



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 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 – Dr. Dave Rempel
Trustee – Stepan Vdovine

STAFF:

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

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

The Board Chair welcomed everyone and also welcomed Ms. Jan Unwin, as the new Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Stewart Sonne as the new Deputy Superintendent for the first four months of the year.

The Superintendent then explained the way the new Executive Team organization will work.

2. Ordering of Agenda

Added:

- 2 Trustee Motions by Trustee Vdovine
- Trustee Motion by Trustee Clarkson

ORIGINAL - Motion P100 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) 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.

3. Correspondence

ORIGINAL - Motion P101 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive any correspondence for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

Trustee Vdovine moved a letter from BCSTA to the Chair Report and the Board Chair moved a letter from War Child Canada to the Chair Report.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. June 24, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P102 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Mike Huber) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the June 24, 2009 Public Meeting Minutes as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

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

CHAIR REPORT

1. Disability Games Plaque Presentation

The Board Chair thanked Trustees Rempel and Palis for joining her at the Disability Games. She then displayed the plaque that the District was presented with by the Disability Games, for all of the District's support. She stated that without a doubt, the Staff of this district did a phenomenal job with organizing and our students were right up front volunteering. The level of support from SD 42 was noticed and recognized immensely.

2. BCSTA Letter

A letter from BCSTA had been received advising that at the AGM, it was announced that BCSTA would be providing all districts with a 2% refund on the 2008-2009 memberships. Trustee Vdovine wanted to know if there had been any discussions to reduce the membership fees beyond the mentioned 2%. The Board Chair advised that yes there have been discussions but as to where they are at today, she wasn't sure. She advised that there is another BCSTA finance meeting in mid September and the BCSTA is looking at other ways to reduce costs so she will report back to the board after that meeting takes place.

around HST to the Ministry of Finance copying the BCSTA, other boards, and the Federal Minister of Finance.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Secretary Treasurer agreed to draft these letters and then email them to the Trustees for input.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S DECISION ITEMS

1. Temporary Borrowing

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the agreement for Temporary Borrowing is being brought forward because the TD bank is looking for assurance. It is similar to having an overdraft type of protection and the District is not in need of it, it is just for assurance purposes.

ORIGINAL - Motion P106 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board approve the Temporary Borrowing Agreement with TD Bank.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. RCMP Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P107 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's RCMP update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

That Superintendent advised that this is a good news story that resulted from budget discussions last year. The District has had some excellent conversations with some of the RCMP's top people. We had drifted apart in the past but are now developing a partnership agreement for prevention rather than law enforcement. The Superintendent believes this will develop into a strong and positive partnership and will keep the Board informed as it progresses.

2. School Closure Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P108 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) 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: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

War Child Letter

A letter had been received from War Child Canada to thank the district for all of their support over the past 10 years. Teachers and students in our district have raised over 300 dollars in support of children affected by war. Through War Child youth initiatives, Canadian youth have raised over \$600,000 to support children affected by war. The Board Chair thought that the letter from War Child to the District speaks volumes about the level of commitment from throughout our district. She thinks this is very significant in today's economy and wanted to give kudos to staff and students of Allouette elementary.

TRUSTEE MOTIONS

1. Efficiencies in Operational Expenses to Protect Classroom Services Motion – Trustee Vdovine

ORIGINAL - Motion P103 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board support the Superintendent of Schools to continue to take all necessary steps to mitigate any compromise to educational services and review all projects and initiatives underway that are not directly related to classroom learning; and report back to the Board by December 2009.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine advised that he was late submitting this motion but that he thinks it is critical to send a message to the public around our responsibilities and while we might be experiencing these difficulties, it's critical that services in the classroom are not affected. The deadline is reasonable for staff as well.

2. Emergency Meeting to Discuss Gaming Grant Cuts Motion – Trustee Vdovine

ORIGINAL - Motion P104 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board hold an emergency meeting with the District's PAC Chairs and DPAC Executive to discuss the implications of lottery and gaming grant cuts to PACs.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine advised that grants for students have been reduced and so we need to have this conversation with PAC chairs to see how great of an impact it is and to assess and find out what we can do about it.

3. Writing letters to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance Motions – Trustee Clarkson

ORIGINAL - Motion P105 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education copying the BCSTA and other boards, addressing our concerns with the funding of education and how it impacts our district specifically around AFG, and BC school sports; and also that the Board send a second letter around the impact in our district specifically

The Superintendent advised that basically she just wants to ensure the information is getting out to people so that the dates are put in everyone's calendars. The meetings will start 7 pm and will be Tuesday October 6 at Riverside and on Thursday October 8 at Mount Crescent. Two additional dates have also been set aside in case there are emergent issues that arise from either meeting and these dates are Monday, October 19 at Mount Crescent and Tuesday, October 20 at Riverside. Following these meetings Staff will make a recommendation to the Board and possible closures will be decided upon prior to Christmas. These dates will be put on the website as well and there will also be a communication strategy in the newspaper, letters to parents, and so forth.

3. H1N1 Update

ORIGINAL - Motion P109 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Superintendent's H1N1 update for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent advised that information had been sent out in the form of the two attached letters, which gave all the specifics of who's at risk, what the facts are, details about our region, etc. Principals have also been asked to get these out to all students and staff by the end of this week. It is a standard communication.

