



PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chairperson – Ken Clarkson
Vice-Chairperson – 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
Acting Deputy Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Mgr. of Communications/Community Relations – Irena Pochop
Executive Assistant – Tracy Orobko

GUESTS:

David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, K-12 Education
Richard Eskandar, Manager, Information Technology Services

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**

- Sharon Welch, Chairperson (1) – School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
(July 13, 2011 Board Meeting Motions)
- Sharon Welch, Chairperson (2) – School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
(September 28, 2011 Board Meeting Motion),
- Candace Gordon, Chairperson – Community Network – The HIVE Neighbourhood Centre
- George Abbott, Honourable Minister – Ministry of Education
- Monty Wong *(with responses from Ken Clarkson, Chairperson and Eleanor Palis, Vice-Chairperson)*
- Brent Crich, Teacher – Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary School *(with response from Ken Clarkson, Chairperson)*
- Ryan Connolly, General Manager – Epic Homes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information

CARRIED

2. **Ordering of Agenda**

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

Additions/Amendments:

Moved to Chair Report: Candace Gordon, Chairperson – Community Network
The HIVE Neighbourhood Centre - correspondence

Moved to Chair Report: Monty Wong - correspondence

Moved to Chair Report: Ryan Connolly, General Manager – Epic Homes – correspondence

Question Period – Trustee Huber

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

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

A member of the public commented on the Chairperson's correspondence in the Agenda package regarding remuneration stating incorrect information had been provided in accordance with the Trustee Remuneration Bylaw to increase remuneration in conjunction with the cost of living allowance and further requested it be corrected.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. October 26, 2011 Public Board Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Minutes of the October 26, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Correspondence: Candace Gordon, Chairperson – Community Network –
The HIVE Neighbourhood Centre

Concerns were raised around the use of the portable and classrooms which will form part of a larger facilities discussion. A facilities report will be presented at the November 30, 2011 Public Board Meeting. Much discussion has been generated through a meeting attended by Rick Delorme, Director of Facilities and Laurie Meston, Director of Instruction, Early Learning and Elementary with parents and staff regarding classroom and portable use which is shared with the HIVE at Eric Langton Elementary. Concerns regarding future use could become an issue due to space. The School District is completely aware of the success of the HIVE program.

The Board agreed to maintain the HIVE's location unless there are extenuating unforeseeable circumstances.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board Chairperson respond to the HIVE group providing them with indication the School District supports and will work with the HIVE program by extending an invitation in the event the HIVE forms part of a facility review and welcoming them to become part of the review process working together in the event that the location comes under review.

CARRIED

Correspondence: Monty Wong

Trustee Ward requested the Chairperson correct a statement made in correspondence referring to a Trustee Remuneration Bylaw and a Trustee's remuneration.

Correspondence: Ryan Connelly, General Manager – Epic Homes

The Secretary Treasurer was asked to provide an overview in response to the correspondence received. The School District has submitted three capital plans in the past five years including property located in the 112th area. The Ministry has recognized a capital funding need for the building of a new elementary school although the School District has not received capital funds for five years.

Suggestions were made for the Board to seize opportunities to educate realtors and developers on matters of School District property processes and capital funding processes including posting information on the website and further addressing the issue at an upcoming Board Work Day.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board Chairperson respond to Mr. Connelly, General Manager, Epic Homes directly with respect to plans for a new elementary school in Albion and addressing the matter of accommodating growth in East Maple Ridge.

CARRIED

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

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

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board approve the following Borrowing Resolution:

WHEREAS Section 139 of the *School Act* and Regulation 10, provides that a Board may by resolution, with the approval of the Minister, borrow from time to time for a period not exceeding six months for purposes other than capital expenditures, by way of a temporary loan, such sums as the Board may deem necessary to meet current operating and debt services expenditures:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 139 of the *School Act* and Regulation 10, the Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) authorize the Secretary Treasurer to request the approval of the Minister of Education for the borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000. These funds would be in the form of a \$2,500,000 line of credit and additional funds of \$4,000,000 if required to meet current operating and debt services expenditures, but all money so borrowed shall be repaid not later than the 31st day of May, 2012.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

British Columbia Education Plan

The Superintendent provided an overview of what will be involved in the new education plan and provided a Power Point on the framework for viewing the plan from an educational perspective. Further information can be found at: www.bcedplan.ca/welcome.php

The Superintendent attended the BC School Superintendent's Association meeting on November 4th where it was agreed the details with respect to delivering the education plan have yet to be determined as there is uncertainty as to how it will be affected by the current teacher job action.

The Board agreed the Ministry of Education needs to involve teachers more and proposed writing a letter to the Ministry.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Board receive the British Columbia Education Plan for information.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board write a letter requesting the Ministry of Education be more inclusive with those most affected and invite teachers to be involved with the development of BC's Education Plan.

CARRIED

Learning Technology Plan

The Superintendent introduced David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, K-12 Education, and Richard Eskandar, Manager, Information Technology Services who provided a power point highlighting the strategic planning focus group involving 23 participants.

Mr. Eskandar addressed the matter of security indicating a balanced approach placing security where the most valuable assets are and spoke to key network security areas.

Other key focus areas discussed:

- Cloud computing
- Centralization of web resources
- Upgrading of network infrastructure/bandwidths

Discussion ensued regarding Ministry funding for support of new technology and infrastructure.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education encouraging them to fully fund the new innovation in regards to technology and infrastructures for School Districts.

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's Learning Technology Plan for information.

CARRIED

The Board thanked and commended Messrs. Vandergugten and Eskandar.

Trustee Palis exited the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

b) Acting Deputy Superintendent

Enrollment Report

In response to a request made at the October 26th Board meeting, Acting Deputy Superintendent Meston provided an overview of the enrollment report enclosed with the Agenda package explaining the differences in head count and FTE's between September 2010 and September 2011.

Trustee Palis joined the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Acting Deputy Superintendent's Enrollment Report for information.

CARRIED

c) Secretary Treasurer

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

French Immersion Advisory Committee. Trustee Palis provided a brief report from her conversation with Joanne Rowen, Principal, Pitt Meadows Elementary and indicated Canadian Parents for French continues to be a strong advocate and there is continued support for cultural activities.

Trustee Palis will be attending a workshop regarding the impact of technology on children scheduled for November 24th. The primary focus is on the social disconnect of children: TV's, technology devices.

Anti-Vandalism Advisory Committee. Trustee Ward reported on a successful Halloween and attributed the strong relationships with RCMP, Auxiliary Police, and Citizens and Bike Patrol.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Huber asked the Board to take a proactive approach to the ruling of report card distribution and to take a stance on supporting the non-issuance of same in the event they are transmitted "blank" stating it would be a waste of time and resources.

The Board Chair responded the Board can send a message to the Ministry but School Boards do not have authority to make the decision in not sending report cards out.

The Secretary Treasurer reminded the Board they must carry out directions in accordance with the *School Act* and the Minister's directive. Concerns can be submitted but the Ministry has authority to place the Board on notice and replace Trustees with an official Trustee.

Discussion ensued regarding letters, costs incurred and attendance matters.

The Superintendent clarified the District plans to attach a letter for parents and guardians encouraging them to continue to communicate with teachers directly and reminding them of the teacher job action.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT in the event blank report cards are to be sent to parents the Board include a letter to every report card indicating the position of the Board that it supports teachers and believes learning is continuing in our schools.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the motion be tabled.

Seconded: Not required

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Huber

Seconded: Trustee Vdovine

THAT the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education indicating the Board will not be mandating our teachers to send out blank report cards.

MOTION FAILS (In Favour: Vdovine, Huber)

Discussion ensued regarding the handling of report cards. It was suggested to bring the matter to the upcoming BCPSEA Annual General Meeting in January where representatives will be present to discuss adding pressure on the job action.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT in the event blank report cards are to be sent to parents and guardians, the Board include a letter to every report card indicating the position of the Board that it supports teachers and believes learning is continuing in our schools.

CARRIED

The Board Chair agreed to draft a letter and transmit same to Trustees for feedback.

Comments from a member of the public were made with respect to the catchment boundaries in response to the correspondence from Epic Homes to which it was clarified one development is in catchment and one is not.

Comments were responded to by the Superintendent with respect to the matter of the technology plan and access and equality for all across the School District.

The Superintendent responded to a question by a member of the public regarding Live@EDU inquiring into the follow up process.

Comments were provided regarding the Education Plan referring to the Ministry's intentional use of timing and the technology plan questioning the 'consultation' term to which the Chair responded.

Comments were raised on the lack of CUPE involvement and the consultation process in use of technology.

The Board Chair indicated the Board has worked hard to include individuals in an appropriate decision making and planning process.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Provincial Council Synopsis Update. Trustee Ward reminded the Board the Synopsis is available on the BCSTA website.

Provincial Council Resolutions. Trustee Ward reported on the preliminary BCSTA budget where there has been a lack of input. The Board has an opportunity to provide input via Provincial Council in February.

BC School Trustees' Association. Trustee Ward responded to an inquiry at a previous meeting regarding student achievement grants. The BCSTA has made applications to apply for grants for Trustee Professional Development.

Joint Parks and Leisure Services. Plans continue to take place for the upcoming 25th anniversary celebration of the Man in Motion tour. Trustee Palis will be participating in a preliminary planning meeting on November 15th. The event, similar to the Olympic torch relay, is scheduled for May 16th and 17

Trustee Rempel attended apologizing on behalf of the Board of Education of the inadequate attendance at meetings.

District Parent Advisory Council. Trustee Ward attended the DPAC meeting on November 3rd at Kanaka Creek Elementary. Katherine Shearer, District Vice-Principal, Student Support Services, provided an example of individual learning plans and Director Meston provided a presentation on the BC Education Plan. The Maple Ridge Arts Council spoke to bringing more arts to the community; The HIVE Neighbourhood Centre is hosting a free children's clothing exchange on November 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Trustee Ward will provide information to the Executive Assistant; The next DPAC meeting is scheduled for December 1st at the MRTA office.

Trustee Carr attended the unveiling of Glenwood Elementary's "Glenwood Grizzlies" mascot. The carving was created in partnership with Aboriginal Education Department, students, staff and parents and extended a congratulations to their efforts.

Trustee Carr will provide information to the Executive Assistant to send to Principals for an upcoming community literacy challenge for students.

It was confirmed Chair Clarkson will be laying a wreath on behalf of the School District at the Maple Ridge cenotaph; and Trustee Palis will lay a wreath at Pitt Meadows.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

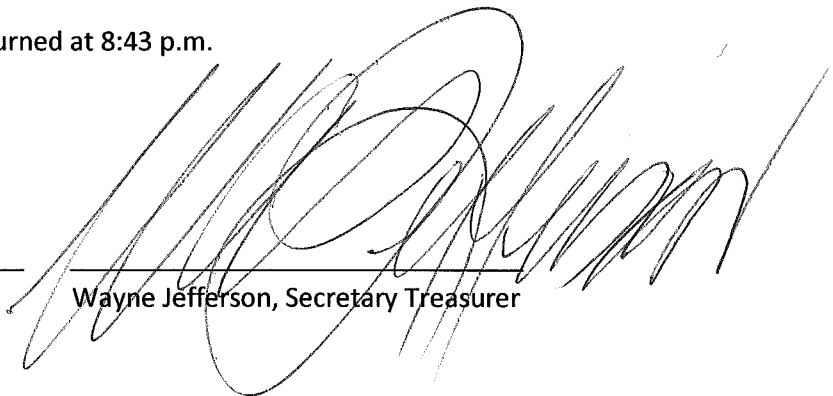
Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

CARRIED



Ken Clarkson, Chairperson



Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer