secure than wireless.

Based on the evidence that leading scientists have assembled in the past decade, if you install wireless internet (WiFi), some students and teachers in your schools (an estimated 3% to 35% of the population) will become ill. Heart problems may be aggravated, other internal and external body injuries may be caused, and various pre-existing medical conditions may be worsened. Children and adults with undiagnosed, undetected heart problems may die. Are you willing to make a decision that risks the health and lives of those for whom you are responsible? Are you willing to leave the Board open to legal action from families of children with heart problems? There may be class action lawsuits; your decisions may jeopardize the long-term financial sustainability of the school board. Is wireless technology so important to you that you are willing to risk public health and individual lives? Whatever happens, if you side with Health Canada will you be able to hide behind Health Canada?

You are morally responsible for your decision. Children's lives and health are at stake; please err on the side of caution.

Sincerely

Magda Havas,
Associate Professor

Attached:

SCDSB-Feb-9-2011, WiFi.pdf

Recommended viewing:



BC Centre for Disease Control

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

April 14, 2011

Ken Clarkson
Chair - Board of Education
School District No. 42
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
22225 Brown Avenue
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 8N6

Dear Mr. Clarkson:

Dr. Perry Kendall, BC's Provincial Health Officer, asked that I respond to your letter on Wi-Fi (attached) which was initially sent to the Provincial Health Services Authority.

I would suggest that your Board contact Fraser Health Authority about concerns from students, parents or citizens in your community. Dr. Larry Gustafson (604 476-7076), your local Medical Health Officer or Tim Shum (604 949-7262), Regional Director of Health Protection, Fraser Health Authority would be the first people to contact.

BCCDC supports all BC health authorities around radiation issues, and would offer assistance to Fraser Health Authority if requested.

Yours truly,

Tom Kosatsky
Medical Director,
Environmental Health Services Division
Scientific Director,
National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

Attach:

pc: Dr. Larry Gustafson, FHA
Dr. Perry Kendall, PHO
Tim Shum, FHA





March 17, 2011

Provincial Health Services Authority
700 – 1380 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V6Z 2H3

At the March 9, 2011 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education (the “Board”) passed the following motion:

“THAT the Board contact Provincial and Federal health authorities to report local incidents around Wi-Fi and attempt to seek counsel and how to proceed in resolving this”

The Board has received a presentation from members of the public on their concerns around the use of Wi-Fi systems.

The School District operates entirely under the Health Canada guidelines and regulations for the use of Wi-Fi systems, but through this letter, is requesting your assistance in dealing with any community issues around the use of same.

We would appreciate your input and feedback on an agreed procedure to report and deal with local incidents.

We look forward to your response and assistance in dealing with this matter.

Sincerely,

Ken Clarkson, Chair
Board of Education

KC/ts

cc: Board of Education
Jan Unwin, Superintendent
Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer



To: Board of Education

From: Board Chair
Ken Clarkson

Re: ORDERING OF AGENDA

Date April 27, 2011
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Agenda be ordered as circulated.



To: Board of Education

From: Board Chair
Ken Clarkson

Re: **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Date: April 27, 2011
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the April 13, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

Attachment



**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 Despons, 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 2nd 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 17th 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



To: Board of Education

From: Board Chair
Ken Clarkson

Re: **PRESENTATION**

Date April 27, 2011
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

1. Full-Day Kindergarten – Noralea Pilgrim and Laurie Meston

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the presentation for information.



To: Board of Education

From: Superintendent
Jan Unwin

Re: **KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

Date: April 27, 2011
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the January 26, 2011 Public Board Meeting, a proposal came before the Board of Education through the Education Committee seeking approval in principle for further research into a possible academic partnership between School District No. 42 and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the following report for information.

Due to the lack of enrollment numbers, School District No. 42 is unable to continue to pursue the academic partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University at this time. It is hoped that there will be further similar opportunities in the future.

2010 WINNERS

LEISURE AND RECREATION ACCESS -

- Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows Arts Council
- Pitt Meadows Elementary School

CUSTOMER SERVICE -

- Haku Sushi
- Fields Stores
- Kitchen on the Ridge
- Haney Dragon

ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS -

- Roast Bistro Café and Grill

VOLUNTEER ACCESS -

- North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Association

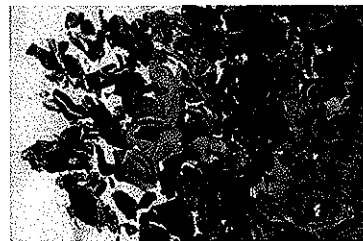


Artist: Denise Perry

Eighth Annual 2011 Accessibility And Inclusion Awards

June 2, 2011

The Municipal Advisory
Committee on Accessibility
Issues
(Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows)



Artist: Brenda Powers

NOMINATION FORM



Artist: Pamela Brown

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE...

The Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility Issues (MACAI) advises Municipal Council on civic matters which affect people with disabilities. MACAI strives to remove the social, physical and psychological barriers that prevent people from fully participating in all aspects of community life. The committee's focus is to create equal access in the areas of employment, education, housing, transportation and recreation. The committee includes five local residents, eight representatives from government and community agencies, and two Municipal Councillors - one from Maple Ridge and one from Pitt Meadows.

THE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES (MACAI) is seeking nominations for individuals and organizations that have improved accessibility for people with disabilities in the Municipalities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

Nomination forms can be forwarded to Petra Frederick, by email to pfrederick@mapleridge.ca
Fax: 604-467-7373

Or in person at

Maple Ridge Leisure Centre
11925 Haney Place,
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6G2

or

Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre
12027 Harris Road,
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5

Nominations close May 8, 2011
Event hosted at Pitt Meadows City Hall - June 2 at 6:30pm
Open to the public



Artist: Brenda Powers

NOMINATION CRITERIA

Awards are given to businesses, individuals and organizations in the following categories:

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Demonstrates and provides opportunities for all individuals to participate in an inclusive environment by eliminating barriers that impede full participation.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

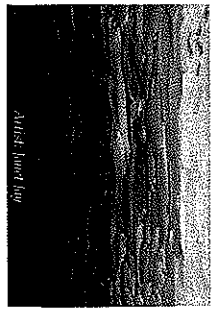
Demonstrates and promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in leisure or recreation.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Demonstrates an atmosphere of accessibility through the provision of exemplary customer service.

VOLUNTEER/EMPLOYMENT

Recognizes and promotes opportunities for volunteering and employment of people with disabilities.



Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ or _____

Category: _____

A description of the reason for nomination (200 - 500 words)

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

RECORD

2010-2011

Pursuant to provisions of 72 (1) of the *School Act*, the following report is a general statement of: (a) matters discussed and (b) the general nature of decisions resolved at the following meetings from which persons other than trustees or officers of the Board, or both were excluded:

April 13, 2011

Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 3:58 p.m.
Motion of Exclusion	Approved
Ordering of Agenda	Approved as amended
Confirmation of Minutes – March 30, 2011	Approved as circulated
Chair Report	Received for information
Secretary Treasurer Information Item	Received for information
Question Period	Received for information
Trustee Reports	Received for information
Other Business	Received for information
Adjournment	Approved and adjourned at 4:24 p.m.