

Wednesday, January 30, 2013
6:00 p.m.

District Education Office
22225 Brown Avenue
Boardroom

A G E N D A

*“A well-developed sense of humour is the pole
that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life” ~ William Arthur Ward*

A – OPENING PROCEDURES

ITEM 1

1. Call to Order
2. Correspondence
 - a) Don McRae, Honourable Minister – Ministry of Education
 - b) Donna Sargent, Chair – Metro Branch Board of Education
 - c) Laura Dixon, Chair – SD37 (Delta)
 - d) Patti Bacchus, Chair – SD39 (Vancouver)
 - e) Michael Ewen, Chair – SD40 (New Westminster)
 - f) Melissa Hyndes, Chair – SD43 (Coquitlam)
 - g) Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair – SD47 (Powell River)
 - h) Rick Price, Chair – SD48 (Sea to Sky)
 - i) Sharel Warrington, Chair – SD57 (Prince George)
 - j) G. Wayne Hunter, Chair – SD63 (Saanich)
 - k) Michele Babchuk, Chair – SD72 (Campbell River)
 - l) Linda Dolen, Chair – SD81 (Fort Nelson)
3. Ordering of Agenda
4. Invitation for Public Input to matters on the Agenda

B – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM 2

1. January 16, 2013

C – PRESENTATIONS

ITEM 3

1. Learning Centre Update – Halia Hirniak, District Teacher-Librarian
2. Inquiry Project – Rory Payment, Facilitator Information Technology and
David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, K-12 Education

D – DELEGATIONS

ITEM 4

1. Nicole Read – Silver Valley School Site

E – CHAIR REPORT

F – DEFERRED ITEMS

G – TRUSTEE MOTIONS

H – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

1. Decision Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - b) Deputy Superintendent
 - i. 2013-2014 District Local School Calendar
 - c) Secretary Treasurer
2. Information Items
 - a) Superintendent of Schools
 - b) Deputy Superintendent
 - c) Secretary Treasurer

ITEM 5

I – COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committees of the Whole
 - a) 2012 - 2013 Finance
 - b) 2013 - 2014 Budget
 - c) Human Resources
2. Committee & Advisory Committee Reports
 - a) Aboriginal Education
 - b) Board Policy Development
 - c) District Student Advisory
 - d) Education
 - e) French Immersion Advisory
 - f) Inclusive Education

J – QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions
2. Staff Questions
3. Employee Group Questions
4. DPAC Questions
5. Public Questions

K – TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. BC School Trustees’ Association Provincial Council
2. District Parent Advisory Council
3. Joint Parks and Leisure Services
4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility
5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council
6. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation
7. Social Planning Advisory:
http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/main/municipal/728/9982/spac_agenda_minutes.html
8. Tzu Chi Foundation
9. Youth Society
10. Other Board Liaison Representative Reports
 - a) Good News Items
 - b) Public Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business

ITEM 6

L – OTHER BUSINESS

M – ADJOURNMENT

Every student deserves safe and supportive learning environments free of bullying behaviours

To: Board of Education

From: Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **OPENING PROCEDURES**

Date: January 30, 2013
(Public Board Meeting)

Information/Decision

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CORRESPONDENCE (*Information Item*)

- a) Don McRae, Honourable Minister – Ministry of Education
- b) Donna Sargent, Chair – Metro Branch Board of Education
- c) Laura Dixon, Chair – SD37 (Delta)
- d) Patti Bacchus, Chair – SD39 (Vancouver)
- e) Michael Ewen, Chair – SD40 (New Westminster)
- f) Melissa Hyndes, Chair – SD43 (Coquitlam)
- g) Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair – SD47 (Powell River)
- h) Rick Price, Chair – SD48 (Sea to Sky)
- i) Sharel Warrington, Chair – SD57 (Prince George)
- j) G. Wayne Hunter, Chair – SD63 (Saanich)
- k) Michele Babchuk, Chair – SD72 (Campbell River)
- l) Linda Dolen, Chair – SD81 (Fort Nelson)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information.

Attachments

3. ORDERING OF AGENDA (*Decision Item*)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Agenda be ordered as circulated.

4. Invitation for Public Input to matters on the Agenda



January 23, 2013

Ref: 165074

Dear Board Chairs:

Thank you for your response to my December 5, 2012, letter regarding the Cooperative Gains Bargaining Mandate and related savings plan development process.

I have now heard back from most of you and appreciate your responsiveness to my request that districts assess their ability to generate savings in district operations that could be used to support wage and benefit improvements for support staff. I also accept that a number of districts face challenging fiscal environments and I fully appreciate that this often causes boards to make hard choices on behalf of their communities.

You have indicated to me quite clearly that in light of budget uncertainties and the timing of district budget processes that savings cannot be generated without either reducing service levels or transferring costs to the public.

I will relay this information to the Minister of Finance who, through the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat, will provide BCPSEA a bargaining mandate that respects these budgetary constraints. I expect that the Minister will direct that any improvements to support staff wages and benefits be achieved through offsetting savings found within the collective agreement. There must not be any incremental cost to boards or the province as a result of collective agreements.

As co-governors of the system, Government and Boards of Education share the desire to maintain and improve our high performing education system and to negotiate fair agreements with our teachers and support staff. My commitment to boards is that the Ministry and BCSTA will work much more closely together and with BCPSEA throughout bargaining over the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your valued input as we jointly manage our way through this round of bargaining.

Sincerely,

Don McRae
Minister

pc: Michael McEvoy, President BCSTA
Melanie Joy, Chair, BCPSEA
Terry Sullivan, President, BCSSA
Linda Minnabarriet, President, BCASBO
Lee Doney, Interim President and CEO, PSEC

January 21, 2013

Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

RE: Local School Calendar Ministry reporting deadlines

I am writing to you on behalf of the BCSTA Metro Branch to relay the concerns raised at our January 16 meeting. We urgently request that the Provincial Government's new requirement for Boards of Education to submit their local school calendars by March 31 be rescinded and that the former May 31 date for reporting be reinstated.

The changes made to legislation last spring resulted in a change in reporting deadlines for school district calendars. This takes the calendar-setting process out of the budget-setting cycle for boards and reduces their ability to consider calendar changes in relation to their budget. It may also reduce boards' ability to work effectively with stakeholder groups and the public in a meaningful way to consider the implications of calendar options. Additionally, spring breaks fall in late March, making consultation and decision-making during that time period particularly difficult.

We would also like to reiterate the importance and value of consultation. When the Ministry is considering changes it is very important to involve our Superintendents as they are the Board's Education leaders and are valuable and important and should be well informed and involved in the changes being considered.

Boards of Education as co-governors are working hard for the students of British Columbia and are ready and willing to discuss, plan and make changes that will help to increase student achievement for all our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Donna Sargent
Chair, Metro Branch Board of Education

c/c
BCSTA Michael McEvoy, President
BCSTA Boards
BCSSA Terry Sullivan, President



January 16, 2013

Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

RE: Cooperative Gains Savings Plan

This is in response to your letter of December 3, 2012.

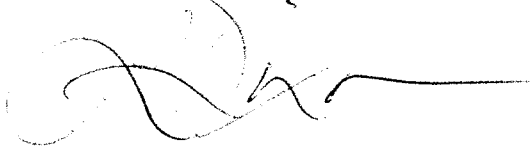
At its January 15, 2013 meeting the Delta Board of Education discussed your request for districts to find up to 1.5% in savings to fund a wage increase for support staff, without negatively impacting services to students.

Many districts have already expressed concern about the difficulties inherent with trying to identify savings at this time in the fiscal year. We share those concerns.

Consistent with our District Vision (copy attached), we take very seriously our responsibility to be fiscally prudent for our students in particular and our educational community as a whole. In part due to this fiscal prudence, Delta currently has a reserve. We have identified goals for the use of this reserve including inquiry based learning initiatives, teacher mentorship, school equipment, technology enhancements and future benefits liability. As can be seen, much of our reserve is intended for services which will benefit students. In addition, we are using \$1.7 million from our reserve to balance our current year's operating budget. This has allowed us to maintain services to students for 2012/13 which we would have otherwise been forced to reduce. If all else were to remain the same, we will at a minimum have to address this \$1.7 million shortfall for 2013/14. We have taken cost saving measures this year. We have joined the BCPSEA Benefits Buying Group, however the projected savings are far short of what is needed to fund a 1.5% increase for support staff in 2012/13 (approximately \$393,000) and a further 1.5% for 2013/14 (approximately \$786,000).

Although we believe a wage increase for our support staff would be supportive of the important work they do, we are unable to identify savings within our budget to finance such a wage increase at this time without impacting services to students. Preliminary work on our 2013/2014 budget suggests that we still would not be able to accommodate a 1.5% increase within the current funding formula provided by the Ministry of Education.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Dixon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Dixon
Chair, Delta Board of Education

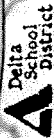
cc: BCSTA (for distribution to All Boards of Education)
Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance
Mr. Guy Gentner, MLA – Delta North
Ms. Vicki Huntington, MLA – Delta South

The MISSION of
DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
is...

TO ENABLE ALL LEARNERS
TO SUCCEED AND
CONTRIBUTE THEIR
FULL POTENTIAL
TO THE FUTURE.



OUR BOLD VISION



We will know we have achieved our
HIGHEST VISION when...

STUDENTS ARE ENGAGED THROUGH
STIMULATING, RELEVANT & INSPIRING
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES THAT IGNITE
A LIFELONG PASSION FOR LEARNING

Teachers work
collegially to
best practices

Education
takes place in
all parts of the
community

sustainable,
accessible
technology

multiple pathways
to success

In fulfilling our Mission,
these CORE VALUES guide our
every DECISION, ACTION
& RELATIONSHIP.

VISION

ARE
BOLDEST, MOST INSPIRING
VISION FOR THE FUTURE...

DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT
A LEADING
DISTRICT OF
INNOVATIVE
TEACHING and
LEARNER SUCCESS

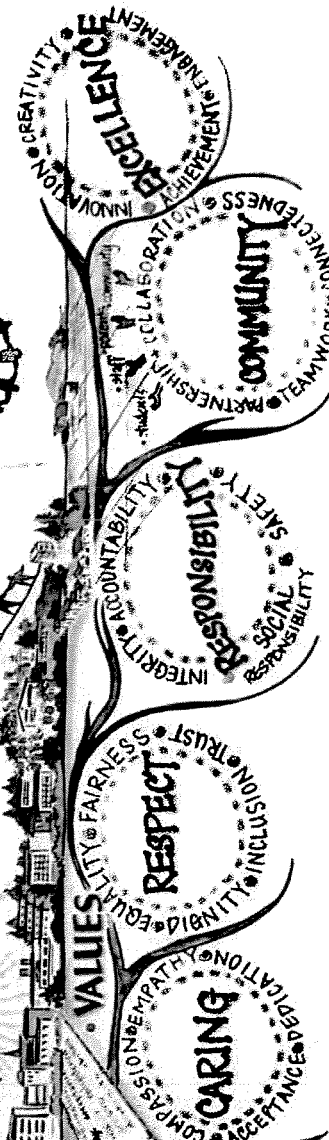
LEARNERS ARE FULLY PREPARED
+ EMPOWERED TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR
PERSONAL BEST TO SOCIETY + BECOME
SUCCESSFUL CITIZENS + LEADERS

enabled +
inspired learners
well-rounded
global citizens

OUR SCHOOLS NURTURE CARING
RELATIONSHIPS, CONNECTIONS
+ A SENSE OF BELONGING TO OUR
LOCAL + GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Safe + supportive
learning community

culture of
inclusion





Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

January 16, 2013

Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

Further to the Board of Education's letter of December 17, 2012 (copy attached), the Board passed the following motion on January 14, 2013:

"That the Board advise the Minister of Education that the Board cannot identify any savings that would meet the conditions outlined in his December 3, 2012 letter regarding the Cooperative Gains Mandate and K-12 education sector support staff collective bargaining."

The Board arrived at this conclusion based on the following factors:

- o 93% of funding for the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) is provided by the Province;
- o The VBE is currently facing a funding shortfall of \$24.3 million for 2013/2014;
- o 92% of VBE expenditures are comprised of salary and benefits; and
- o Based on current funding levels, cuts will have to be made to staff and services in order to achieve a balanced budget. Accordingly unfunded cost increases related to collective bargaining would only result in increased reductions to service.

Sincerely,

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

cc: Board of Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer
All BC Boards of Education, c/o BCSTA

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson
Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson
Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike
Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo
Rob Wynen



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

December 17, 2012

Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

Our Board has received your letter dated December 3, 2012 regarding the Cooperative Gains Mandate and the savings plan requested to support the current round of collective bargaining with the K-12 education sector's support staff as a function of the government's direction through the Ministry of Finance.

The Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) believes wage increases to support staff, as well as all other employee groups, are warranted to at least keep pace with inflation. However, your plan to fund salary increases through savings in our sector without reducing service levels or transferring costs to the public, is not viable.

As you are aware, over 90% of funding for school districts is provided by the Province. Since 2002/2003, the VBE has faced annual funding shortfalls totaling at least \$80 million. In other words, in all but one year over the last decade, funding from the Province has been insufficient to maintain existing service levels. Accordingly, cuts have had to be made to staff and services virtually every year.

The VBE is facing another significant funding shortfall of an estimated \$24.3 million for 2013/2014. This estimated funding shortfall represents approximately 5% of our annual budget. The major components of this shortfall are expenditure increases that have not been funded by the Province and estimated decreases in provincial funding as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
• Salary increments and employee benefit increases (e.g. Medical Services Plan)	4.2
• Inflation to goods and services	0.8
• Teachers' Pension Plan increase	3.5
• PST transition	0.8
• Estimated reductions in provincial funding (e.g. Funding Protection, Enrolment Decline grant)	4.2
• Uncertainty of provincial holdback funds for 2013/2014	7.5
• Reduction in enrolment	1.5
• Other	1.8
	<hr/> 24.3

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson

Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike

Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo

Rob Wynen

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In terms of expenditures, over 90% of school district expenditures are salary and employee benefits. For the VBE, most of our total expenditures (85%) are related to providing instruction to students. This includes costs for teachers, education assistants, school administrators and school-based support staff. Another 12% of our budget relates to facilities operations and maintenance, which is largely fixed in the short-term. District administration and transportation represent 2.5% and 0.5% of our budget, respectively.

Like all other Boards of Education in the Province, the VBE must balance its budget each year, in accordance with the *School Act*. In order to balance the budget for 2013/2014, the Board will have to make significant cuts to existing services and/or transfer costs to the public (through increases to our own revenue sources). If we were to self-fund salary increases to employee groups, this would only serve to increase our projected funding shortfall and increase the required service cuts and cost transfers to the public.

We estimate that the 1.5% increase for support staff proposed for 2012/2013 and a further 1.5% in 2013/2014 would cost the VBE an additional \$1.6 million in 2012/2013 and \$3.2 million in 2013/2014. A 1.5% salary increase to all employee groups could cost an additional \$6.2 million annually. Accordingly, based on our current projected provincial funding levels, we will not be able to self-fund salary increases for our employees based on the conditions outlined in your December 3, 2012 letter.

We expect that most Boards of Education in the Province would also not be able to self-fund salary increases based on the conditions outlined in your letter. The K-12 education sector is different than many government sectors in that over 90% of funding comes from the Province (in other words, Board have control of less than 10% of their revenues) and over 90% of expenditures are made up of salaries and employee benefits. Any surpluses reported by school districts on their financial statements are generally fully appropriated to offset future funding shortfalls or to meet contractual obligations.

Given the current financial situation of the Province, we can understand the desire to self-fund some or all of the costs of any salary increases from savings within government. However, we feel that it is inappropriate for government to download the responsibility for funding those savings to each individual sector. As noted above, the education sector is already faced with funding shortfalls and has less flexibility with respect to its revenues and expenditures compared to many other government sectors. The proposed approach may also result in inequities among school districts in terms of their ability to provide salary increases.

In summary, as requested, we will review by mid-January the opportunity for savings to help fund proposed salary increases for support staff. However, at this stage, unless significant additional funding is provided by the Province to eliminate our current estimated funding shortfall, the VBE will not be in a position to meet your request.

Sincerely,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

cc: Board of Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer
All BC Boards of Education, c/o BCSTA

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER) BOARD OF EDUCATION

Phone: (604) 517-6240
Fax: (604) 517-6390

1001 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1C4

January 22, 2013

Hon. Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

The Board of Education of School District #40 (New Westminster) discussed the Cooperative Gains Mandate for support staff collective bargaining at its January 15, 2013 regular meeting. Unfortunately, due to the time of the request for input on this matter relative to the winter holidays this was the first opportunity our Board had for such a meeting. It is unfortunate that the timing of the request for the savings plan did not allow for a higher level of consultation and consideration at the local Board level.

The New Westminster Board of Education wishes to emphasize its practice of working cooperatively with Government. Further, the Board supports a modest wage increase for our support staff employees who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The Board has a strong commitment to our support staff employees and it believes that their contribution to the success of our students is invaluable.

The Minister has requested a savings plan with no reduction in service to the public or transfer of costs to the public. The Minister is aware that the New Westminster Board of Education is currently in a deficit position and is developing a plan to repay the \$2.8 million in debt from the 2011/12 fiscal year. In addition, the Board is taking action to correct an existing \$2.2 million structural deficit to avoid increasing the debt further while facing further cost pressures in 2013/14 that include:

- Teacher pension plan premium increases (\$410,000)
- Other benefit premium increases (\$80,000)
- Utility cost increases (\$50,000)
- General inflation (\$90,000)

Given the fiscal challenges facing the Board in 2012/13 and 2013/14 it is unable to develop a savings plan to fund support staff wage increases. Furthermore, the Board respectfully requests the Minister withdraw this request of school districts.

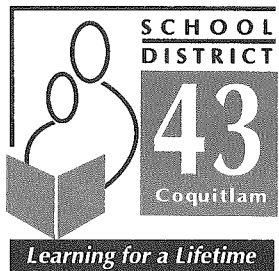
Yours truly,



Michael Ewen
Board Chair

cc: Boards of Education





550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

CHAIR:

Melissa Hyndes

January 15, 2013

VICE-CHAIR:

Holly Butterfield

Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

TRUSTEES:

Gail Altj

Dear Minister McRae,

John J. Keryluk

Re: 2012- 2013 Funding Recalculation

Brian Robinson

Judy Shirra

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education for School District 43 (Coquitlam) to express our concerns in regards to the announcement of the 2012/2013 Recalculated Funding Allocation and to ask the Ministry to reconsider the allocation.

Diane Sowden

Gerri Wallis

Our budgets were predicated on the Ministry of Education announcement of March 12, 2012 and associated publications related to the 2012/2013 operating grants. We further confirmed funding levels through subsequent discussions with Ministry officials. Our Board used this information to plan and budget for the upcoming school year.

Keith Watkins

The December 2012 announcement informed School Districts that the Ministry of Education will be using \$2.1 million of holdback monies (that belong to the School Districts) to fund BCPSEA operating costs. This is contrary and a contradiction to previously announced Ministry information.

All of this comes at a time where the Ministry is directing all districts to find additional savings that must be real, measurable, and not have a negative impact on educational programs or transfer costs to the public. With school district funding already being reallocated this becomes an impossible task.

Changes to Ministry funding should not be made mid-year, when Board budgets have already been calculated on expected numbers and figures provided by the Ministry. Boards are already tasked with the complex job of creating budgets in the beginning of the year which must cover all unexpected cost pressures within the District. To now ask them to factor in a significant portion of withdrawn provincial funding is overarching.

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We ask you to reconsider this change in practice and return to the manner of ensuring all funds are distributed as unrestricted operating grants and given out in the entirety. In addition, please consider the financial obligations we will be facing in 2013/2014 with teacher pension plan premium increases and possible negotiated collective agreement changes.

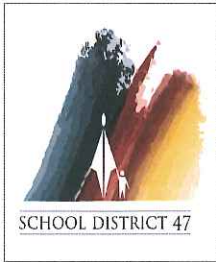
We have come so far as a province in terms of educational milestones and worldwide recognition; it would be a shame to see our students suffer because of government funding shortfalls.

Yours truly,
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. J. Hyndes".

Melissa Hyndes, Chair
Board of Education

cc: Board of Education
Thomas J. Grant, Superintendent
Mayor & Council: City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, Village of Anmore and Village of Belcarra
MLA: Mike Farnworth, Douglas Horne and Joe Trasolini
Partner Group Presidents: CTA, CUPE Local 561, and DPAC
BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 47 (POWELL RIVER)
Board of Education
4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3
Telephone: 604 414 2600 Fax: 604 485 6435
Jeanette Scott –Chair, Doug Skinner – Vice-Chair
Steve Formosa, Mary James, Aaron Reid - Trustees

January 14, 2013

Via Fax 604-730-0787

Ms. Melanie Joy, Chair
BCPSEA
Public Sector Employers' Council
400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Ms. Joy,

Re: Agreement in Committee

The Powell River Board of Education met on January 8, 2013 and passed a motion supporting the Agreement in Committee with the BC Teachers' Federation on the bargaining framework for the next round of negotiations.

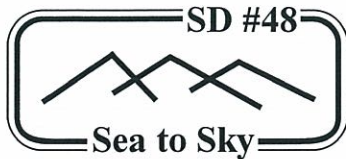
We would like to commend BCPSEA and the BCTF on this collaborative work, and it is our hope this will reflect the next round of bargaining where both parties come to a freely negotiated settlement.

Yours truly

Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

JY/jg

c: All BC Boards of Education via BCSTA



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

♦ Squamish ♦ Whistler ♦ Pemberton

January 17, 2013

The Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister McRae,

On December 3, 2012 you requested all Boards of Education to submit a savings plan which is needed to support this round of collective bargaining with our CUPE support staff. You have stated that this request is made in the context of government's Cooperative Gains Mandate which is intended to protect the Province's fiscal plan while increasing our flexibility in funding wage increases.

On December 19, 2012 I wrote to you expressing several concerns that this Board has with the Cooperative Gains Mandate. In addition, the Board has a number of concerns with the request to submit a savings plan, including:

- there are very significant cost pressures existing in our system already and more are coming in the next year
- the 2012/2013 year is already half over so any annual savings would have to be found from half a year's operations – effectively doubling the impact
- our collective bargaining process with CUPE is already underway and it is our belief that it is a very poor bargaining strategy to go to the table at this point with an already identified amount and source of money available to fund wage increases

At its meeting on January 16, 2013 the Board discussed the matter further and passed the following motion:

"THAT the Board respond to the Minister's request of December 3, 2012 to submit a savings plan by indicating that it is not able to do so at this time."

While we believe that our support staff are deserving of a wage increase at this time we would prefer to deal with the financial impact that may result from any wage increases not funded by the government in the same way that we have always done so: through the regular budgeting process.

Sincerely,

Rick Price
Board Chair

cc Trustees
Senior Staff
All Boards of Education, c/o BCSTA

P.O. Box 250 • 37866 Second Avenue • Squamish, B.C. • V8B 0A2 • Tel (604) 892-5228 •
Fax (604) 892-1038



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801
www.sd57.bc.ca

January 15, 2013

The Honourable Mike de Jong, MLA
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Further to our letter to the Minister of Education, dated December 20, 2012, which is enclosed for your information, please be advised that the Board of Education of School District No. 57 (Prince George) will not submit a savings plan as per the request of December 3, 2012.

Sincerely,

Sharel Warrington
Chairperson
Board of Education

SS/wd

cc: Hon. Don McRae, Minister of Education
Chairs, B.C. Boards of Education
Michael McEvoy, President, BCSTA
Melanie Joy, Chair, BCPSEA
Terry Sullivan, President, BCSSA
Linda Minnabarriet, President, BCASBO
Lee Doney, Interim President and CEO, PSEC
Hon. Pat Bell, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie
Hon. Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount
Adrian Dix, MLA, Leader of the Opposition
Robin Austin, MLA, Education Critic



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801
www.sd57.bc.ca

December 20, 2012

The Honourable Don McRae, MLA
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

Re: Cooperative Gains Mandate – K-12 Education Sector

The Board of Education of School District No. 57 (Prince George) has asked that I respond to your December 3, 2012, request that Boards of Education establish a savings plan to provide at least a 1.5 per cent salary increase for support staff within a "Cooperative Gains Mandate".

Our board supports our employees' right to a fair collective bargaining process. We believe the savings plan request and the manner and timing in which it was delivered will ultimately impair the collective bargaining process, not enhance it. For this and the following reasons the board believes the request "that all boards develop their own savings plan to identify savings within the Principles of the Mandate that could reach a target of 1.5 percent" to support this round of collective bargaining with K-12 education support staff be withdrawn.

The board acknowledges that these are difficult and challenging times for all of us in the sector. However, the board further emphasizes that meeting the unique needs of each and every student in our district is our first and foremost priority. To that end, we value the contribution all our employees make to ensuring success for every student.

Our board clearly understands the fiscal pressure facing government. In balancing our budgets, we have had to introduce and execute drastic measures to stretch finite resources, while at the same time striving to meet the needs of our students and district operations. It is of great concern that the ministry believes there are broad savings readily available in the K-12 sector.

Your directive provides a list of examples of how savings plans may be generated. These examples are not new to boards. Each and every example has already been carefully considered, so much that schools have been closed or consolidated, school and district administration have been significantly reduced, valued programs have been altered, suspended or terminated, spending restrictions have been implemented, and other austerity measures are looked at, considered, and acted upon each and every day.

In response to your directive, a great number of boards have emphasized the magnitude of the financial pressures they feel at this time. The mid-year imposition of the directive exacerbates these pressures. Notwithstanding the timing of the directive, the four principles of the mandate are significant obstacles in themselves.

Finally, as previously stated our board believes that this directive should be withdrawn immediately and that in its place, a thorough engagement of those mandated to lead the collective bargaining process be initiated to explore other strategies to support a fair collective bargaining process for all our employees. Our board would like to work with you and your government, along with our employee groups, to find appropriate ways to accomplish this. I would be pleased to discuss this in greater detail should you wish.

Sincerely,



Sharel Warrington
Chairperson
Board of Education

SW/wd

cc: Chairs, B.C. Boards of Education
Michael McEvoy, President, BCSTA
Melanie Joy, Chair, BCPSEA
Terry Sullivan, President, BCSSA
Linda Minnabarriet, President, BCASBO
Lee Doney, Interim President and CEO, PSEC
Hon. Pat Bell, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie
Hon. Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount
Adrian Dix, MLA, Leader of the Opposition
Robin Austin, MLA, Education Critic

Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

January 17, 2013

The Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

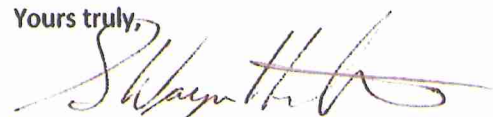
At the regular board meeting of January 16th, 2013 the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) discussed the Minister's request dated December 3rd, 2012 to develop a savings plan equal to 1.5 percent of support staff compensation in our district. The Board passed a motion to write to the Minister outlining the concerns discussed and to explain why the requested savings plan cannot be achieved.

Our first concern is in regards to process. The Board of Education of School District No. 63 has an established and well respected budget development process that includes consultation with partner groups and community members. By the date of the Minister's request this process had concluded for the 2012/2013 year and the service plan for the district was already three months underway. Due to the reduction in funding protection and other pressures, this service plan reflected reductions to services totalling \$1,900,000 from the previous year. To find another \$200,000 in reductions with less than six months remaining in the fiscal year by the mid-January deadline provided is neither possible nor practical, especially given the four principles of the Cooperative Gains Mandate. Therefore, the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) respectfully submits a savings plan of zero.

Our second concern is in regards to the Minister's lack of consultation. Our Board takes its commitment to the Achievement, Local Education and Enhancement Agreements very seriously and any changes mid-year to processes that might affect these agreements are troublesome.

Lastly, the Board of Education would like to convey to the Minister that it supports all the employee groups of the district and believes that contracts with these groups should be negotiated through the established provincial bargaining processes to a successful conclusion for all involved.

Yours truly,



G. Wayne Hunter
Chair, Saanich Board of Education

MS/rd

cc: K. Elder, Superintendent of Schools
M. Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer
SD63 Trustees
BCSTA
BCPSEA
STA
CUPE 441

Saanich Schools



Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca



School District 72

Campbell River, B.C.

425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 3P2 • Tel: 250.830.2300 • Fax: 250.287.2616 • www.sd72.bc.ca

January 15, 2013

The Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

RE: Cooperative Gains Mandate

Further to your letter of December 3, 2012 and our written response dated December 17, 2012 (a copy of which is attached). This letter will act as official notice that after careful examination of our finances and given the constraints inherent in the principles of the Cooperative Gains Mandate, we are submitting a zero savings plan.

Sincerely,

Michele Babchuk,
Board Chair

c: T. Longridge, Superintendent of School
N. Fair, Assistant Superintendent
Board of Education School District No. 72(Campbell River)
BCSTA for distribution to all Boards of Education
Robin Austin, MLA Skeena, Chair, Critic for Education
Claire Trevena, MLA
Christine Szaflik, President, CUPE Local 723
Phil Cizmic, President, CRPVPA
Elaine Thompson, President, CRDTA
Michael Savoie, Chair, DPAC

Learning to Be Our Best



School District 72

Campbell River, B.C.

425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 3P2 • Tel: 250.830.2300 • Fax: 250.287.2616 • www.sd72.bc.ca

December 17, 2012

FILE COPY

The Honourable Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae,

Our Board received your letter dated December 3, 2012 regarding the Cooperative Gains Mandate. We are writing to express our grave concerns in the expectation that Boards of Education and School Districts find such significant savings without effect to programs and services.

Undoubtedly, as a Board of Education, we support a fair wage settlement for all of our employee groups. As we consider a cooperative gains savings plan for support staff, we need to identify if we will be required to find additional savings plans to support increases for teachers and excluded staff. We find it increasingly frustrating that we are being asked to bargain provincially, and yet locally fund any settlements.

Of significant concern is government's apparent belief that we have the ability to free up funding from existing budgets to provide for compensation increases without negatively impacting the delivery of educational programming for students, transfer costs or reducing service levels to the public.

Over the last five years, our Board has had to make significant reductions and changes to programs and services in order to deliver a balanced budget. Cumulatively, we have had to cut over \$3 million during this time, with cuts of over \$1 million each year for two consecutive years.

In addition to the past cuts made to our budget, we are also facing the following challenges next year:

- A reduction in funding of \$576,385;
- Possible loss of Education Plan funding of \$105,160;
- A teacher pension plan increase of \$330,000;
- A WCB and BC Hydro increase of \$60,142;

For a total budget implication of \$1,071,687 before taking into account the 1.5 percent that is expected under Cooperative Gains.

Continued.....Page Two

Learning to Be Our Best

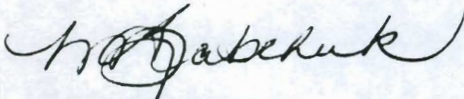
Page Two
December 17, 2012
Minister of Education

One of the principles of the Cooperative Gains Mandate is that "savings must not be generated by reducing services levels to the public." However, any efficiency identified for our savings plan will ultimately impact services and will negatively affect our 2013/2014 budget.

Our Board is concerned with the mid-January deadline as insufficient time has been provided for the Board and staff to identify any savings. With a half year already completed, finding 1.5% savings within the next six month will prove to be extremely difficult.

In closing, we have always put priority on delivering services to students and have used any savings in the classroom. Given your mandate, we will find it very difficult and unreasonable to provide a savings plan that will not impact students today or in the future.

Sincerely,



Michele Babchuk,
Board Chair

c: T. Longridge, Superintendent of School
N. Fair, Assistant Superintendent
Board of Education School District No. 72(Campbell River)
BCSTA for distribution to all Boards of Education
Robin Austin, MLA Skeena, Chair, Critic for Education
Claire Trevena, MLA
Christine Szaflik, President, CUPE Local 723
Phil Cizmic, President, CRPVPA
Elaine Thompson, President, CRDTA
Michael Savoie, Chair, DPAC

SCHOOL DISTRICT #81
(FORT NELSON)

P.O. BOX 87
FORT NELSON, B.C.
VOC-1R0

TELEPHONE (250) 774-2591
FAX (250) 774-2598

2013-01-07

Honorable Minister Don McRae
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov. Government
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister McRae:

RE: Cooperative Gains Mandate and Savings Plans

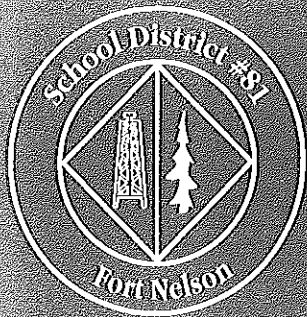
I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education of School District #81 (Fort Nelson) with respect to your letter dated December 3, 2012 on the Cooperative Gains Mandate and needed savings plans.

Although School District #81 has benefited from a rich financial resource base, the school district has been in a steady decline in enrolment for a number of years. We recognize that we are a small district, with unique characteristics, but possibly with an opportunity to control our financial destiny more easily than larger districts. We consider ourselves to be good financial managers and have estimated predictable and not so predictable costs and revenue in an attempt to mitigate the impact on student programs and services over a period of a number of years.

To this end we have set aside funds over recent years to offset expected shortfalls in funding in the immediate future, and to permit us to sustain service to students. We do not view the funds set aside as "surplus" per se, but rather as a "reserve" to address predicted need. To employ this reserve at this point to address the Cooperative Gains Mandate would have a predictable and negative impact on the maintenance of services, and on the success we have been able to achieve in our district.

Furthermore, we use a very extensive consultative budget process that invites representation from all employee groups throughout the district. With almost 90% of our budget allocated to staff wages and benefits there is little flexibility/opportunity to find savings retro to the beginning of the school year, half way through the year, that would meet the principles outlined in your letter.

2.




We appreciate the work of all employees in the school district and firmly believe that all staff should be entitled to fair wage increases in recognition of the value of their work in the system. Annually we work diligently to identify any prospective savings just to balance our budget with current cost adjustments. It seems unreasonable to be asked to participate in the current process that recognizes only one valuable employee group, with short timelines for consultation, in a budget that has already been extensively vetted for input.

Although we appreciate the challenges that government faces we would respectfully request that you work together with BCSTA and BCPSEA to develop a plan that has had an opportunity for input, within a reasonable period of time that will ultimately be sustainable into the future.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 (FORT NELSON)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Dolen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Linda Dolen
Chairperson

c.c. BCSTA, All Boards of Education
P. Pimm. MLA
D. Samchuck, Superintendent of Schools
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer



ITEM 2

To: Board of Education

From: Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Date: January 30, 2013
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the January 16, 2013 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

Attachment

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:

Acting Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Secretary Treasurer – Flavia Coughlan
Mgr. of Communications/Community Relations – Irena Pochop
Executive Assistant – Tracy Orobko

ABSENT:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

i. Call to Order

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

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in December reminding all of the importance of safety in our schools. A moment of silence was observed.

ii. Correspondence

1. Bill Gilhooly, CA – Assistant Auditor General – Office of the Auditor General for British Columbia
2. Don McRae, Honourable Minister – Minister of Education
3. Frank Lento, Chairperson – SD5 (Southeast Kootenay)
4. Melanie Joy, Chairperson – SD8 (Kootenay Lake)
5. Patricia Adam, Chairperson – SD10 (Arrow Lakes)
6. Alan Chell, Chairperson – SD19 (Revelstoke)
7. Moyra Baxter, Chairperson – SD23 (Central Okanagan)
8. William VanOsch, Chairperson – SD27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
9. Caroline Mitchell, Chairperson – SD28 (Quesnel)
10. Donna Sargent, Chairperson – SD38 (Richmond)
11. Patti Bacchus, Chairperson – SD39 (Vancouver)
12. Baljinder Narang, Chairperson – SD41 (Burnaby)
13. Mike Murray, Chairperson – SD42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
14. Melissa Hyndes, Chairperson – SD43 (Coquitlam)
15. Franci Stratton, Chairperson – SD44 (North Vancouver)
16. Cindy Dekker, Chairperson – SD45 (West Vancouver)
17. Silas White, Chairperson – SD46 (Sunshine Coast)
18. Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chairperson – SD47 (Powell River)
19. Rick Price, Chairperson – SD48 (Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton)
20. Elizabeth Condrotte, Chairperson – SD50 (Haida Gwaii)
21. Teresa Rezanoff, Chairperson – SD51 (Boundary)

-
22. Tina Last, Chairperson – SD52 (Prince Rupert)
 23. Marieze Tarr, Chairperson – SD53 (Okanagan Similkameen)
 24. Les Kearns, Chairperson – SD54 (Bulkley Valley)
 25. Sharel Warrington, Chairperson – SD57 (Prince George)
 26. Gordon Comeau, Chairperson – SD58 (Nicola-Similkameen)
 27. Richard Powell, Chairperson – SD59 (Peace River South)
 28. Peg Orcherton, Chairperson – SD61 (Greater Victoria)
 29. G. Wayne Hunter, Chairperson – SD63 (Saanich)
 30. May McKenzie, Chairperson – SD64 (Gulf Islands)
 31. Ginny Manning, Chairperson – SD67 (Okanagan Skaha)
 32. Jamie Brennan, Chairperson – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) *Letter #1
 33. Jamie Brennan, Chairperson – SD68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) *Letter #2
 34. Lynette Kershaw, Chairperson – SD69 (Qualicum)
 35. Tom Weber, Chairperson – SD71 (Comox Valley)
 36. Michele Babchuk, Chairperson – SD72 (Campbell River)
 37. Denise Harper, Chairperson – SD73 (Kamloops/Thompson)
 38. Carmen Ranta, Chairperson – SD74 (Gold Trail)
 39. Ron Johnstone, Chairperson – SD78 (Fraser-Cascade)
 40. Art Erasmus, Chairperson – SD82 (Coast Mountains)
 41. Bobbi Johnson, Chairperson – SD83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) *Letter #1
 42. Bobbi Johnson, Chairperson – SD83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) *Letter #2
 43. Carol Donaldson, Chairperson – SD84 (Vancouver Island West)
 44. Leighton Wishart, Chairperson – SD85 (Vancouver Island North)
 45. Steve Davis, Chairperson – SD91 (Nechako Lakes)
 46. Roger Hebert, President – SD93 (Le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique)

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information.

CARRIED

Correspondence: Trustee Clarkson Move no. 29 Saanich (pg 56) – to Chair Report

iii. Ordering of Agenda

Additions/Amendments:

Correspondence: G. Wayne Hunter, Chairperson – SD63 (Saanich) moved to Chair Report

Correspondence: Darrel Ganzert, Chairperson – SD20 (Kootenay-Columbia)

Correspondence: Walt Krahn, Chairperson – SD33 (Chilliwack)

Correspondence: Wendy Hobbs, Chairperson – SD62 (Sooke)

Correspondence: Peter Leeson, Chairperson – SD92 (Nisga'a)

Correspondence: Ginny Manning, Chairperson – SD67 (Okanagan Skaha)

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

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

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. December 12, 2012 Public Board Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Nelson

THAT the Minutes of the December 12, 2012 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS

Petra Frederick, Recreation Access Coordinator – Parks and Recreation Services for
Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows; Kevin Prieb, Chair – Municipal Advisory & Accessibility Committee

Ms. Frederick introduced Mr. Prieb who shared the successes from the past year and future initiatives.

The focus remains on supporting and making recommendations on accessibility issues to both the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows communities. The committee has been in existence since 1993. Mr. Prieb provided background on the history of the committee and recognized the successful partnerships with schools.

The committee's recent successes include the Rick Hansen Anniversary event, the receipt of several provincial and federal grants and the 2010 Paralympics torch relay. They have further received the 2009 UBCM Community Excellence award for best practices in leadership and innovation.

The Chair opened the floor to questions and comments.

Trustees expressed their appreciation. The committee would like to explore specific ways to work with the School District promoting inclusiveness.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board receive Petra Frederick's Municipal Advisory & Accessibility presentation for information.

CARRIED

Bruce Grady, District Principal and Michael Polan, Manager, International Education

The Department's team was introduced crediting the group to its success. Mr. Grady spoke to the passion behind the program enhancing the social well-being of students and the community. A homestay mom provided testimony of her experiences in hosting students. The student placement process was provided crediting organizations such as TOPIA who have helped. A student present from Norway spoke about his Canadian experiences. A short video "Experience Canada" was shared.

A PowerPoint was provided highlighting the current marketing efforts and statistics of international students. Maple Ridge currently has the largest German program in Canada and the department is continuously looking at programs globally. Other countries of interest include Brazil, Netherlands, Russia Spain, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, S. America, Colombia and Turkey. The program is also looking at developing more Adult and University Bridge Programs.

Challenges facing the program:

- U.S. is experiencing its largest increase in students; less expensive; free homestay programs and their immigration policies have been very supportive;
- More affordable options in other jurisdictions;
- Post-secondaries recognize the value and are trying to attract international students;
- More competition between jurisdictions;

- Ranking of different School Boards;
- Location.

The program is working to combat challenges by offering alternate programs and offshore delivery options; improving relations with agencies, and government partners and working to ensure we are a choice destination. “Study in Canada; learn in BC”.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. Discussion ensued regarding correspondence in the Agenda. Mr. Polan credited the program’s success to the community, teachers in the schools, school environments, staff and support and introduced Lisa Williamson, Supervisor, International Education. The Board praised and thanked Michael Polan’s efforts, enthusiasm and leadership.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive Bruce Grady and Michael Polan’s International Education presentation for information.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

Correspondence – G. Wayne Hunter, Chairperson – SD63 (Saanich)

Trustee Clarkson spoke to the letter inquiring into the status of BCeSIS to which the Secretary Treasurer confirmed provincial discussions have been ongoing relating to a plausible replacement of the system.

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

Appointment of Auditor

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the Board approve the appointment of KPMG LLP as auditors for the Board for 2012/2013 and direct the Secretary Treasurer to promptly notify the auditor and the Minister of Education of the appointment.

CARRIED

Board Policy 9410: Safe, Caring and Healthy Schools

Trustee Carr complimented students, staff, Social Justice Committee and schools who participated with the process for helping create policy. The Chair suggested sending a letter to the Social Justice Committee acknowledging their involvement.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the Board Policy Development Committee recommends policy 9410: Safe, Caring and Healthy Schools be received by the Board for continuation with the consultation process.

CARRIED

Board Policy Approval 2925: Trustees – Provision of Resources

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Board approve policy 2925: Trustees – Provision of Resources for implementation.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

a) Superintendent of Schools

Trustee Rempel exited the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

SD42 IT Plan to Support Learning for Tomorrow

David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, K-12 Education and Richard Eskandar, Manager, Information Technology Services, presented a PowerPoint on the technology plan highlighting that student learning is the centre of the plan and success depends on training the users.

Trustee Rempel joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

IT policies and processes are in the process of review. Director Vandergugten explained Disaster Recovery and defined Cloud Computing. The IT department is working on core upgrades pertaining to business systems. The key component being delivered tonight is what the School District is doing to engage kids - shifting pedagogy.

Consultation: There are provisions on the website for teachers to provide feedback and after school sessions have occurred via an online discussion forums.

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's SD42 Technology Plan report for information.

CARRIED

b) Deputy Superintendent

c) Secretary Treasurer

2012/2013 Ministry of Education Recalculated Funding Allocations

The Secretary Treasurer provided background on the correspondence attached to the Agenda.

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

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

CARRIED

Moved: Trustee Clarkson

Seconded: Trustee Carr

THAT the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting clarification on their December 4, 2012 letter expressing concern about the download of BCPSEA funding.

CARRIED

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

J. QUESTION PERIOD

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

BC School Trustees' Association. Discussion ensued regarding Provincial Council Motions. Trustee Representative Clarkson spoke to past experiences. Motions will come forward at the AGM.

Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council. Trustee Rempel reported 174 students received funding for Arts Angels. An advisory committee has been created to work with grade 4/5 teachers. Upcoming events include strategic planning, a fundraiser on April 21st involving students and the AGM on October 15th.

Inclusive Education. At 6:30 p.m. on January 30, there will be an information session at Hammond Elementary regarding Kindergarten and special education.

Tzu Chi Foundation. The Chair attended a celebration on January 13. Tzu Chi funding, based on the principles of giving, is up to \$200 million for disaster relief worldwide. The breadth of the organization is vast with much support to the school district.

Good News Items

Trustee Palis attended a pep rally at PMSS honouring Rich Goulet. Mr. Goulet's accomplishments were acknowledged in Ottawa by Prime Minister Harper and locally by Randy Kamp, MP and Mayor Walters.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Marshall

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

CARRIED

Mike Murray, Chairperson

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

To: Board of Education

From: Board Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **PRESENTATIONS**

Date: January 30, 2013
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

1. Learning Centre Update – Halia Hirniak, District Teacher-Librarian
2. Inquiry Project – Rory Payment, Facilitator Information Technology and
David Vandergugten, Director of Instruction, K-12 Education

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the Learning Centre Update and Inquiry Project presentations for information.



ITEM 4

To: Board of Education

From: Board Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **DELEGATION**

Date: January 30, 2013
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

Silver Valley School Site - Nicole Read

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the information provided by the delegation be received by the Board.



To: Board of Education

From: Deputy Superintendent, Laurie Meston

**Re: 2013 – 2014 DISTRICT LOCAL
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Date: January 30th, 2013
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

For the past two years School District 42 implemented a District-wide Local School Calendar.

Since the adoption of the Calendar for the 2012/13 school year, the Ministry of Education has introduced the New School Calendar Regulation. This Regulation aligns with the School Amendment Act (Bill 36), enacted in Spring 2012, which establishes a new legislative framework, eliminating a Ministry standardized school calendar and sets the requirements for a board-established school calendar beginning in the 2013-14 school year.

The Regulation also sets a minimum number of hours of instruction that boards must offer to students during the school year. It is important to note the Regulation is not intended to set or effect teacher hours of work.

As well, there are different calendar information requirements for bricks-and-mortar and distributed learning schools:

1) All Public Schools except Distributed Learning Schools must indicate

- (a) The number and dates of the days in session;
- (b) The number and dates of each day of instruction;
- (c) The vacation periods and dates of statutory holidays;
- (d) The dates of each non-instructional day; and
- (e) The number of hours of instruction offered to students in each grade (per year). A minimum number of hours of instruction must be offered:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten

878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7

952 hours of instruction for students in Grades 8 to 12

Note: The minimum hours requirement is lower for Kindergarten students to allow for the gradual entry process at the beginning of each school year.

2) Distributed Learning Schools

- (a) The number and dates of the days in session;
- (b) The dates on which the principal, vice principals, directors of instruction and teachers of the school are available for instruction; and
- (c) The vacation periods and dates of statutory holidays.

Boards are not required to include their summer school schedules in calendars submitted to the ministry (s. 4 (3) of the Regulation).

Due to the flexibility offered by the new calendar regulations, districts can now propose calendars, which are more fluid in nature. This is an exciting development because it allows Boards of Education to consider calendar options which fit their local context and provide a more balanced instructional framework. Senior Team is anticipating an opportunity to propose more “balanced” options for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years but time is required to ensure that the provisions in the collective agreements align with the proposed calendar and to meet with the Unions.

Senior Team is recommending we continue with a similar calendar structure for the 2013/14 school year. This meets **the required minutes of instruction** outlined in the regulations. This proposed calendar would include:

- A two week spring vacation from **Monday March 17th to Friday March 28th** and two vacation dates on **Friday, November 8, 2013** and **Friday, February 7, 2014**.

Consultation Requirements

Section 87.01 (7) of the School Act and the New School Calendar Regulation indicates that a board must make public a proposed school calendar one month before submitting it to the Ministry. For the 2013-14 calendar submission cycle, proposed calendars must be made public on or before February 28, 2013. During the consultation period, a board must provide parents and board employees the opportunity to comment on the proposed calendar.

Proposed Process

- These calendars will be shared with the public on the SD42 website from Thursday January 31st to Friday March 1st with a request for public feedback.
- The feedback will then be reviewed by Senior Team, the proposed calendars will be adjusted if required, and submitted to the Board of Education for approval at the March 13th Board meeting.
- Once approved the calendar will be posted online and then submitted to the Ministry.

Please find attached:

- The proposed 2013/14 school calendar in both a calendar orientation (Appendix A) and linear orientation (Appendix B);
- The proposed 2013/14 Kanaka Creek school calendar in both a calendar orientation (Appendix C) and linear orientation (Appendix D);
- The proposed 2013/14 Distributed Learning calendar in a linear orientation (Appendix E).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Education approve the attached calendars to be shared with the public in order to receive public feedback.

Appendix A - SD42 LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR: SCHOOL YEAR 2013 TO 2014

Proposed

August 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2014						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

	Opening Day
	Scheduled Vacation
	Statutory Holidays
	Professional Development Days
	Last Day for Students
	Administrative Day – no school

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. 295 instructional minutes per day
(Kindergarten gradual entry during the first two weeks of September)

Secondary (8-12) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. 320 instructional minutes per day

- NB: Kanaka Creek will run their year round calendar separate from this calendar

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten
878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7
952 hours of instruction for students in Grades 8 to 12

Appendix B

Proposed



2013 – 2014 DISTRICT LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR



Schools Opening Day for Students	Tuesday, September 3, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Monday September 23, 2013</i>
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 24, 2013</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (Province wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 25, 2013</i>
Schools not in session	Friday, November 8 th , 2013
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11, 2013
Schools Close for Winter Break	Friday, December 20, 2013
Winter Break	Monday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 3, 2014
Schools reopen after Winter Break	Monday, January 6, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (School based)</i>	<i>Friday January 24th, 2014</i>
Schools not in session	Friday February 7, 2014
Family Day	Monday, February 10, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Friday February 28, 2014</i>
Schools Close for Spring Break	Friday March 14, 2014
Spring Break	March 17 to March 28, 2014
Schools reopen after Spring Break	Monday March 31, 2014
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2014
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21, 2014
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Tuesday May 20th, 2014</i>
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 26, 2014
Year-end Administrative Day	Friday, June 27, 2014
Schools Close	Friday, June 27, 2014

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. 295 instructional minutes per day
(Kindergarten gradual entry during the first two weeks of September)

Secondary (8-12) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. 320 instructional minutes per day

- NB: Kanaka Creek will run their year round calendar separate from this calendar

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten
878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7
952 hours of instruction for students in Grades 8 to 12

Appendix C - **KANAKA CREEK CALENDAR: SCHOOL YEAR 2013 TO 2014**

Proposed

August 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2014						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

295 instructional minutes per day

(Kindergarten gradual entry during the first two weeks of September)

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten

878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7

	Opening Day
	Scheduled Vacation
	Statutory Holidays
	Professional Development Days
	Half-Day Professional Dev.
	Last Day for Students
	Administrative Day – no school

Appendix D

Proposed



2013 – 2014

KANAKA CREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR



Schools Opening Day for Students	Tuesday, September 3, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Monday September 23, 2013</i>
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 24, 2013</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (Province wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 25, 2013</i>
Schools not in session	Friday, November 8 th , 2013
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11, 2013
School Closes for Winter Break	Friday, December 6, 2013
Winter Break	Monday, Dec. 9 to Friday, Jan. 3, 2014
School reopen after Winter Break (am)	Monday, January 6, 2014
<i>Non-Instructional Day (School Based 1/2 day)</i>	<i>Monday, January 6, 2014</i>
Schools not in session	Friday, February 7, 2014
Family Day	Monday, February 10, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Friday February 28, 2014</i>
School Closes for Spring Break	Friday March 28, 2014
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2014
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21, 2014
Spring Break	March 31 to April 25, 2014
School reopens after Spring Break	Monday, April 28, 2014
<i>Non-Instructional Day (School Based 1/2 day)</i>	<i>Monday, April 28, 2014</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Tuesday May 20th, 2014</i>
School not in session	June 30, 2014
<i>Canada Day</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 1, 2014</i>
Last Day for Students	Thursday, July 24, 2014
Year-end Administrative Day	Friday, July 25, 2014

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. 295 instructional minutes per day
(Kindergarten gradual entry during the first two weeks of September)

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten
878 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1 to 7

Appendix E

Proposed



2013 – 2014

DISTRICT DISTRIBUTED LEARNING SCHOOL CALENDAR

Schools Opening Day for Students	Tuesday, September 3, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Monday September 23, 2013</i>
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 24, 2013</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (Province wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 25, 2013</i>
Schools not in session	Friday, November 8 th , 2013
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11, 2013
Schools Close for Winter Break	Friday, December 20, 2013
Winter Break	Monday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 3, 2014
Schools reopen after Winter Break	Monday, January 6, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (School based)</i>	<i>Friday January 24th, 2014</i>
Schools not in session	Friday February 7, 2014
Family Day	Monday, February 10, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Friday February 28, 2014</i>
Schools Close for Spring Break	Friday March 14, 2014
Spring Break	March 17 to March 28, 2014
Schools reopen after Spring Break	Monday March 31, 2014
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2014
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21, 2014
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2014
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Tuesday May 20th, 2014</i>
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 26, 2014
Year-end Administrative Day	Friday, June 27, 2014
Schools Close	Friday, June 27, 2014

RECORD

2012-2013

Pursuant to provisions of 72 (1) of the *School Act*, the following report is a general statement of: (a) matters discussed; and (b) the general nature of decisions resolved at the following meetings from which persons other than Trustees or officers of the Board, or both were excluded:

January 16, 2013

Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.
Motion of Exclusion	Approved
Correspondence	No Correspondence
Ordering of Agenda	Approved as amended
Confirmation of Minutes – December 12, 2012	Approved as circulated
Chair Report	Received for information
Superintendent Decision Item	Approved
Secretary Treasurer Information Item	Approved
Committee Business	
Trustee Reports	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 3:51 p.m.



JANUARY 30, 2013

Public Board Meeting

DELEGATION:

Nicole Read – Silver Valley School Site

Why are we here?

And that's not a philosophical question!





Silver Valley Area Plan

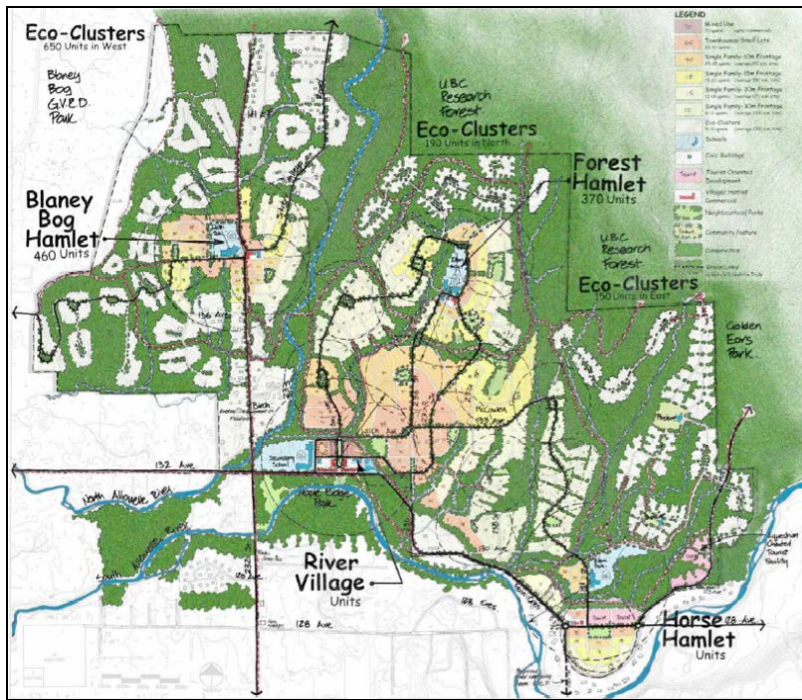
- A school located as an integral part of the Blaney Hamlet;
- A school within walking distance of our homes;
- A park in our hamlet co-located with a school.

The Silver Valley Area Plan encourages a safe neighbourhood for families both with and without children. Homes were purchased based on this plan.

Spirit of the OCP

SD42 – January 30, 2013:

“The plan is always a municipality’s best educated guess – ***based on input received from the public and many agencies – about what demographics, community needs, funding and student enrolment might look like in the future.***”



The Official Community Plan, of which the Silver Valley Area Plan is a part, was the result of consultation with stakeholders and the public – including School District 42.

School District 42 has made a decision that is inconsistent with the Official Community Plan and they have done so without public consultation and with limited consultation of District planning staff

Local Government Act

[RSBC 1996] Chapter 323

Effect of official community plans

- 884 (1) An official community plan does not commit or authorize a municipality, regional district or improvement district to proceed with any project that is specified in the plan.
- (2) ***All bylaws enacted or works undertaken by a council, board or greater board***, or by the trustees of an improvement district, after the adoption of
- (a) an official community plan, or
 - (b) an official community plan under section 711 of the Municipal Act, R.S.B.C. 1979, c. 290, or an official settlement plan under section 809 of that Act before the repeal of those sections became effective,
- must be consistent with the relevant plan.***

Local Government Act

[RSBC 1996] Chapter 323

Consultation during OCP development

879 (1) During the development of an official community plan, or the repeal or amendment of an official community plan, the proposing local government must provide one or more opportunities it considers appropriate for consultation with persons, organizations and authorities it considers will be affected.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the local government must

(a) consider whether the opportunities for consultation with one or more of the persons, organizations and authorities should be early and ongoing, and

(b) specifically consider whether consultation is required with

...(v) school district boards, greater boards and improvement district boards, and

(3) Consultation under this section is in addition to the public

hearing required under section 882 (3) (d).

School District 42 Report

Silver Valley Potential Future School Sites

“The current population of 4,000 within the Silver Valley Planning Area produces an elementary student yield of 498 students. At present the majority of these students (70%) attend Yennadon Elementary. “

“The City ultimately forecasts a build-out population of 10,000 for Silver Valley. If the student yield continues at the current rate, this would provide an estimated 1,245 school age elementary students for grades K – 7. “

This fails to account for:

- A. The number of families in the current population of 4000 with children under age 5;**
- B. The number of families in the current population of 4000 who plan to have more children;**
- C. The type of zoning of as yet undeveloped areas in Silver Valley – medium to high density homes tend to attract younger families.**

The School Board's Response:

"Give or take 10-20% on either side, we still don't need 4 schools.

Action Silver Valley's Position:

- The Report does not provide a sufficient analysis of the viability of the other three sites for an elementary school. For example, Fern Crescent is on an intersection – not the best location for an elementary school in terms of safety;
- The Report does not include a comparative analysis of the costs to build elementary schools at each of the different sites;
- The Report does not assess the feasibility of students in Blaney accessing another school site on foot.
- The Report was not the result of enough consultation with Municipal planning staff and was not the result of **any consultation with the public.**

Ministry of Education

It is simply insufficient for the School Board to cite lack of funding from the Ministry of Education as a cause of their decision.

In an email earlier today, I specifically advised that this was a “boring and tired position” and called on elected officials to be outside the box thinkers to find solutions within bureaucracy.

We received confirmation today that: ***Adrian Dix plans to reinvigorate the community school model so we are better connecting students with services in the community and ensuring that we are making the best use of our public facilities.*** As such, your decision on the Blaney site may be out of step with the NDP who are projected to form the next provincial government. By then, it will be too late. We will have lost our school site.

Other municipalities throughout the province, despite low enrolment in some areas, are acquiring school sites and are building schools.

A Safe Community for our Kids

Narrow and without sidewalks, it is not safe for our children to walk to school down 232nd

The parking situation at Yennadon Elementary School is incredibly unsafe. Parents must park on the shoulder of a narrow road with no sidewalks leaving cars and kids to share a space – that is unacceptable from a safety perspective

Driving kids to school is not in keeping with the “eco-friendliness” of the Silver Valley Area Plan

Our children deserve a safe community with a school within walking distance!



Action Silver Valley, on behalf of our neighbourhood, is asking you to reconsider your decision about the Blaney School Site only **AFTER** a full facilities study can be completed that involves real and meaningful consultation with the public and Municipal planning staff.



**We thank you for your
time and consideration**