Trustee Vdovine asked if there are any anticipated cost implications. The Superintendent explained that there is not a lot of anticipated cost but as with any pandemic issue, Judy Dueck, will be creating some kind of contingency plan, and the cost is not something that can be anticipated. Just regular amounts of money have been set aside at this point, which is already part of the budget and no extra funding has been required. The District has taken precautions already but each person/student needs to be personally responsible by using hand sanitizer and washing their hands frequently.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Garabaldi Update

The Secretary Treasurer advised that everyone is happy and that the school had opened as planned on September 8. Some time had been lost due to some setbacks in July but it is being done right and everyone will be pleased with the results. Students will be moved from the old section to the new section by Thanksgiving weekend.

ORIGINAL - Motion P110 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's update on Garabaldi Secondary School for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Annual Facilities Grant

The Secretary Treasurer advised that we are fortunate to have reserve funds that we have built up over the years. We have sufficient funds for the 2009-2010 school year but that non-renewal of the Annual Facilities Grant next year will be devastating to our school district. He attached a list of the major project areas that are in the plans for the coming months.

ORIGINAL - Motion P111 – 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's update on the Annual Facilities Grant for information.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. 15 Passenger Vans

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the US has banned 15 passenger vans but in Canada it hasn't come to that. He would like to bring the people back, who looked at this 2 years ago, in order to make the van use safe. He's putting together a team to investigate and look at the current procedures to make sure we have the protection we need and he will bring back a report to update the Board as soon as this work has been completed.

Deputy Superintendent, Stewart Sonne, then requested to be part of the committee because of his own personal experience with a fatal accident that occurred while he was a passenger in a 15-passenger van.

ORIGINAL - Motion P112 – 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 15 Passenger Vans 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. Education Committee

2. Aboriginal Education Committee

3. Human Resources Committee

There is a meeting next week, on September 17th.

4. Inclusive Education Committee

5. Finance Committee

6. Anti-Vandalism Committee

Next meeting is on September 28.

7. Policy Advisory Committee

8. Communications Advisory

9. French Immersion Advisory

10. District Student Advisory

The first meeting for the school year is in October.

11. Social Wellness Committee

12. Nutrition Committee

13. Historical Committee

14. Advocacy Committee

The first meeting is scheduled for the 3rd week of September – date TBD – Trustee Vdovine will email the Board Chair and other Trustees once the date, time, and location have been decided.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee Questions

2. Staff Questions

3. Public Questions

Mr. David Murray, a CUPE representative, wanted to let everyone know that he is going to be seeking election in his riding, for MVP for the next federal election. He also complimented the Board and Secretary Treasurer on not having to borrow money this year and expressed his appreciation for the Board's diligence and efforts. He also wanted to remind everyone of how important it is to continue to lobby the government and be cognoscente about economic concerns.

Trustee Huber thanked Mr. Murray for coming and also wanted to say how important it is for him to stay involved not only before the election, but after as well.

4. DPAC Questions

The DPAC Co-Chair advised that the 1st meeting is on October 5th, at 7 pm, here at the D.E.O. and that everyone is welcome.

5. Employee Group Questions

Mr. George Serra, Vice President of the MRTA wanted to point out perception is key regarding the AFG money and that while prioritizing is important, it's also important that people know that savings come

from cuts in other areas, where money may also still be needed. He's worried that people may read about this in the newspaper and perceive it differently and not see the impact that it may have.

The Secretary Treasurer added by saying that his door is always open and if there is an issue with Health and Safety, that money will be used for it, so if there is ever an issue in that area, he needs to know about it.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation

2. Joint Leisure Services

At the July meeting there was a tour of all potential dog park sites.

3. Social Planning Advisory

There is a meeting tonight (September 9).

4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility

The next meeting is on September 17.

5. Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council

6. BCSTA Provincial Council

The deadline for submitting motions is September 28, 2009 and must be of an emergent nature. The motions have to come from the Board. Motions from Trustees can be emailed to Kathie and copied to all the other Trustees.

Trustee Vdovine had the following motion:

ORIGINAL - Motion P113 – 09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board request the BCSTA to develop a comprehensive advocacy response to the cancellation of the Annual Facilities Grant.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine will send the motion to all the Trustees and will make sure it's on the proper template.

6. District Parent Advisory Council

8. Tzu Chi Foundation

9. Youth Society Committee

10. External Representative Reports

11. Board Liaison Representative Reports

12. Other Trustee Reports

Good news items:

- Trustee Palis - Kids are back in School!
- Trustee Clarkson – advised that he and Trustees Rempel, Palis, and Ward all attended the Summer Leadership Conference in Penticton in August and that it was an excellent conference. The presentations were really great. He wanted to encourage more Trustees to attend the conference in the future as it is very worthwhile.
- Trustee Ward – advised that normally the Board doesn't single out our graduates because they all do great and make us proud with their applications and scholarships but this one came to her prior to school starting up and it is kind of a different recognition. She had represented the Board to give one of three students, in all of Canada, the McDonald scholarship, which will help the student for the next 2 years. The Board Chair also advised that SD42 was spoken of very highly and that the McDonald scholarship is a very difficult scholarship to win so she thinks it speaks volumes to the quality of education that is given in our district. She also wanted to mention the number of thank you's that the Board has received; not only from scholarship recipients, but also from retirees. A multitude of thank you letters and cards received.

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P114 – 09/10

Member (Ken Clarkson) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) 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 7:30 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer