



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, February 29, 2012 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chairperson – Mike Murray
Vice-Chairperson – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee – Ken Clarkson
Trustee – Kathy Marshall
Trustee – Sarah Nelson
Trustee – Dave Rempel

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Deputy Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Mgr. of Communications/Community Relations – Irena Pochop
Executive Assistant – Tracy Orobko

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

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

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

1. **Correspondence**

- Larry R. Hayes, Chairperson – School District No. 41 (Burnaby)
- Leah Bae, President – Vancouver District Students' Council
- The Vancouver District Students' Council
- George Serra, President – Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information

CARRIED

1. **Ordering of Agenda**

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Nelson

Additions/Amendments:

Ordering of Agenda: Item C - Presentations – move to the top of the Agenda

Correspondence Added: George Serra, President – Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

Superintendent Information Item: Human Resources Update

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

Deirdre Torrence, Chairperson of the Social Justice Committee of the Maple Ridge Teachers' Association
Student Presentation Regarding Pink Day and Anti-Homophobia Policy

- Ms. Torrence thanked District and Sponsor teachers for their rationale of the anti-homophobia topic and respectfully requested no photographs be taken of the students in attendance;
- Provided background on the history of “pink” day;
- 15 School Districts in the Province have adopted anti-homophobia policies;
- The Social Justice committee would like to assist with the discreet language of such policy;
- Provided folder handouts containing policies of the 15 School Districts and provided a powerpoint presentation.

It was suggested and agreed to change the Public Board meeting Agendas to “pink” from “blue” and that the Board commit to begin the work around the development of a policy tapping into youth knowledge.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Board receive the Social Justice presentation for information.

CARRIED

Anelma Brown, Acting Vice-Principal, Suzanne Davies, Coralee Tibando, Garibaldi Secondary School –
Two Pilot Programs: Principles of Social Interaction; and Peer Counseling: Mentor/Mentee Program

- Ms. Brown will be providing a link with respect to the presentation provided;
- Mental health and our youth;
- Statistics on Canadian mental health were provided together with disorders that impair functioning;
- Schools are the “hub” – creation of a village;
- November 17, 2010 was District wide screening day;
- Behaviour Education Program: “BEP”;
- Principles of Social Interaction (“PSI”) - 4 credits;
- Peer counseling – Mentor/Mentee program; small groups;
- Spoke to the wish list of localized learning opportunities: Music/art therapy, sensory room, yoga components;
- Creation of ‘boy’ groups.

Questions, comments and praises followed.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Nelson

THAT the Board receive the two Pilot Program presentation for information.

CARRIED

The Chair opened the floor to others wanting to speak to the Agenda.

George Serra, President of the Maple Ridge Teachers' Association spoke to their February 23, 2012 correspondence and thanked the Board for their support for mediation. Mr. Serra proceeded to hand out an updated letter regarding Bill 22 requesting the Board to support the repealing of same.

A member of the public commented and provided a statement regarding the rescinding of the Budget Process Bylaw.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**1. February 8, 2012 Public Board Meeting Minutes**

Clarification regarding a request for the BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch be amended to include that the request was for an “Executive” position.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Minutes of the February 8, 2012 Public Board Meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS**E. CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair acknowledged the passing of David Adkins, a long serving member of School District staff and offered condolences to the family.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS**G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS****H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT****1. Decision Items****a) Superintendent of Schools****2012 – 2013 Calendar**

The Superintendent provided background on the proposed calendar.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board approve the Proposed District Local School Calendar to go out for public consultation from March 1 to April 12, 2012 as per the *School Act*.

CARRIED

b) Deputy Superintendent**c) Secretary Treasurer****Board Policy Development Committee Recommended Changes – Governance Modeling**

The Secretary Treasurer provided clarification around rescinding the Bylaw and the development of the operating budget policy. Discussion regarding Bylaw, policy, accountability and reporting ensued.

The rescinding of the Budget Process Bylaw will return for a second reading in due course.

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board rescind Annual Budget Bylaw: November 10, 2008 and replace with a Board policy as per the Procedure Bylaw on Non-Financial Bylaws under Part E – section 3.01 (d).

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT the attached Budget Process Bylaw, November 10, 2008, be rescinded as read a first time.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Human Resources Update

The Superintendent reassured the Board an action plan is in place including an extensive communication plan for parents and students in the event of a strike by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

b) Deputy Superintendent

Kindergarten Registration Enrollment Update

The Deputy Superintendent provided an update to the total Kindergarten registration number being 917 (up from 913 as indicated in the original report), further highlighting information provided in the Agenda package noting catchment boundary changes made a difference.

It was requested that an update on the Environmental School be provided in due course.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's report on Kindergarten registration as of February 24, 2012, for information.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

Board Policy 4203 – Operating Budget Presentation

Moved: Trustee Marshall

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive Policy 4203 – Operating Budget for review and after further consultation, the policy will be brought back for approval.

CARRIED

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Board Policy Development. The committee met earlier today and confirmed "Whistleblower Protection" and "Personal/Sexual Harassment" policies are in progress along with other policy work which continues.

Inclusive Education. Trustee Clarkson provided a handout and spoke of his recent meeting attendance.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was asked with respect to response requested from correspondence handed out at tonight's meeting to which the Board confirmed its position in support of a mediated settlement.

Concerns regarding bell schedules were raised to which it was suggested feedback be provided via the website.

Concerns were raised regarding Bylaws and policies to which it was suggested feedback be provided via the website.

Concerns were raised regarding support for English speaking kids to which it was reaffirmed staff would like to work closely with teachers.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

British Columbia School Trustees' Association ("BCSTA"). Trustee Clarkson provided a handout highlighting a Provincial Council Report and motions.

Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility. Trustee Marshall provided an update on the recent meeting and expressed passion for 'curb cuts' in the Ridge Meadows areas in addition to accessibility at bus stops. An update was provided regarding the upcoming Rick Hansen two day celebration. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 15th. Trustees Murray and Marshall are unable to attend.

Social Planning Advisory Committee. Trustees Marshall and Nelson together with Chairperson Murray attended the Jim Diers presentation which spoke to the power of neighbourhoods.

Tzu Chi Foundation. Trustee Rempel reminded the Board of the Bursary celebration scheduled for May 16th.

Good News Items.

Acknowledgements and praises were made for the Ipod demonstration by Kindergarten and Grade 3 classes at Yennadon Elementary.

Acknowledgments and congratulations were made to the staff and students of Garibaldi Secondary for their theatrical production of *Legally Blonde*.

Acknowledgements and appreciation were made to the Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association for the social gathering the previous evening.

Acknowledgements and appreciation was made to the team at Maple Ridge Secondary who conducted the recent Grad Transitions presentation.

The next District Parent Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening at Eric Langton Elementary.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Mike Murray, Chairperson

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer