



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, September 30, 2009 (6:00 PM)
DEO Boardroom**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

ABSENT – Trustee Rempel

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- Bill 33 Update – to Deputy Superintendent’s Information Items
- Trustee Motions – Motion from Trustee Clarkson
- Chair Report – BCSTA Provincial Government 2010 Budget Consultation Process

ORIGINAL - Motion P115 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) 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

There was none.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. September 9, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P116 – 09/10

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the September 9, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as circulated.' 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.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

CHAIR REPORT

1. BCSTA Finance Meeting Update

The Board Chair advised that the committee will again be looking at ways to save money. They will be going into full budget talks and deliberations. Input will be received at the Provincial Council meeting in February but they are looking at going green, tightening the budget, and being more cost effective.

2. BCSTA Budget Input

All the Trustees received an email from the BCSTA advising on to submit Budget input. Vancouver has a date of September 28 from 9-5 pm set aside for them, but that timeframe filled up before noon on the day it opened so there was no way to get in that Day. The Board Chair wanted to bring this information forward to the board for budget submissions.

The Trustees discussed possible options and gave their input. It was decided that a letter had to be written from all the Trustees on behalf of the school district. The Board directed the Secretary Treasurer to draft a letter and distribute it to the Trustees for their input, prior to the next Board meeting.

3. Invitation to the Connex/Arthur Peake Centres

Michele Schmidt invited the Board to come and see what they are doing at the centres. Tina will send the information to all of the Trustees.

4. UBCM Motions

Trustee Clarkson advised that some of the Trustees had met with members of the city councils in order to discuss the proposed UBCM motions that were going to be voted on at the UBCM Annual General Meeting (Sept. 30 – Oct. 2). The outcome of the UBC AGM should be coming soon from them in some sort of bulletin.

TRUSTEE MOTIONS

1. Electronic Voting Protocol – Trustee Vdovine

Trustee Vdovine proposed to pass a motion the following motion:

ORIGINAL - Motion P117 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion That the Board of Education review the attached draft Electronic Voting Protocol and consider changes, additions to, and adoption of the protocol as part of the Board's Bylaws.

He believes it is a housekeeping item and he thinks that the Board needs to clean up the process and put in place a protocol on how things are voted on over email. It would set parameters as to what will come forward on email and what will not and so on. This refers specifically to email in between Board meetings, not electronic meetings as stated in the bylaws.

Discussion ensued and questions and concerns were raised. There was believed to be some overlap with what has already been covered off in the current Bylaws.

The Trustees decided to table the motion until receiving further input from the Policy Committee.

ORIGINAL - Motion P118 – 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board table Trustee Vdovine's motion that the Board review the attached draft Electronic Voting Protocol and consider changes, additions to, and adoption of the protocol as part of the Board's Bylaws.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Recognizing World Teaching Day – Trustee Clarkson

Trustee Clarkson advised that this motion is a result of World Teaching Day being brought up at a meeting that he and the Superintendent had with the MRTA executives. He knows that in the past, the Board has recognized World Teaching Day in a variety of ways but it has not been consistent year after year. He was looking for some board direction and appetite for possible ways to recognize the day, which take place on October 5. However it is a very short timeline as October 5 is the following Monday.

The Superintendent advised that she was already planning on sending out a message to all the teachers in the district on that day, to show appreciation. She is also going to mention it on her Superintendent's Blog. Furthermore, she advised that at the Superintendents' meeting tomorrow, she's going to mention it and will make sure everyone is making some sort of gesture on that day.

The Board Chair suggested putting something on the homepage of the SD42 website. Communications Officer, Seamus Nesling, added that he could put together a poster and then email it as a PDF to all schools so that they can put it up to recognize the day.

The Board Chair then asked Vice President George Serra what his thoughts were around recognizing World Teaching Day. Mr. Serra stated that he thought it was more so about the gesture than about what is actually done.

It was decided that the Board Chair will work with the Communications Officer to try and get something out to the schools for that day. She then publicly invited everyone to get out and about in the schools, especially on that day.

ORIGINAL - Motion P119 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education recognize World Teaching Day on October 5, 2009..' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Postponing the Alternate School Survey - Trustee Clarkson

Trustee Clarkson wanted to put forward a motion to – postpone the implementation of the alternative school/program survey; establish a Board Committee which includes Trustees, a senior staff member, and representatives from each partner group; and the committee will review the form and context of the survey. The committee would then decide on a process and timeline for implementation, budget implications, and would establish criteria to decide which school or program will be implemented and then come back to the Board with their recommendations.

Trustee Clarkson explained that the reason for his motion is that he would like to propose a third option because the current two options of either proceeding with the survey or not proceeding with the survey, makes for winners and losers in the situation. This would give time to explore and it would be an opportunity for stakeholders to take part. He doesn't think the Board should make decisions on information that isn't publicly available. This was discussed at the last board work day not at a board meeting, and so staff needs to put on the public record what the concerns are.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Board had asked staff to prepare and bring forward a survey and that hasn't been done. However, there will be two public meetings next week regarding public school closure and the results of those meetings might be helpful in the survey aspect as to what options there are.

The Superintendent then added that there needs to be a plan for implementation based on what comes back from survey. She wanted to make sure the details are all covered off before carrying out the survey and she also wanted to see what could actually be done. She advised that the Senior Staff are fully prepared to run an extensive survey and that a plan is in place. The turnaround time would be about 6 weeks.

Trustee Clarkson then asked for direction from the Board for timelines around his motion; however he felt it should be a short timeline. He also thought that perhaps it would be best to align the alternative school survey with the school closure timeline, and also possibly include the previously proposed environmental school in the survey as well. However the motion does need timelines and guidelines for follow up.

Discussion ensued. Trustee Vdovine added that he thought the information was going to be presented before making a decision on closing any schools. He thinks that it should proceed the way it has already been decided previously. The Trustees were also concerned about the lack of time to set up a committee and proceed with all of the steps outlined in Trustee Clarkson's motion. Based on the Board's discussions and decisions last June, the alternative survey schedule is already 2 weeks behind.

Trustee Clarkson agreed that it perhaps would be best to continue to go with what had already been decided in June and that his motion should be defeated.

ORIGINAL - Motion P120 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board postpone the implementation of the alternative school/program survey; establish a Board Committee which includes Trustees, a senior staff member, and representatives from each partner group; and the committee will review the form and context of the survey. The committee would then decide on a process and timeline for implementation, budget implications, and would establish criteria to decide which school or program will be implemented and then come back to the Board with their recommendations.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 0 Nay: 6.
The motion was DEFEATED.

The Trustees then agreed that the cost of analyzing the survey needs to be addressed.

The Secretary Treasurer added that he is prepared to give an estimate of timing and cost implications, but that Staff needs to know if we can meet the implications after we ask the question. The Board is looking at about a \$5000 budget to implement the survey, not counting time, and that is in the budget but after that, the cost implications are not known.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Procedural Bylaws 3rd and final reading

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Procedural Bylaws were amended and then put out for input. No input had been received therefore they are being brought back for the third and final reading.

ORIGINAL - Motion P121 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board grant final reading to the Procedural Bylaws for the third and final time.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Audited Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer advised that he is satisfied with details around rollovers and balances that form part of the final financial statements and he wanted to thank staff for their work. He then introduced Ms. Donna Diskos, Auditor, from Grant Thornton to present her report.

She explained that the financial statements brought forward are for the year ended June 30, 2009. She advised that the information had been accurately presented, that there were no disagreements from management, and that the auditors had excellent cooperation from staff during the audit process.

ORIGINAL - Motion P122 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2009.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS**1. School Closure Update**

The Superintendent advised that there had been a forum to discuss the process and that it had been revamped slightly. The Public School Closure Consultation Meetings are still taking place next week, Tuesday at Riverside and Thursday at Mount Crescent.

She stated that the presentations for the meeting will be to bring everyone up to speed and explain the framework of how they will be presenting everything that they know around the impacts and implications as well as anything they now know, that they didn't before. Then at the end of the presentation they will then try to answer all the questions and will also spend time addressing commitments they will make IF a school were to close. They will also share as best as they can, some facilities usage, want to make sure that they maintain the integrity of the process and give people all the information possible.

ORIGINAL - Motion P123 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's School Closure update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS INFORMATION ITEMS1. Bill 33 Update

The Deputy Superintendent, Stewart Sonne, distributed a preliminary report that showed an overview of the compliance with Bill 33 for the elementary schools and secondary schools in the district.

He explained that all the Elementary schools are well in control as they are at or below class size limits. He then went on to say that the Secondary Schools data will continue to change daily, especially in the first two weeks of October, but that there is a lot of time involved to deal with Secondary classes. He will share a final report at the Board meeting on October 14th.

ORIGINAL - Motion P124 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Deputy Superintendent's update on Bill 33 for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S INFORMATION ITEMS1. Eagle Route Bicycle Trail

The Secretary Treasurer was pleased to announce that he has a meeting arranged for October 9 at 9 AM with Rick Halas from the Municipality of Maple Ridge, to discuss the proposed Eagle Route bicycle trail. The city has assigned Mr. Halas to be responsible for that review. The Secretary Treasurer ensured that he has spoken to Mr. Halas in order to make sure all the information is available for their upcoming meeting. He believes that the potential Eagle Route will be a benefit for Maple Ridge as well as to school sites.

ORIGINAL - Motion P125 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's update on the Eagle Route for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Preliminary Enrollment Update

The Secretary Treasurer advised that it is a good news story. The District is better off than what they thought the reductions were going to be. Kindergarten enrollment is up over last year which is positive. Kindergarten to grade three are up 65 students roughly from last year, grades four to seven are down 130 students from last year, and grades eight to twelve are down 24 students from last year. Over all, this is only a difference of 88 more students than last year. He then advised that the International Education division has met its target which is very important.

ORIGINAL - Motion P126 – 09/10

Member (Mike Huber) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's update Preliminary Enrollment 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. Education Committee

2. Aboriginal Education Committee

3. Human Resources Committee

4. Inclusive Education Committee

Trustee Clarkson submitted a written report.

5. Finance Committee

6. Anti-Vandalism Committee

The Committee met on Monday, and Trustee Ward advised that there had been \$630,000 worth of Vandalism in the last year to the buildings in this district

7. Policy Advisory Committee

8. Communications Advisory

Trustee Carr submitted a written report. She also advised that the Committee has decided that their purpose and goals need to be revamped

9. French Immersion Advisory

10. District Student Advisory

There is a meeting on October 13.

11. Social Wellness Committee

12. Nutrition Committee

Trustee Carr submitted a written report. She advised that the committee had met for first time this year, on September 21 and that the focus of committee at the present is to determine the purpose of the committee. The next meeting is on October 19.

13. Historical Committee

14. Advocacy Committee

Trustee Vdovine submitted a written report. He advised that the committee has decided to meet monthly and that once the initial outline of the parameters for the committee are established, he will bring them forward to the Board.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were none.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

2. Joint Leisure Services

The next meeting will take place on October 8 however Trustees Ward and Huber are not going to be able to attend as it is on the same night as the Mount Crescent school closure meeting. She will send regrets on behalf of her and Trustee Huber and will also find out if Trustee Rempel will be attending.

3. Social Planning Advisory

The next meeting is on October 7.

4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

The next meeting is on October 15.

5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

The Board Chair advised that it will be October 23 that the Board will get the motions that were passed at the Provincial Council, and that at the October 14th Board meeting, the Board will give direction to her, the BCSTA Provincial Council Representative, for voting.

7. District Parent Advisory Council

At their next meeting on October 5th, they would like the Board to give a brief update on the current issues, successes, and any other relevant news that the Board would like to share with DPAC. Going forward, this will be a brief monthly update given by whoever is the Board DPAC representative for that month. All the Partner Groups have been asked if they would like to do that as well.

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

9. Youth Society Committee

Trustee Carr submitted a written report and advised that the committee had met last week. Two things that she wanted to mention were that the lower mainland real estate group as is considering fundraising activities which would be a great benefit to the society and to the youth in the area. Secondly, on October 22, Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire is doing speaking engagement at the Act. She

distributed a hand out to everyone with the details. Mr. Dallaire has agreed to split the proceeds with the Youth Society which is great. As of last week, they had sold 250 tickets so far and there are a total of 500 tickets to sell. She added that it would really be appreciated if everyone got the word out.

Trustee Huber then stated that he would work on funding for the DSAC executives to attend this speaking engagement if the Superintendent would work on funding for some of the students throughout the district to attend.

10. External Representative Reports

The Board Chair submitted a written report for the Fraser Valley Branch meeting. She advised that the branch also wanted input from each Board on their individual board committee structures and so she will be pulling that information together and sending it in to the branch for their December Academy meeting. She also wanted to mention that the registration for the BCSTA Trustee Academy meeting in December opens on October 14 so all the Trustees are to let the Executive Assistant know whether they are attending by October 12.

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

Good news items:

- Trustee Palis – The turf field at Pitt Secondary has been fully funded, it was a community effort and is big news for everyone in the district. She also went to awards ceremony for the end of the spirit week celebration, which recognized achievements from the year before. Lastly, she wanted to announce that Whonnock Elementary finally got their crosswalk.
- Trustee Clarkson - Had went with the Board Chair and the Superintendent to the Me to We event and it was excellent. It was a draining day because it was so emotionally charged but he thinks it was a life-altering experience for the kids. He would definitely encourage other Trustees to go next year.
- Trustee Ward – Wanted to mention that at the Blue Mountain Garden celebration, the students had made place cards for seating and the pictures the kids drew on the place cards depicted each person to a tee, it's like they knew who each person was. The highlight of the event was that all the kids were so proud of their community garden. It brought the community into their school just as they had hoped. She also wanted to add that she too enjoyed the Me to We event and on the ride back, everyone was so wound up inside because of the energy in the building. This morning she also attended the assembly at Maple Ridge Elementary and they had Cops for Cancer there, and they made an entertaining presentation; there was so much cheering and a high level of energy there too.
- Trustee Clarkson also wanted to mention some Book-fest books he brought in and suggested each of the Trustees take a book or two to read. The author of the books, Gordon Korman, will also be speaking at the Act on October 19, & 20 as part of the book-fair. He wrote his first book when 12 and is a very good author.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P127 – 09/10

Member (Eleanor Palis) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) 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