



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, February 10, 2010 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Deputy Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. He welcomed the public and advised there are two places for the public to speak: right after Presentations, and also under Public Questions.

2. Correspondence

ORIGINAL - Motion P248 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the letters from FunZone and from the Coalition for Music Education be moved to the Chair Report for further discussion.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Ordering of Agenda

- Moved Secretary Treasurer's Contract from the Chair Report to Superintendent's Information Items
- Added Notice of Motion under Trustee Motions by Trustee Vdovine

ORIGINAL - Motion P249 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board order the agenda as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. January 27, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes
 - There were no corrections.

ORIGINAL - Motion P250 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the January 27, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

1. "Listen to Us"

A group of students conducted a survey in the Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge area and gave a presentation showing the results of the information compiled from the 400 completed surveys.

They compiled the information over a five month process and only worked on it during the students' free time such as during lunch time and after school hours.

The results of the surveys showed what is most important to the youth in the area.

The Board Chair thanked them for coming forward with their presentation.

The Board Chair then asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak to any of the agenda items.

Karen Georgi asked about the Advocacy Committee's motion around the Home Show and stated that she thought it would be nice to have a booth involving the youth and what they are doing.

She was advised to listen to the report around the motion first and then if she still had questions, to ask them then.

CHAIR REPORT

1. The Board Chair advised that the Board had started the budget process and they had met with the Partner Groups that day and it had been a productive meeting. They will be having a follow-up meeting with the Partner Groups on February 24th.
2. Letter from FunZone

Trustee Ward explained that in the past the Board has supported the FunZone with an "in kind" contribution to support them with things such as their photocopying costs.

ORIGINAL - Motion P251 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board support the FunZone up to \$1500.'

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Vdovine asked if the donations are usually cash or a service and Trustee Ward advised that the Board has done both but that last year there were other circumstances so the Board actually sent them a cheque to use at Staples for their photocopying.

Trustee Vdovine added that it is a 3rd party, not a school district group and the Board needs to create some guidelines as to what groups the district supports. He thinks it's critical to evaluate what money is being spent. There aren't many requests like this but if a lot of groups start coming forward, it could be a problem. He would urge the Board not to support the funding for FunZone without setting up some criteria first so that the correct process can be followed going forward for future requests.

Trustee Huber agreed with Trustee Vdovine around the need for the Board to create guidelines but he felt that being FunZone has been supported in the past; that it should be supported by the Board again this year. However, he wanted to amend the motion to add that a committee be formed through the budget process in order to look at the criteria for supporting groups like this going forward.

Trustee Carr agreed as well but thought that the Board really needs to look at its spending during these financially difficult times. She then asked where the money comes from. The Secretary Treasurer advised that there is no specific line item for support of special projects or for any kind of special support like this. Being there is a balanced budget at this time, they are hoping to end the year with a small surplus, but that is the only comfort he can give at this time being there is no line item set aside for things like this. He added that if there are areas the Board wishes to support, a line item should be set up during the budget process.

Trustee Carr then stated that she thinks the funding amount should drop down to the gold level of sponsor of \$800.

The Board Chair added that he also was wondering where the money could come from. He then added that he had attended the Maple Ridge Parks and Leisure meetings and they have a committee set up for these types of things. He thinks the motion should be amended to give \$500 to this organization.

Trustee Rempel asked if there is a way to check where the funding came from in previous years being it has been supported for the last four for five years at least. He felt that might help them in deciding on how much support to give.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that there are funds over the year that are over-expended or there are surpluses, and it's not a specific line item currently but if they approved it, a line item in the budget could be set up so that there would be funds to call from for it.

Trustee Huber stated that he doesn't think that while the Board is still working through their process, they should pull back their support that they have been giving for some time now.

Trustee Ward added that she thinks the Secretary Treasurer should check the Trustees budget to see if there are any funds available there to cover this.

Trustee Palis stated that she doesn't feel there would be a threat to the program itself, if the Board did not support it this year, due to the number of other sponsors that they already have. She thought it could be an opportunity for our students to volunteer and get involved.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 3 (Trustees Huber, Rempel & Ward were in favour)
Nay: 4 (Trustees Clarkson, Palis, Vdovine, and Carr were opposed).
The motion FAILED.

ORIGINAL - Motion P252 – 09/10

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board support FunZone up to the amount of \$850 as a gold sponsor.'

Trustee Huber stated that he thinks there should be a motion to come up with a process going forward. He also doesn't think the Board should speculate as to what FunZone needs from us; the motion should be tabled until the Board finds out exactly what FunZone needs for support.

ORIGINAL - Motion P253 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table the motion to support FunZone and will ask them to come back to the Board Chair with what they need within the next two Board meetings.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 3 (Trustees Carr, Clarkson, and Palis were opposed).
The motion CARRIED.

3. Letter from the Coalition of Music Education

Trustee Vdovine wanted the Board to direct the Board Chair to reply to the Coalition of Music Education's letter to thank them. He also thought that this item should become a part of a consideration as input into part of the budget process.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITMES

1. Ratification of Catchment Changes

The Superintendent explained that at the last Board meeting the 1st round of catchment changes were brought forward and that in the last 2 weeks they had met with both the Pitt Meadows and the Maple Ridge planning departments, as well as with several members out in the field, and they now have brought back the recommended changes to the catchments. She also advised that all maps have been posted on the website.

David Vandergugten then explained the changes to the different catchment areas.

The affected catchment areas were Yennadon, Harry Hooge, Albion, Davie Jones, and Highland Park.

Every school that has a catchment change will have one of the maps by the next day.

The Superintendent advised that catchment areas will be reviewed annually and people have to keep in mind that just because there is development in an area, that doesn't mean there will be that many students in that area.

They have been struggling with the Albion area, but have spent a lot of time looking at everything that can possibly be looked at, at this stage. Now they have to wait and see the outcome of the changes.

ORIGINAL - Motion P254 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the recommended Catchment changes.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Proposing a Local School Calendar

The Deputy Superintendent wanted to talk about the percentage of votes required in order to make a change in a school calendar. A change will only be considered if 65%-85% of votes cast are in favour of the change. Pitt Meadows Elementary was the most recent school to change their calendar.

Therefore, Staff are proposing that based on the history, that the Board designate that 65% of votes cast must approve the change of the calendar at Alexander Robinson Elementary school.

She added that the procedure piece needs to be reworked and laid out more clearly. If there is another calendar review next year, the procedure needs to be clarified before then.

ORIGINAL - Motion P255 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board designate that 65% of the votes cast must approve the change of the calendar at Alexander Robinson Elementary school.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. School Closure/Transition Update

The Superintendent explained that there is still a lot going on at both sites of school closure. The two directors who are in charge with the transition planning at both schools are getting the parents and students out to other schools. On the Mount Crescent/Glenwood side, they just sent out an email to the system because the Board just ratified the new principal for the amalgamated school. The new

principal will start right away to begin working towards building an amalgamated culture. He does not officially start until Aug.

ORIGINAL - Motion P256– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's School Closure/Transition Update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Secretary Treasurer's Contract

The Superintendent advised that this is just an information item to let everyone know that the Secretary Treasurer, Wayne Jefferson, has agreed to stay on for an extended period of time.

ORIGINAL - Motion P257– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the Secretary Treasurer's contract for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Advocacy Committee - Trustee Vdovine brought forward a written report. He also brought forward two motions.

He clarified that both motions are to be one motion each and not split up as shown on paper.

ORIGINAL - Motion P258– 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board allow the Advocacy committee to secure a booth at the 2010 Maple Ridge Home Show for the purpose of promoting public education in our community; and that a budget of up to \$1000.00 be allocated to cover costs associated with the participation at the event.'

Trustee Vdovine explained the background of the motion. They would like to reach out to members of the public that the District does not usually have contact with. Some of the challenges of the school district need community support. This would also be used as an opportunity to have representatives from all the Partner Groups at the booth throughout the weekend. It is another way to reach out to the community and create more awareness around public education. The estimated cost for the booth would be \$600 and it would be for 3.5 days.

Discussion ensued.

A question was raised around the manning of the booth. Trustee Vdovine explained that it is not an Advocacy Committee booth, is a School District Booth. They would like to have representation from the

Board, Senior Staff, and Partner Groups. The Partner groups have committed to being present and a schedule will be developed. They also would like to bring students into all of this as well, as they are the District's best opportunity to speak out to the Public .

ORIGINAL - Motion P259– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board to table the motion to support the booth at the Home Show, until the February 24th meeting, at which time a more detailed plan can be brought forward.'

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 2 (Trustees Ward and Rempel were only ones in favour) Nay: 5.

The motion FAILS.

Discussion continued.

Also noted was where the funding for the booth would come from and that the deadline for registering for the booth is March 10th.

Trustee Palis wanted to amend the motion to come back to the Board on February 24th so that the people taking the lead can bring back a more comprehensive package, and bring back the costs. There was no seconder.

ORIGINAL - Motion P260– 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board split the motion into the two recommendations; one for the Advocacy Committee to look into securing a booth at the Home Show and the funding portion to be tabled and brought back to the next Board meeting with the details around the cost.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P261– 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Advocacy committee look into securing a booth at the 2010 Maple Ridge Home Show for the purpose of promoting public education in our community.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P262– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table the motion that a budget of up to \$1000.00 be allocated to cover costs associated with the participation at the event, until the next Board meeting when the details around the cost can be brought forward..' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine explained the Advocacy Committee's second motion and again reiterated that it is just one motion, not split into three as shown on paper.

He thought the motion was pretty self explanatory and that it had already been discussed. The idea of the motion is to have conversations with the two local representatives and utilize them as much as they can, to vocalize our concerns on a provincial level.

Trustee Rempel thought the motions should be split into two recommendations and to perhaps do it through a liaison meeting.

Trustee Huber felt that it should be only one motion.

AMENDED - Motion P263– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (David Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board have a liaison meeting with the two MLAs rather than given them a written brief.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2 (Trustees Vdovine and Clarkson were opposed).
The motion CARRIED.

The Board Chair will contact the two MLAs, via phone call or letter, to arrange a liaison meeting with them.

ORIGINAL - Motion P264– 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approach the Members of Legislative Assembly for Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows, Mr. Michael Sather, and Maple Ridge – Mission, Mr. Marc Dalton, briefing them on District's 2010/11 Operating Budget shortfall; and that the two MLAs be requested to lobby provincial government on behalf of the Board to provide necessary and secure funding for public schools; and also be invited to attend the Public meeting of the Board on April 28, 2010 to report on their efforts.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Public Questions

Karen Georgi asked about the budget line for FunZone and how if it is an "in kind" donation, that the funding should come from the supplies and services budget line, which has \$24,000. Trustee Ward reiterated that the Board has given both in kind donations and monetary donations in the past. The Secretary Treasurer added that the photocopying services are always done through Staples and not done at the District office therefore the funding is not taken from the supplies and services budget line.

She then asked when the Trustee expense information would be coming back. The Board Chair advised that they are working on it and that it will be brought back once the work has been completed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Parks & Leisure

Trustee Palis submitted a written report.

2. Social Planning & Advisory

Trustee Huber submitted a written report but wanted to point out that Fraser Health is dealing with cut backs and so they are looking at utilizing the local network more in order to continue to roll out some of their initiatives. He will bring back more information once he has it.

3. BCSTA Provincial Council Motions

ORIGINAL - Motion P265– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the motions of Provincial Council.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P266– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board provide direction to Provincial Councilor Kathie Ward on the afore mentioned motions.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Huber asked if Trustees could provide input into the Budget via email. Trustee Ward stated that yes they can but she will need all the input by February 17th because she is leaving on February 18th.

Trustee Vdovine inquired about the HST announcement. Trustee Ward advised that this package was put together before the HST announcement was made and that she believes they will get clarity at Provincial council. If not, she will definitely ask the question about HST. The Final budget will be casted at the AGM.

ORIGINAL - Motion P267– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the BCSTA Provincial Council Draft Budget for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P268– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board provide input to the Draft Budget for Provincial Councilor Kathie Ward to bring forward.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The direction from the Board for the input into the Draft Budget for the BCSTA Provincial Council included:

Agenda Item 7.1 – That the Provincial Council approve the amended Okanagan Branch constitution and bylaws.

No direction was needed from the Board.

Agenda Item 7.2 – That BCSTA strongly urge the Minister of Education:

1. to reinstate for 2010/11 the level of funding that existed before the 2009/2010 Operating Autumn Recalculation;
2. to review the Salary Differential Formula with reference to equity of funding among Boards of education;
3. to commit to not making changes mid-year in the salary differential funding formula and other components of the funding formula that impact operating budgets of boards of education;
4. to commit to providing boards of education with predictable and stable funding direction from the Board

No direction was needed from the Board.

Agenda Item 7.3 – That BCSTA request the Province of BC to redirect the public money spent on private education to the public education system starting with this upcoming Provincial budget.

Direction from the Board was for Trustee Ward to urge it to be deferred to AGM being it is not an urgent matter.

4. BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch meeting

Trustee Ward submitted a written report and advised about the three nominations for the four positions on Board of directors, as well as that they had a good presentation at the last meeting about Cyber Bullying.

5. Trustee Carr wanted to remind everyone about the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement being signed on Wednesday, March 3. We are the first district in the province to sign their 3rd agreement; most districts are still working on their 1st agreement.

6. Trustee Palis wanted to advise that she and the Board Chair had met with the Boards from Burnaby, Coquitlam and Surrey in order to observe some of their best practices and processes. She attached a written report for everyone's information.

7. Good News Items

The Trustees and Staff then shared their good news items.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P269 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board adjourn the meeting.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. **The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer