



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**
Wednesday, January 27, 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

STAFF:

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

Absent

Trustee – Stepan Vdovine

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6: 04 pm.

2. Correspondence

Letters had been received from BC Sports, the A.R.M.S., and from Ms. Joyce Digney and were moved to the Chair report for further discussion.

3. Ordering of Agenda

ORIGINAL - Motion P225 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. January 13, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

Corrections:

- Under the Spirit of BC Presentation- Cheryl Johnson was presenting not Bonnie Telep.

ORIGINAL - Motion P226 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the January 13, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Cultural Master Plan, By Mike Murray

Mike Murray gave a presentation on the Cultural Master Plan. The areas reviewed were:

- The Master Plan Process
- Input from the Community
- Values and Guiding Statements
- Primary Recommendations
- Implementation
- Next steps

Mr. Murray will also come to a Board Work Day to go through a more detailed presentation being this one had to be cut short to fit into the agenda.

The Board Chair then asked if anyone from the Public would like to speak to any items on the agenda. There was no one.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Budget Process

The Board Chair advised the Public that the Board invites their submissions at its Public Board Meetings over the next two months regarding program and service priorities, as the Board develops its 2010/2011 operating budget.

In the coming weeks, the Board will be meeting face-to-face with employee groups and community stakeholder associations, including parent organizations and representatives, to discuss the budget challenges and obtain their feedback. At future Public Board meetings, there is an opportunity to allow community members to submit their thoughts regarding board priorities and potential budget reduction ideas.

The Chair requests the Public to provide in writing, their thoughts and ideas on budget priorities, reductions, and transfers of services and resources, for the Finance Committee's consideration.

2. BC Sports letter

Trustee Ward stated that BC Sports was given some space at Riverside Elementary and although she is glad that the District was able to help them out, she thought that the Board had to approve what Riverside is going to be used for now that it is going to be closed.

The Secretary Treasurer explained that we have agreed to the space at Riverside on a month-to-month basis. We had the space, and they needed space on an immediate basis. However there will now be a full district facilities review taking place and all these things will be looked at, while reviewing the use of all the facilities in the district.

The Superintendent added that BC Sports know that Riverside is likely just a temporary situation that happened to be available during their desperate times but only until a full review of the district has been completed.

3. ARMS email

The Board Chair advised that he had been contacted via email by A.R.M.S. and in the past the Board has supported A.R.M.S., and now they are looking for support from the Board in order to get a butterfly garden. They need an answer from the Board for tomorrow.

ORIGINAL - Motion P227 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board send a letter in support of the A.R.M.S. getting a butterfly garden.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Letter from Ms. Joyce Digney

A letter had been received from Ms. Joyce Digney, a local senior citizen of Maple Ridge. She wanted to share her experiences and knowledge around crosswalks as well as have the information passed on to schools.

Trustee Ward expressed thanks for one of Maple Ridge's citizens in writing to the Board in hopes of increasing the safety of the district's children in crosswalks. Trustee Ward thought the Board should send a thank-you letter to Ms. Digney as well as share the information with all the schools, as Ms. Digney had hoped.

Direction that the Board respond to Ms. Digney with a thank-you and that the letter be forwarded onto the schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS**1. Alternative School Survey**

The Superintendent explained that a consultant had been hired to do a deeper analysis of the survey results. When taking all the data and input from the community, they can see that there is an appetite on all sorts of levels, for all kinds of choices, and different ways of doing things. When breaking it all down, they determined that the best place to go from here now, would be to follow the process that is in place by using the Proposing Program Options Procedure and then if there is a groundswell of desire in the field for choosing a certain program, they can go from there.

ORIGINAL - Motion P228 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P229 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Proposing Program Options procedure be used as the framework for proposing any type of alternative school, and that this information be communicated to any parents who may wish to embark upon this process.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P230 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That staff monitor the progress of efforts to establish an environmental school, which is following the Proposing Program Options procedure, with a view to establishing lessons and guidelines that might be applied to other proposals for alternative schools' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent added that she thinks the Environmental School is a really good one to go through the procedure.

Trustees shared their concerns and or opinions.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS**1. Local School Calendar Procedure Amendment**

The Deputy Superintendent advised that they have had the procedure for schools to go through every year. On May 10th 2006, the Board approved a procedure for maintaining a Local School Calendar (including Extended Day and Year Round Schooling). This process requires principals of each of these schools, prior to the First Friday in April of each year, to submit to the Assistant Superintendent, the following:

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- Local School Calendar description
 - How the Local School Calendar is used/will be used to support student learning
 - Information that has been/will be collected to show how the Local School Calendar supports Board Goals and School Improvement Plan goals.
 - The consultation process with the Parent Advisory Committee, School Planning Council and School Staff.

This process is not required in schools which do not have extended day and year round calendar.

The calendar for extended day and year round calendar schools has been approved by the Board of Education prior to the school commencing the calendar change.

This is a cumbersome procedure that takes time away from focusing on students and learning and is not required by the School Act.

The only time that a school needs to bring a report to the Board of Education is if they are proposing to change their local school calendar. Refer to Proposing a Local School Calendar Procedure.

ORIGINAL - Motion P231 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Procedure for Maintaining a Local School Calendar be deleted from the Board of Education policies and procedures.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Alexander Robinson Calendar Change Proposal

The Deputy Superintendent advised that Alexander Robinson had put a really comprehensive proposal together and so staff have really struggled with recommending that the Board not authorize a proposal brought by Alexander Robinson Elementary School to change their calendar to an extended day model with early closing on Friday..

They have concerns around the difficulties of the district having different calendars right now, and they really aren't sure how much it is currently costing the district. A number of factors need to be looked at. They also need to review the research on the impact of alternate school calendars, which is something that hasn't been done as a district yet. They would also like to get public and parent input. Another concern is that the district is changing some of the half-day kindergarten due to the full-day kindergarten coming out in some of the schools in September. Next year when full day kindergarten is in all of the schools, this won't be as much of an issue. In addition the timing of this proposal will mean that a final decision will not be made until after kindergarten registration.

The Superintendent weighed in and explained some issues with it as well. She explained that once all the information is gathered, then a decision can be made from a district-wide perspective.

The estimated timeline may be for the fall of next year, but it is a large scope of work.

Trustees asked questions and shared their opinions on it. Trustees felt it was important to recognize the wishes of the school community and therefore authorized the school to proceed with an inclusive consultation process and vote. The completed consultation process and vote will come to the Board on February 24 for a final decision on the proposed calendar change.

ORIGINAL - Motion P232 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board not authorize Alexander Robinson's proposal to move forward at this time.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 0 Nay: 6.

The motion FAILED.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Budget Bylaw

The Secretary Treasurer advised that it is being brought to the Board for approval and ratification.

ORIGINAL - Motion P233 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the pursuant to Part E, Bylaws and Resolutions, Section 3.01 subsection (d), the Board advance the Amended Budget and bylaws through to final stages in one meeting.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the next three recommendations the Board Chair declared a conflict and so the Vice Chair, assumed the Chair's position. Trustee Huber also advised that he would be removing himself out of conflict. Trustee Rempel advised that his circumstances had changed and so he will not be declaring conflict.

ORIGINAL - Motion P234 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant first reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P235 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P236 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant third and final reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 1 (Teachers) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustees Huber and Clarkson came back into the room to resume voting.

ORIGINAL - Motion P237 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant first reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P238 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P239 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant third and final reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 2 (Unionized Support Staff) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P240 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant first reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P241 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant second reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORIGINAL - Motion P242 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant third and final reading to the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw No. 3 (Other) for fiscal year 2009-2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Catchment Review Update

The Superintendent explained that the process had started because of the closure of two schools, so they have to therefore eliminate two catchment areas and distribute the students into other areas.

David Vandergugten reviewed the changes and review the updated catchment maps.

All the catchment maps are now up on the district website.

They had a meeting at Albion a number of weeks back being it is the most affected area. They were able to receive some feedback from parents there and made some changes based on the feedback.

40% of the students go to schools outside of their catchment.

Senior staff are going to share this information with the city to try and work together on it.

Trustee Huber expressed how important he thinks it is for the school district to work with the city.

ORIGINAL - Motion P243– 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion ' That the Board receive the Superintendent's Catchment Review Update 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 explained that senior staff are bringing forward everything that takes place between Board meetings. They are working on trying to lay out everything specific to Riverside Elementary, Mount Crescent Elementary, and everything that is relevant to both.

ORIGINAL - Motion P244 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) 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: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. FOIPPA Response to BCSTA

The Secretary Treasurer advised that he had received a letter from Judith Clarke, from the BCSTA in December asking the school district to make a commitment to look at what our processes are in handling these requests.

The Secretary Treasurer sat down with Janice Allen, the Board-named Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Coordinator, and found two areas that need improvement.

The areas of significant concern we wish to raise include:

1. Time and Costs. Amend the fee structure to allow for a fee after one hour of time spent in locating and retrieving the record and/or severing information from the record. This would ensure the effort and time needed for staff to meet the request is appropriately recognized.
2. Disclosure of personal information where disclosure would not constitute an unreasonable invasion of privacy. Clear direction not to disclose the personal information of employees who earn less than \$75,000 per annum.

ORIGINAL - Motion P245 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's update on FOIPPA Response to BCSTA 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. Trustee Clarkson submitted a written report for Inclusive Ed. He also advised that at the last meeting there were 50 people in attendance, which was well attended and really informative for the parents. He thinks it's a really valuable committee for parents.
2. Trustee Ward submitted a written report for the Anti-Vandalism committee. She also advised that she attended the January DSAC meeting to discuss with students some of the many things the Anti-Vandalism committee does. That way they can take the ideas back to their schools, teachers, and parents, as well as then bring feedback to the next DSAC meeting in order to share the ideas.
3. Advocacy Committee brought forward a letter for the Board's approval. The letter was in regards to zeros' being assigned to students who do not write FSAs.

ORIGINAL - Motion P246 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Trustee Carr submitted a written report for the Youth Centre Society Committee.
5. Trustee Palis submitted a written report but wanted to add that at the BCPSEA AGM Paul Straszak, President and CEO of PSE, made concluding comments : there is the same money or more clearly, no new money, so we have to find ways to make things better for both parties around the existing agreements.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. **Public Questions:**

- A question was raised around the email inquiry back in December about trustee expenses in the SOFI report and she was wondering what's happened with it, and if it could be brought back to a Board meeting.
The Board Chair advised that a Trustee Expense Sub-Committee had been formed and met the day prior. One of the developments from that meeting was that they are going to give monthly reports to Trustees as to where their accounts are at.
- Karen Wanders spoke towards the catchment review update and expressed her concerns.
- There was another question around if there has ever been a year, when siblings did not get into a school, as they believe there will be a lot of cases if there is no grandfather clause. A lot of people are nervous about this as it will put a lot of stress on the families; people don't want to split up their families.
- Diane – asked if the input from principals around the catchment changes will be brought back to the PACs. The Board Chair responded by saying that they will.
- Another parent who is in the Albion catchment, wanted to reiterate how people do not want that boundary changed.
- A question was then raised around the proposed Enviro-school and whether it would actually be a school or a program within an existing school. The Superintendent responded by saying that it is still in the conceptual stage and it will depend on how many people will want it but that it could be a program in a school or it could grow into more. However, the district would not be building a new facility for it; the program would go into an existing school or in one of the current district buildings. They may partner up with the city and use community space as well.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

RMEF – Trustee Ward submitted a written report but advised that the foundation welcomed a new person to their board of directors as well as that the Gala plans are underway for May 8th.

BCSTA Provincial Council – Trustee Ward submitted a written report and also sent out an email to all Trustees about the deadline for motions. She did not receive any proposed motions from the Trustees so there will not be any motions from this Board going forward to the Provincial council.

BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch – Trustee Ward submitted a written report and advised that the next meeting is on February 4th.

Arts Council – Trustee Rempel advised that they had met last week. Also that last Saturday the Rotary clubs and Kwanis clubs had a fundraiser for shelter boxes for Haiti. He also wanted to share that there is a new pottery artist in Maple Ridge and that they will be in the schools and will assist with expanding the fine arts capacity in our community.

Municipal Advisory Committee – Trustee Huber submitted a written report. He also advised that the Olympic torch is coming through town but right after that, the Paralympic torch will be coming through and Maple Ridge is one of only 14 communities across Canada that was chosen as a location for the Paralympic torch to stop.

Good News Items – The Trustees and Staff then shared their good news items.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P247 – 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) 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 8:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer