



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, January 11, 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
Acting 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

- Frank Lento, Chairperson – School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- George Abbott, Honourable Minister – Ministry of Education

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information

CARRIED

2. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

Additions:

Moved to third item of business: Acting Deputy Superintendent's – Catchment Review: Eastern Schools Catchment Changes.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

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

Lorie Firth, parent at Alexander Robinson Elementary, provided her comments on the direct impact of displaced siblings and further spoke to concerns by handing out a photograph of her children requesting consideration to prioritizing children.

Brent Green, parent resident in subdivision just past Jackson Hill, expressed concerns regarding his children being placed in Webster's Corners Elementary catchment for reasons including the travel distance in the opposite direction each day and had moved to the area prior to development and catchment review issues.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. November 30, 2011 Public Board Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Minutes of the November 30, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. December 7, 2011 Inauguration and Organization Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Minutes of the December 7, 2011 Inaugural and Organization Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Catchment Review – Eastern Schools Catchment Changes

Acting Deputy Superintendent Meston referred to the report provided in the Agenda and acknowledged members of the public for the respectful and engaging comments and suggestions. The overall message received has been to keep siblings together.

The Board Chair thanked staff for the work conducted and parents for being helpful in providing feedback encouraging the public to continue with providing input.

Recommendation #1:

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

To realign the catchments of Blue Mountain Elementary, Alexander Robinson Elementary, Webster's Corners Elementary, Kanaka Creek Elementary, Albion Elementary and Whonnock Elementary.

CARRIED

Recommendation #2:

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT grandfathering of siblings for students who previously lived in the Albion and Alexander Robinson Elementary catchment areas be allowed. This grandfathering opportunity would be for siblings born by January 2012 and who are currently identified on a district list.

CARRIED

Recommendation no. 3:**Moved:** Trustee Rempel**Seconded:** Trustee Carr

THAT the acceptance criteria for prioritizing placements for all registrations be changed to the following:

*Note changes are in **BOLD**

Acceptance Criteria for Prioritizing Placements For All Registrations

1. IN catchment with siblings already attending catchment school (proof of residence required) **or displaced catchment siblings on district list**
2. IN catchment (proof of residence required)
3. OUT of catchment with siblings
4. **IN catchment daycare** (dropped down from #3)
5. OUT of catchment without siblings
6. OUT of district with siblings (Out of district students should register at the District Education Office)
7. OUT of district without siblings

CARRIEDRecommendation no. 4:**Moved:** Trustee Rempel**Seconded:** Trustee Clarkson

THAT subdivisions not yet built in the Albion, Alexander Robinson, and Kanaka Creek Elementary catchment areas be reassigned to another “catchment area” where there is room.

CARRIED

A recommendation was made the School District contact the local real estate division’s Director in the area on an annual basis advising of Recommendation #4. This would be a reminder to those people on the front lines (realtors). The Board also urged parents to conduct their own due diligence when entering real estate markets and encouraged parents to persist with putting pressure on the District of Maple Ridge.

An amendment to the original motion was suggested.

Moved: Chair Murray**Seconded:** Trustee Palis

THAT subdivisions not yet built in the Albion, Alexander Robinson, and Kanaka Creek Elementary catchment areas be reassigned to another “catchment area” where there is room and a communication plan be developed and published to ensure the public is aware of the Board’s plans.

CARRIED**C. PRESENTATIONS**Achievement Contract – Stewart Sonne, Director of Instruction, Secondary and Adult Education

Director Stewart provided an overview of secondary education including graduation rates, grade to grade transition and Aboriginal Education.

At a recent visit by the Superintendent of Achievement it was noted School District No. 42 is only one of two Districts that has had the greatest grad rate improvement and specifically commended the successes of the Aboriginal Education graduate students.

Director Sonne commended the passion of School District staff and teams who have conducted interventions based on data and followed up with all Aboriginal Education students. Staff have created strategies to help overall grad rates and commended Alan Miller, Principal, Aboriginal Education, and his team who have followed up with those students.

Due to Teachers' Job Action, George Serra, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association, was asked to congratulate the entire teaching staff on behalf of the School District.

In summary, Director Sonne promoted the caring for kids in the School District; understanding what a child knows; where they want to go; and encouragement to dig deep into that learning.

Discussion ensued regarding non-graduating students, stress levels of students with anxiety, depression and substance abuse.

Director Sonne reassured the Board students are not allowed to withdraw until they have followed due process and are matched with staff enabled to intervene and assist.

Chair Murray thanked Director Sonne and acknowledged the work of the School District's front line staff. It was suggested Director Sonne bring back staff from Student Support Services to provide a presentation.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Board receive the presentation for information.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Proposed Committee Appointments

One change was noted whereby Trustee Rempel will remain as a community member of Ridge Meadows Education Foundation and Chair Murray will be appointed as one of the three Trustee representatives.

The Chair reported on the process used for BCPSEA and BCSTA appointments where it was agreed Trustees Palis and Clarkson be appointed accordingly.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the listing of Board Committee Representatives attached to the January 11, 2012 Chair Report be approved.

CARRIED

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

a) **Superintendent of Schools**

b) **Acting Deputy Superintendent**

Catchment Review: French Immersion Catchment Changes

Recommendation #1:

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Board approve the realignment of the Laity View and Eric Langton Elementary French catchment areas so that the Laity View Elementary catchment increases and the Eric Langton Elementary catchment decreases.

CARRIED

Recommendation #2 :

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Board, approve the same grandfathering option as presented in the East Side Schools package for siblings of students who previously lived in the Eric Langton Elementary catchment and now live in the Laity View Elementary catchment.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

Signing Authority

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board approve the signing authorities for 2011/2012 in the form attached.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

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

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Acting Deputy Superintendent exited the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

Moved: Trustee Carr

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education expressing our disappointment and frustration that no steps have been taken over another year to address the concerns around the FSA tests.

CARRIED

Acting Deputy Superintendent joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

A question was asked regarding siblings of children in catchment to which the Acting Deputy Superintendent addressed. The School District is also pursuing online registration; alternatives to families standing in line.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Tzu Chi Foundation. Trustee Rempel reported on the attendance by Chair Murray, Superintendent Unwin and himself who attended a celebration in Richmond. Additional funds will soon be distributed in the School District.

Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council. Trustee Rempel reported on his recent attendance at a meeting. Items discussed included the new Communications Manager; bursary program, and Artist in Residence extension of another year.

BC School Trustees' Association. Trustee Clarkson reminded the Board of the February 25th deadline for Boards to submit motions of emergent nature. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 26–29. Any extraordinary resolutions to change bylaws are due and requested Board feedback.

Ridge Meadows Education Foundation. The next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 2012 at Sunwood Senior Living Community on 224th Street.

Good News Items

Trustee Palis attended a pep rally at Pitt Meadows Secondary School. Rich Goulet is back coaching and ran the pep rally. The Grade 12 Senior Basketball boys' team presented him with a watch commemorating his 1000th win.

Community Literacy program. Trustee Palis reported on the partnering with Vancity who will be providing financial literacy programs. January 27, 2012 is Family Literacy Day. There will be two free workshops which will be posted on the School District website.

Ridge Meadows Education Foundation. Trustee Rempel reported Whonnock Elementary had requested funding for recorders which were used for the recent Christmas concert.

Chair Murray commended all the schools for their outstanding Christmas concerts.

Chair Murray also commented and thanked Katzie First Nations for the recent invitation and participation at the Long House Education Forum.

Trustee Rempel thanked Tzu Chi Foundation for supporting the Christmas lunch at South Lillooet Centre.

Chair Murray thanked all Board members and staff for being helpful and productive in getting the Board up and running.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

CARRIED

Mike Murray, Chairperson

Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer