



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, February 24, 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 – Dave Rempel
Trustee – Stephan Vdovine

STAFF:

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

ABSENT:

Trustee – Mike Huber

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

An email had been received from S.A.D.D.

ORIGINAL - Motion P270 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the correspondence for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- “Personnel Announcement” to Superintendent’s Information Items

ORIGINAL - Motion P271 – 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: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. February 10, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

- There were no corrections.

ORIGINAL - Motion P272 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the February 10, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

The Board Chair then asked if anyone wanted to speak to anything on the agenda and there was no one.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Letter sent to the MLA's to arrange a meeting

The Board Chair suggested that due to timing, a letter to the MLAs be written with the pertinent information right now and then the Board should ask the MLAs to come back and make a presentation to the Board. The allocations from the Ministry come out on March 2nd, they have to announce Education Budget before March 19, and the MLAs are not available to meet until March 17 & 24, separately.

The Board Chair will send them another letter with the pertinent information and will try and get them to come present to the Board on the same day.

2. Board Goals

The Board advised that the Board had worked 3 days with Lee Southern and came up with some goals for this year as well as the Boards' accomplishments so far, and work elements. They are being brought to this meeting to receive any public feedback, positive or negative.

Trustee Ward wanted to note that these two items were not on the agenda and should have been added during the ordering of agenda.

The Board's Goals and Work Elements will be posted on the website and people will be able to comment online.

3. FunZone Recommendation

The Board Chair explained that at the last Board meeting, the FunZone recommendation was tabled and that it needed to be lifted.

ORIGINAL - Motion P273 – 09/10

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

The motion was lifted from the table in order for discussion to continue. The following amendment was then made.

AMENDED - Motion P274 – 09/10

Member (Susan Carr) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board support FunZone up to the amount of \$850 as a gold sponsor and that this amount be taken from the Administration/Trustee Advertising/Public Relations account which has a budget of \$2280.00.'

Trustee Palis explained that she contacted FunZone and clarified what they use the Board's funding for and they do indeed use our sponsorship to cover the cost of copying materials at Staples but that the Board can choose a level of support.

Trustee Vdovine stated that he thought the Board should explain the Board's reasons for lowering the support level, and the Board Chair advised that it had already been explained to them when Trustee Palis had called and asked for clarification.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The AMENDED motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

All in favour of main/tabled motion. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The Original motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TRUSTEE MOTIONS

ORIGINAL - Motion P275 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board strike an independent Transparency and Access to Information Task Force for the purposes of examining Board's and District's information release policies and providing the Board with advice to improve transparency and access to public information.'

Trustee Vdovine advised that the motion was slightly different than the notice of motion that was brought forward at the last Board meeting but that only minor changes were made. He then explained his reasons for the motion. Most changes that have happened were due to the good will at the table, not because of any policy. In order to cement it, some changes in protocols in policy need to be made. Therefore he is proposing to strike an independent task force.

Each Trustee then weighed in with how they felt about the motion. For the most part all the Trustees felt that this was already being done and that there is a limit as to how much information can be made public.

There was also some discussion around what falls under the mandate of the communications committee and that setting up another task force may be just doing work that the communications committee could be doing.

The Trustees felt that amendments to the motion would definitely have to be made before they could vote in favour of the motion.

AMENDED - Motion P276 – 09/10

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board strike an independent Transparency and Access to Information Task Force for the purposes of examining Board's and District's information release policies and providing the Board with advice to improve transparency and access to public information; and that a Trustee be on the task force, that the Board interview for the position of Commissioner, and that access to staff and facilities be subject to Board approval.'

Trustee Vdovine then weighed in by saying that he wasn't hoping the Board would pass the motion exactly as it is written; he was hoping for Board input like this and so he is pleased with the feedback for amendments.

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

The AMENDED motion FAILS.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 2 Nay: 4 (Trustees Clarkson and Vdovine were the only ones in favour).

The ORIGINAL motion FAILS.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITMES

1. Alexander Robinson Extended Day Calendar

The Deputy Superintendent advised that at the February 10th Board meeting, the Board of Education approved Alexander Robinson to move ahead with the staff and parent vote in regards to the extended day calendar. The Board of Education also designated that 65% of the votes cast at Alexander Robinson must support the proposed calendar change in order for it to be implemented September 2010.

The rationale shows that the vote did go ahead. There were 206 votes in total and it was scrutinized very carefully. Of the 206 votes counted, 96 were no and 110 yes, which means 53.39% of the votes cast supported the proposed calendar change. It is recommended that the Board not ratify the calendar change for Alexander Robinson.

ORIGINAL - Motion P277 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board not ratify Alexander Robinson's request to implement the proposed calendar change for the 2010/11 school year.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS1. 2010 Trustee Honourium Recommendation

The Secretary Treasurer explained that as part of the direction from the prior Board, there is direction on how the Trustee Honourium is to be handled and the proposed increase amounts to \$124/year for each Trustee. The Finance Committee, at its February 10th meeting, reviewed the information and recommended such action.

ORIGINAL - Motion P278 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the annual base honourium for Trustees for January 1, 2010 be increased by 0.7%, as per the Metro Vancouver Consumer Price Index (CPI) change, for December 2009 to December 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward asked if other districts are doing something similar. The Secretary Treasurer advised that for the most part yes, and that some Boards have an external review every 3 or 5 years which is no different than with Excluded staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS1. Full Day Kindergarten Update

The Superintendent advised that the information being presented is as recent as possible. It has been ongoing collecting the information daily in order to give an update.

There are 855 kids registered, this time last year there had been 860. Typically, using trend analysis, the district should get another 50 to 100 kids before school starts in September.

An interesting phenomenon was that almost all students wanted to stay in their catchment school. This could be partly because of the full day kindergarten initiative and parents are perhaps concerned about schools filling up. Almost all the kids got what they wanted.

They will now start in-servicing all kindergarten teachers on how to teach full day kindergarten.

ORIGINAL - Motion P279 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's update on Kindergarten Registration for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. School Closure/Transition Update

The Superintendent advised that there was no item that was too small during the school closure/transition process and that staff have been working really hard on the communication piece. From now on, the Superintendent will only report out on an as needed basis.

For Mount Crescent they were aiming for an amalgamation, and 95 students have confirmed that they will be attending Glenwood which is great; they were aiming for 100 students.

They are also in conversations with the city about the crosswalk and both parties are working together. They have also looked into having a crossing guard and they have done some research on whether in the past, it was CUPE employees or not, and they were SEA's in the past. Implementing a crossing guard is not the route they want to go at this stage. They will put them in place if necessary, but they are hoping to have an actual crosswalk with lights.

ORIGINAL - Motion P280– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on the School Closure/Transition for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Personnel Announcement

The Superintendent advised that the Executive Assistant to the Board and to the Secretary Treasurer, Tina Fuchs, would be leaving and going back to Fort McMurray. They have hired a replacement for her, Tracy Smith, the Career Coordinator from SRT, and Tracy will be starting on Monday, March 15th.

ORIGINAL - Motion P281– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's report on Personnel for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Sensory Rooms Update**

The Deputy Superintendent advised that Laurie Smith wrote the Sensory Rooms report in conjunction with the occupational therapists in the district.

Laurie Smith then made a presentation which explained what sensory rooms are used for and what benefits they have for students.

ORIGINAL - Motion P282– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's report on Sensory Rooms for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Quarter Two Financials

The Secretary Treasurer advised that no changes had been made since these were brought to the Finance COTW.

Trustee Ward had some questions about the report.

Trustee Vdovine raised a point of order and insisted that the questions being raised pertain to the report and address the language. The Chair overruled Trustee Vdovine's point of order by acknowledging that Trustee Ward's questions did pertain to the report. Secondly, for the record, Trustee Ward would like it noted that she did not use foul or obscene language in reference to the Langley conversation.

Trustee Ward then raised a question around moving away from the monthly reports and going to quarterly reports. The Executive Assistant will look for the discussion that took place at a prior Board meeting when it was decided to move to quarterly reports.

ORIGINAL - Motion P283– 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's report on the Quarter Two Financials for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Anti Vandalism Committee - At this point they have 513 incidences of vandalism and last year at end of June there had been 1116, which costs \$650,000.
An area of concern that may be problematic is the artificial turf field at Pitt Meadows Secondary on Pitt Meadows Day, so they will be stepping up patrols. They are working with community policing in Pitt Meadows and looking at having an Anti- graffiti symposium in May; as graffiti and tagging leads to other behaviours. With Spring Break coming up, the Communications Officer is working on communications to be sent out to the school principals.
The contact number is 466-HELP to report any incidences.

-
2. DSAC – Trustees Ward was a guest to do some Anti-vandalism brainstorming with the kids at the meeting and Trustee Carr is hoping that maybe this is something she could do every few months as it's a really good contribution.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Employee Group questions

George Serra from the MRTA wanted to comment on the Mount Crescent and Glenwood piece in that it looks like a success and he wanted to add that the largest impact was made from the work of the Mount Crescent teachers and their work with meeting with parents and students, in spite of their own feelings towards the decision to close the school.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Arts Council

They met last Monday. Grants are being reduced. They passed the budget and have a slight deficit. The fundraising committee has had good success. The Celebration of the Arts will be from April 18-24th, and on April 22nd there will be a choir night, which Trustees will be invited to. Artists in residence - the individuals want to work with schools to expand the program. There is a continuing shift to involve more students.

2. BCSTA Provincial Council Motions

Trustee Ward submitted a written report but advised that they did move the motion to defer the Independent Schools motion to the AGM and it was supported very well; in part because it raised questions around independent band schools and their funding.

Trustee Ward then asked how many in-band schools are in the province. The Secretary Treasurer advised that there are at least between 30 & 50 and that they do receive funding from the Federal Government. They will not be affected by the funding cuts and only the schools under the independent school act, will be affected, not the band schools.

Trustee Ward also advised that there were 3 late motions, 8 a 1, 8.2a, and 8.3a, and the first thing that happened was to determine if they were emergent or not. If yes, they go on the floor to be discussed. Trustee Ward voted in favour of 8.1a which is actually reported as 8.1b once it is on the floor. She was in support of it because of the amendment's wording "such as", which allows for local autonomy to implement full day kindergarten and for them to see how it works for each district.

3. Good News Items

The Trustees and Staff then shared their good news items.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P284 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board adjourn the meeting.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer