



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 (6:00 PM)
DEO Boardroom**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Deputy Superintendent – Stewart Sonne
Secretary Treasurer – Wayne Jefferson
Communications Officer – Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant – Tina Fuchs

ABSENT Superintendent – Jan Unwin
Trustee Huber

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- Trustee Questions – SV

ORIGINAL - Motion P128 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) 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.

3. Correspondence

The Board received an email invitation from Kris Crawford to attend a series of events

ORIGINAL - Motion P129 – 09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board move this item of correspondence to the Chair Report for further discussion.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. September 30, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes
 - Correction – on page 10, "the turf field at PM Secondary has been fully funded," it has not been put in yet.

ORIGINAL - Motion P130 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the October 14, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair then invited anyone else to speak to any item on the agenda, at which time there was no one.

The Board Chair then welcomed Laurie Meston to the meeting and announced that the Deputy Superintendent, Stewart Sonne would be filling in for the Superintendent, Jan Unwin, as she was on vacation. She then added that Trustee Huber is attending to another matter and is running late and that he will try to make it back before the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

CHAIR REPORT

1. Cst. Paul Jeffrey's Flag Proposal

ORIGINAL - Motion P131 – 09/10

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

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair announced an initiative to purchase new flags for schools that need new ones, through a joint initiative with the RCMP and the Legion. The flags are also available through the purchasing department, so it will not be an issue for schools who choose to get new flags.

2. Invitation email

The Board received an email invitation from Kris Crawford, for a few different events which included going to MRSS for a dinner, joining MRSS in their student-lead conferences on October 15 (between 1 & 4 and 6-8), as well as going to the Jr. and Sr. fall music concerts on October 27 & 28.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Bill 33 Extension

Additional staffing has been added to get class ratios down. Laurie Meston gave brief overview of the primary level potential Bill 33 conflicts and the Deputy Superintendent, Stewart Sonne, gave a brief overview of the secondary level potential Bill 33 conflicts. Stewart was meeting the following day with the vice principals to go through every single violation. This extension for the submission of the final Bill 33 report is done annually.

ORIGINAL - Motion P132 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant extension of the Bill 33 Final Report deadline to October 28, 2009.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Alternative Schools Survey

The Deputy Superintendent circulated a hand out to everyone that was a copy of the survey that will be administered. He advised that staff are ready to go ahead with the survey and can begin as early as tomorrow to get this survey out to schools. Staff plans to put the survey on website as well, in order to get electronic results. This is the last opportunity for the Board to see it before it goes out. The end date just needs to be finalized. Staff are looking for feedback for the final date of survey and for how long the results will be gathered.

Three weeks was suggested as the length of time to collect the results. As well, Trustee Vdovine suggested that the survey should be sent to Parents along with a letter. The data should be collected by November 25 and then tabulated and brought to the Board meeting for their decision on December 9, 2009.

ORIGINAL - Motion P133 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board send a letter attached to the alternative schools survey, at a different time than the newsletter is sent, to all students, both primary & secondary.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair will work with Staff to create the letter and it will be sent out as soon as possible.

2. School Closure Update

The Deputy Superintendent gave a brief overview of what has happened regarding the possible school closures. He said that last Tuesday and Thursday they conducted school closure forums. Riverside's was on Tuesday, and Mount Crescent's was on Thursday. Riverside's meeting was very subdued and had good questions and good conversations. There were four main areas discussed - enrollment numbers, facilities, financial impacts, and educational opportunities across the district.

Mount Crescent's meeting had a larger crowd. There were different types and levels of concerns, specifically significant concern about the vulnerable children (special needs and ministry identified). The same four main criteria areas were discussed, along with amalgamation to Glenwood. There were great questions and conversations. The main concerns were the choice and care for children getting to their school of choice, catchment, and confusion around closing a school and then opening another school in the east.

Staff will propose a recommendation and bring it back to the Board long before the December 9th meeting, so that the proper decisions can be made.

Avenues were made to parent to submit comments or questions but see no need to go ahead with second set of preset meetings because no new information was brought forward at the meetings. No purpose in hosting another information session at either school at this time.

Discussion then continued around whether or not it would be worthwhile to continue to go ahead with the last two final public consultations at Riverside and Mount Crescent, as scheduled.

Alison, PAC chair, felt that the preset meetings should probably proceed as Q & A sessions and discussions, not necessarily to present information. She also wasn't sure if all the parents understand that amalgamation is our choice and that it doesn't necessarily just happen. She publically wanted to ask the Board ask if there is an option to vote on amalgamation and what the options are, otherwise students and staff may scatter. She thinks it would go a long way in facilitating the process.

The Board Chair felt that it would be worthwhile, perhaps not for Riverside but if the Board goes ahead with one of the meetings, they should do it for both schools. She then advised that a letter will need to be sent out being it is such short notice as the preset meetings were scheduled for the following week. For the most part the Trustees agreed that going ahead with the meetings would be best.

ORIGINAL - Motion P134 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board work towards meeting in mid-November with Staff to focus on key points and questions and then put the answers into a presentation for two, newly scheduled, final school closure consultation meetings at Riverside and Mount Crescent.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair stated that she will reluctantly support the motion, but that she actually believes the original dates that were set, should be followed.

The Board decided that a letter would be sent to each school and all parents involved, saying when the final two public consultation meetings will take place and also asking for any remaining key questions and or concerns that may not have been addressed yet. The Secretary Treasurer will work with the Board Chair to create the letter and get it sent out as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Education Committee

2. Aboriginal Education Committee

The committee met on October 5th. Trustee Carr submitted a written report.

3. Human Resources Committee

4. Inclusive Education Committee

5. Finance Committee

Going to meet at the end of October

6. Anti-Vandalism Committee

The Board Chair submitted a written report. She also really wanted to stress the \$630,000 spent on vandalism during the 2008-2009 school year. That is the equivalent of 10 teachers and almost a million dollars that could have been used in schools. The committee is currently working on an anonymous hotline similar to Crimestoppers, for the public to report vandalism. Halloween is typically the toughest night and it will be even tougher this year being it's a Saturday evening. The next meeting is on November 30.

7. Policy Advisory Committee

8. Communications Advisory

9. French Immersion Advisory

Next week

10. District Student Advisory

The first meeting of the year was yesterday. The Board Chair submitted a written report. The next meeting is on November 17.

11. Social Wellness Committee

12. Nutrition Committee

There is a meeting November 16, at 3:30 pm at MRSS.

13. Historical Committee

Seamus Nesling is going to find out when the next meeting is.

14. Advocacy Committee

Going to meet next Tuesday (October 20).

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Vdovine asked if the Board's meeting with PAC Chairs regarding gaming cuts has been set yet. The Board Chair advised that it is in the DPAC report, and that they suggested mid-November.

Employee group question – George Serra from the MRTA asked if the Board has started to discuss the collective agreement bargaining being contracts end in less than two years.

Trustee Palis advised that it's on the radar and will be a topic at the next Human Resources Committee meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

2. Joint Leisure Services
Meeting in November.

3. Social Planning Advisory
Trustee Palis submitted a written report.

4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council
The AGM was on October 5 and there are four new Directors.

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

ORIGINAL - Motion P135 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Board Chair's report on the BCSTA Provincial Council for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board Chair advised that there are 13 motions that she would like direction on how the Board would like her to vote on October 24.

The Board Chair also had a question about debt service grants, and whether that is something that is Board by Board or if it is Provincial? The Secretary Treasurer said that it is Board by Board, based on the agreement of funding from the government.

The Board then gave direction to the Chair as to how she should vote:

- Motion 5.1 – Annual Facilities Grant statement – she is to vote in favour.
- Motion 5.2 – Harmonized Sales Tax – she is not to vote in favour of a), b), c).
- Motion 5.3 – Increased Costs of Medical Service Plans – she is to vote in favour
- Motion 5.4, a) and b) - Amend to include consultation – she is to vote in favour
- Motion 5.5, a), b), & c) – she is to vote in favour.
- Motion 5.6 - Land and Property Disposal a) & b) – she is to vote in favour of deferring to the AGM.
- Motion 5.7 - Deferral of all-day K – she is to not vote in favour of deferring to AGM, logical communication plan and full funding, and French immersion.
- Motion 5.8 - Full day K – she is to vote in favour.
- Motion 5.9 - Greenhouse Gas Reduction – she is to vote in favour.
- Motion 5.10 - Carbon Neutral Plan – she is to vote in favour
- Motion 5.11 – Debt Service Grant Agreement – she is to vote in favour and hear what the debate at the table is.
- Motion 5.12 – Proposed Review of Boards of Education – she is to vote in favour.
- Motion 5.13 – she is to vote in favour.

7. District Parent Advisory Council

The Board Chair submitted a written report.

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

Meeting next week.

9. Youth Society Committee

Get your tickets for Romeo Dalairé.

10. External Representative Reports

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

Good news items:

- Trustee Carr – wanted to mention the fabulous staff at the Connex program. She visited them last week - they made a turkey dinner. The program is quite amazing, if haven't been you should go.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P127 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) 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 8:05 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer