



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, June 8, 2011 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair – Ken Clarkson
Vice-Chair – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Susan Carr (part)
Trustee – Mike Huber
Trustee – Dave Rempel
Trustee – Stepan Vdovine
Trustee – Kathie Ward

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Assistant Secretary Treasurer – Peter Bullock
Communications/Community Relations – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tracy Orobko

ABSENT:

Deputy Superintendent – David Vandergugten

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Correspondence

- Cassandre Winder, Project Coordinator – Ridge-Meadows Home Show
- Joy Haley, Grandparent – Elementary Band
- Samantha Boutet, N.D. – Council of Europe
- Samantha Boutet, N.D. – Cell Phone Radiation

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information

CARRIED

2. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Palis

Additions:

Samantha Boutet, N.D. Correspondence: Move to Chair Report – Trustee Ward

Superintendent Information Item: Final Distributed Learning Report

Secretary Treasurer Information Item: Holdback Funding

Secretary Treasurer Information Item: Changes to Draft Operating Budget

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

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 read a statement regarding the risk of wireless devices as supplied in the Agenda package urging the Board to take early action to protect the children of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. May 25, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Ward

THAT the Minutes of the May 25, 2011 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Trustee Carr joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

C. PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Grady, District Principal – Community Literacy Plan

The Community Literacy Committee was formed in 2002 to promote and monitor literacy in Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation. With support from the Ministry of Education and 2010 Legacies Now, the group has been able to identify local needs, produce an action plan and hire three (3) Literacy Outreach Workers.

Mr. Grady introduced Jessie Hill, Pat Rorick, Elaine Yamamoto, Angie McLeod and Shanti Ang recognizing them for their work with literacy and libraries promoting various models of delivering literacy requiring collaboration between the community, the School District and the Fraser Valley Regional Library all of whom provide valuable resources.

Mr. Grady proceeded to review the handout provided, titled, "*Literacy Happens Here*" and opened the floor to questions. The committee has a sense of new hope and energy for the coming year and looks forward to demonstrating leadership in literacy.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Trustee Ward requested the Board follow up on correspondence received from Samantha Boutet, N.D. and would like the new documents to be sent to the School District's Health and Safety Officer, Judy Dueck, for her review and to provide a report back in early September.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board send the new information to the Health and Safety Officer, Judy Dueck, for a full report for recommendations to come back in September.

Concerns were raised as to what the report content will contain given the complex matter and clarity was sought to understand what was being asked of staff as there has not been clear directions made from Health Canada which is the mandate the Board follows.

Support was provided to send the documentation to the Health and Safety Officer referring to it as "new additional" correspondence with the understanding that Ms. Dueck does not have the direction to make a decision of an assessment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved: Trustee Ward
Seconded: Trustee Huber

THAT the Board send the new additional correspondence to the Health and Safety Officer for a report to come back to the Board in September.

CARRIED

The Secretary Treasurer reminded the Board it has already reached out to both Federal and Provincial authorities. The report will be focused on the new information. Ms. Dueck would use those two organizations to see if the new additional information changes anything.

Moved: Trustee Vdovine
Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT staff bring a job description of the Health and Safety Officer to the Board for review.

MOTION FAILED (In favour: Trustee Vdovine)

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

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Moved: Trustee Rempel
Seconded: Trustee Carr

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 30th day of November, 2011.

CARRIED

Proposed Draft Policies: Stakeholder and Senior Team Feedback

The Secretary Treasurer recommended the Board review the policies that are out for thirty (30) days as some changes have been made. The Secretary Treasurer agreed to advise the Board of the changes.

Moved: Trustee Ward

Seconded: Trustee Rempel

THAT the Board Policy Development Committee ("Committee") recommends policies 5701 and 6600, as presented to the Committee at its June 8, 2011 meeting be received by the Board for continuation with the consultation process; and

THAT the Board approve the policies for thirty (30) day public consultation on the School District website.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent was pleased to announce the original amount owed of \$73K has been reduced to \$44K.

When the verbal report was presented at the last Board meeting, there was a perception that the School District lost money due to a clerical error. The Superintendent stressed that it is important to clarify that this was not the case.

There are enormous aspects of a Ministry audit review and overall the audit team was extremely impressed with the work and service the School District provided, much of which is due to dedicated staff.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's final Distributed Learning audit report for information.

CARRIED

b) Deputy Superintendent

c) Secretary Treasurer

Holdback Funding Announcement

The Secretary Treasurer provided a report on the recent funding announcement of \$15 per student.

Upon release of the announcement, there was a perception it was 'new' cash when in fact, the Ministry is simply giving School Districts their own funds to offset the School Protection Plan Premium cost increases which had already been factored into the amended budget. The School District will still have a small surplus by the end of June.

It was suggested the upcoming meeting with the Minister might be a great opportunity to express the matter of 'predictable funding' and/or discuss new models of delivering funding.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on holdback funding for information.

CARRIED

Budget Changes

At the Budget Committee of the Whole ("Committee") meeting held earlier today, the Committee received feedback as provided by partner groups and the public. In accordance with feedback received, the Finance staff presented an amendment to the draft preliminary operating budget presented at the last meeting.

The changes will be incorporated into the June 28, 2011 presentation. The Secretary Treasurer was also pleased to report the finances are in order for the current year's finances.

The Board chair opened the floor to questions and comments.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the draft preliminary budget changes for information.

CARRIED

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

J. QUESTION PERIOD

The Secretary Treasurer was reminded of the expected school closure expenditure report timeline to which he confirmed the report will be provided at the June 28th meeting.

Staff was asked for an update to the Aldridge Acres program to which it was confirmed an update will be provided at the June 28th meeting.

Trustee Vdovine requested a job description of the Health and Safety Officer.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Tzu Chi Foundation. Trustee Rempel reported on the recent successful celebration held on June 2nd. The School District has a strong relationship with the Foundation and recently received \$17K in funds for students. The Executive of the Foundation will be holding networking sessions with the School District's committee sometime between August 21 – 28.

Good News Items

Trustee Palis applauded the Grade 8 students at Pitt Meadows Secondary School who planned and organized a hockey game in the multi-purpose room displaying leadership and initiative.

Trustee Huber praised the organizers of the recent Aboriginal Education awards speaking to the success of child care/youth workers and teachers who have fostered strong connections.

Trustee Huber thanked the School District for acting as a resource to provide a bulletin regarding the free event showing the NHL hockey playoff game at the ACT and hopes to keep engaging kids and providing free opportunities students in the community.

Trustee Carr reminded everyone of the district track meet which commences Thursday and Friday this week at Maple Ridge Secondary School.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

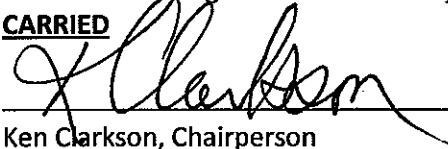
M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

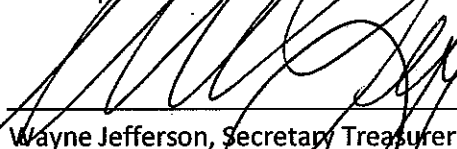
Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

CARRIED



Ken Clarkson, Chairperson



Wayne Jefferson, Secretary Treasurer