



PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 13, 2013 (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 – Flavia Coughlan
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

- Baljinder Narang, Chairperson – SD41 (Burnaby)
- Caroline Mitchell, Chairperson – SD28 (Quesnel)
- Doug Stewart, Director, Capital Mgmt. Branch – Ministry of Education
- Moyra Baxter, Chairperson – SD23 (Central Okanagan)

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Nelson

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information

CARRIED

2. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Agenda be ordered as circulated.

CARRIED

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

Leslie Franklin cautioned that there were two discussions on the school calendar. Not 'several' as indicated in the recommendation.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Minutes of the February 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

Ross Davies, Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society – “K.E.E.P.S “ and
Wendy Holm, Regional Manager for GVRD Parks

Mr. Davies provided a presentation highlighting the programs with schools including the addition of 13 aquariums in classrooms where students participate the raising of Chum salmon which they will eventually release into Kanaka Creek. Other programs include the walk to support streams where 180 students participated; Visitation of the Bell-Irving Hatchery centre; Sunday salmon days; and Kanaka weed-busters.

BCIT is interested in possibly utilizing facilities at Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary. There are many opportunities provided for people to get back in touch with the land.

Plans for the new centre were displayed and include: utilitarian stewardship building (classroom); wetland opportunities; teaching resources within the park; overnight availability. Over 97% of materials used are derived from the old building.

April 21, 2013 - opening with ‘Good-bye Chums’ event. A request was made for fundraiser support: “Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre” where a contest is being held to win \$100,000. To offer your support visit: www.fuellingchange.com

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Board receive the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society’s presentation for information.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS**E. CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair wished to address budget meetings held earlier in the day with partner groups. The Board has actively been contacting Government regarding the many issues over this past year.

Any additional expenses the School District has will have to be found in the same envelope that already exists. Districts across the Province are concerned about ‘going backwards budgets’. The Chair further commented on holdback funds and the process. Enrolment is down across the Province. SD42 belongs to the Fraser Valley Trustees’ Association. At the last meeting, discussion ensued regarding budgets. Boards present identified similar cost pressure issues. The Superintendent has also identified through her meetings this is a problem identified by all Boards. Boards collectively are asked to seek \$134 million out of existing envelopes without effecting services. The Deputy Minister has indicated nothing has changed despite protests. While Boards are required to submit a balanced budget, the Board acknowledges the difficult task ahead and the obligation to operate within current legislation.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS**G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS**

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board write to all school Boards in the Province and the BCSTA indicating this Board’s concern with the task of financial support being provided by the Provincial Government for increased costs beyond our control and urge Boards to collectively lobby the Government.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board jointly with its partner groups prepare a letter to the Ministry of Education outlining the serious challenges to our budget and express concern about the lack of Ministry funding.

CARRIED

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

2013 – 2014 District Local School Calendar

The Superintendent reported 191 responses were received to the survey. Based on input received from CUPE, a day in February has been changed to closing schools on June 26th instead of June 27th. If approved, the calendars will be submitted to the Ministry.

It was suggested adding something to the website differentiating 'minutes' to 'days' addressing the need to highlight differences between 'old' and 'new' language of the calendar.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board approve the District Local School Calendar, Kanaka Creek School Calendar, and the District Distributed Learning Calendar for 2013-2014.

CARRIED

The Wheelhouse BAA Application David Vandergugten and Julie Hearn (Gr. 6/7 Alouette Elementary)

This proposal has gone through the Education Committee involving Trustees Carr and Nelson. A letter of support has been received from Dennis Tjernagel, Principal, Alouette Elementary; and has been reviewed with all stakeholder groups.

"Wonder. Discover. Reveal"

Ms. Hearn credited the laptop program which is pushing teachers to broaden their creative ways of thinking.

Ms. Hearn provided background on the program: Student-centred Learning; community connections (traveling Tuesdays - little or no cost); building leadership and citizenship; "What makes a good global citizen?"; Learning through play (Imagination Stations); Technology supported learning (one-to-one iPad); parental support.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Question: How are you picking students for the class? Answer: Kids just sign up. Ms. Hearn has planned district wide information meetings.

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT the Board ratify BAA course *The Wheelhouse*, for implementation.

CARRIED

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

Question: Is the School District getting any funds with respect to carbon neutral? Answer: \$9,000.

Question: CUPE - ratification was done regarding custodial. Was it passed? Answer: Yes.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BC School Trustees' Association. Trustee Clarkson provided an update. The budget has been forwarded to us. BCSTA is the vehicle through which we have a collective voice. BCSTA submitted their "We Value Education" slogan to government.

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board endorse and participate in the BCSTA Me Too campaign to support public education making it an issue in the upcoming provincial election.

CARRIED

District Parent Advisory Council. Trustees Palis and Murray spoke to the DPAC meeting. Lest we forget we have one of the best education systems in the world.

Ridge Meadows Arts Council: Chair Murray reported on the strategic planning workshop.

Social Planning Advisory. Trustee Nelson reported the RCMP is looking to restructure their community safety officers.

TZU Chi Foundation. Trustee Rempel reported on a significant financial allocation to students. The next celebration has tentatively been set for May 5th at 3:30 p.m. - Connex.

Good News Items

The Superintendent reported on the "Think Pink Day".

Trustees attended the Slave – Epic Project produced by the Comparative Civ. 12 students at Maple Ridge Secondary which highlighted child labour around the world.

Alexander Robinson held their annual cup stacking event in collaboration with their assembly on student achievements.

Trustee Carr acknowledged the efforts of secondary schools and their "Spirit Week" thanking all staff for their coordinating the events.

Chair Murray reported on his opportunity to moderate a forum for Social Justice 12 students and the issue of homelessness. Youth homeless has increased from 8 to 30. Michelle Schmidt was involved with the project. Trustee Nelson wished clarification be made that homeless counts are not going down. Students were present to share personal stories. There are people getting back on their feet.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

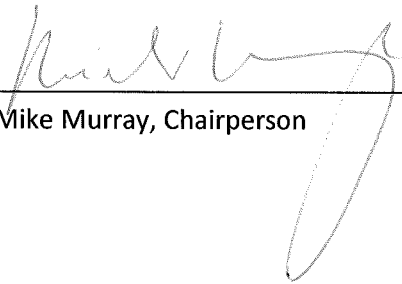
M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

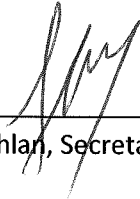
Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

CARRIED



Mike Murray, Chairperson



Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer