



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (6:00 PM)
DEO Board Room**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

ABSENT:

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Correspondence

- i. Two Letters from Barry O'Neill, President, CUPE BC Division
- ii. Letter from Marc Dalton, M.L.A., Maple Ridge - Mission

ORIGINAL - Motion P291 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) 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: 7 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Ordering of Agenda

Corrections:

- E1. Chair Report - BCSTA AGM Draw – Removed

Added:

- H2a) Superintendent - Information Item - Environmental School Update
- Deputy Superintendent News
- H2c) Secretary Treasurer Information Update on daycare and work by staff

ORIGINAL - Motion P292 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) 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.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. March 17, 2010 Public Meeting Minutes

ORIGINAL - Motion P293 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT the Minutes of the March 17, 2010 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. PRESENTATIONS

A member of the public provided a handout to the Executive Assistant and discussed costs/expenses of Trustees. The Secretary Treasurer stated that policies will be brought forward tonight for proposal and questions will be addressed during Question Period.

D. DELEGATIONS

E. CHAIR REPORT

The Chair reported on the March 24th Board Workday and their meeting with staff concerning recognition training. It has been decided that the district is going to expand as a result of the Have Your Say survey. On the upcoming April 21st Board Workday, they have scheduled time to work on a broad range of evaluation programs regarding senior staff, administration and look at the Board conducting self-evaluations.

F. DEFERRED ITEMS

G. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

Board Goals, Accomplishments and Work Elements

At the February 24, 2010 public meeting, the Chair brought forth the Board Goals and Work Elements for feedback and comments.

Discussion ensued around the Board Goals and Work Elements and the ways in which to measure same. Superintendent Unwin responded by confirming that measurements will be made through the repeated process of the District's "Have Your Say Survey". In addition, alignment will be made through creating policies and procedures that will improve efficiency and effectiveness.

ORIGINAL - Motion P294 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Palis) Moved, Member (Trustee Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'THAT the Board ratify the Board Goals and Work Elements.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT1. Decision Items:

- a) Superintendent of Schools
- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer
 - i. Draft Policy Structure Proposal

Pursuant to the direction of the Board as part of their key work as Trustees and in their roles responsible for governance under the School Act, The Secretary Treasurer has developed a draft proposal for the on-going work of policy development. The framework and structure of the existing SD 42 Policy Structure be amended and revised as per the attached proposal. This is an enabling measure to put policies into a context and relevancy: a body of knowledge in terms of policies.

ORIGINAL - Motion P295 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Palis) seconded to approve 'THAT the Board amend the current Policy Structure by approving the proposal as per the attached draft document and direct the Secretary Treasurer to begin the implementation plan.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 7 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ORIGINAL - Motion P296 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Vdovine) Moved, Member (Trustee Carr) seconded to approve 'THAT all draft policies be put to the public for comments and feedback.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye 7 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ii. Draft Policies: Trustee-Provision of Resources; and Professional Development and Attendance at Conferences

At the January Finance Committee of the Whole meeting, the Committee struck a Sub-Committee to begin the work of reviewing the current policies for currency and relevancy. The Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee on several occasions reported out to the Finance Committee, its findings and work, to update the current policies to reflect current practices.

At the last Finance Committee meeting, it was recommended that the two draft policies for Trustee Resources and Trustee Professional Development be brought forward to the next Public board meeting.

There was considerable discussion and debate on the spirit, intent and details contained in both policies. The guiding principles and belief was that the Board of Education should provide the necessary tools and

resources for the Trustees to carry out their duty both at the Board offices and schools, as well as, working from home.

These two policies are both enabling and permissive to allow Trustees to recover out of pocket costs to fulfill their role and to attend and participate in personal and recommended professional development growth related to their roles. Chair Clarkson established that Trustees will be responsible for their own funds and will be advised on a quarterly basis as to the state of their account.

Comments were brought forward indicating that for the purposes of public understanding, the website should include dollar amounts that are assigned to each Trustee and updated accordingly. Comments were made with respect to wording around “Provision of Resources” and spoke against the power of the Board to review employee files. Clarification was requested surrounding the definition of the term ‘School District Employee’ and whether or not the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer should be given power to approve use of services.

ORIGINAL - Motion P297 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Vdovine) seconded to approve ‘THAT the Board receive the two draft policies titled: 1) Trustee – Provision of Resources; and 2) Trustee – Professional Development and Attendance at Conference Policies. The two drafts being circulated for information and feedback.’ Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 7 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Information Items:

a) Superintendent of Schools

i. Foundation Skills Assessment

Superintendent Unwin reported that the 2010 FSA’s are now complete and the District is waiting for the results. Discussion ensued regarding the validity of the FSA’s: testing, variables, cohorts. A proposal was brought forward that the Board needs to reiterate to the Ministry our Board’s position on it.

ORIGINAL - Motion P298 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Ward) Moved, Member (Trustee Carr) seconded to approve ‘THAT the Chair write a letter to the Ministry outlining our school district’s frustration with the lack of resolution and encouraging the Ministry to work with the school districts accordingly sending a copy to the BCSTA, circulating to the Trustees and to the Advocacy Committee.’ Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was Aye: 7 Nay: 0

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

i. Environmental School

Superintendent Unwin spoke to the Environmental School and the million dollar grant attached to the proposed school and how the proposal has exceeded expectations. Basically, no grant - no school. No Board approval - no school. No kids - no school. This school is not a typical school and was simply attached to the survey for feedback to gain more data to solicit interest. Superintendent Unwin stated that this is the epitomy of good proposals and that the group has been told there is no money to

support their program. The Board will have ultimate say with respect to their school however, SD42 will not be receiving any monies; seconding staff through SFU. Trustee Huber requested frequent future updates at public meetings. An upcoming information night was noted as taking place on April 8th at the Maple Ridge Eagles Hall (Fern Crescent) from 4:30 – 5:30p.m. Information will be provided with respect to grants and structure to date. Recommended all Trustees attend.

Thanked Laurie Meston for a job well done during her four months of rotating as Deputy Superintendent and is pleased to announce that David Vandergugten will be the next Deputy Superintendent.

- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer thanked all members of the community with respect to the current daycare issue and outlined the ongoing meetings with preschool and daycare operators in determining needs and that it was unfortunate that discussions could not play out before concerns were raised to the media. The Secretary Treasurer apologized on behalf of the Trustees who were unaware of the closing of the daycare. In order to make changes, the District wishes to continue to meet with operators seeking positive solutions.

Superintendent Unwin commented that as much as the district embraces the value of daycares, the District must keep in mind the demands of our kids, fiscal responsibility and that it is important to know that the conversations with Ministry to date, have indicated a priority to daycare including before and after school care that services the families and kids in those schools.

Discussion ensued regarding the operators, business proposals and entertaining of such. Strategic planning will be a key part.

Trustee Huber questioned the processes. The Secretary Treasurer spoke to Request For Proposals (“RFPs”) and mentioned that as part of the process, would include management to come back to get direction. Trustee Huber fundamentally disagrees that with respect to our schools, they are a public asset and if the public is aware space is available, it is our fundamental role to best use those spaces. Superintendent Unwin confirmed fairness to all public is key. Trustee Carr asked if this process could become part of the district review at a Work Day. The Secretary Treasurer agreed however, would like to finish with the current situation and that Laurie Meston, Rick Delorme, and he are working on a proposal to go back to the Ministry in the Fall regarding the costs.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2c) Inclusive Education (Handout).

Chair Clarkson reported that this is a valuable committee of importance to parents and welcomed any Trustees to attend any meetings.

2j) District Student Advisory Committee. Trustee Carr attended a meeting on March 23, 2010 whereby she participated in a brainstorming session where the students were asked to provide feedback about their schools. She has asked the kids to make a presentation to the Board sometime in the future.
April 21, 2010 – Core Project.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

1. Public Questions

Two members of the public questioned the current roofing BC Bid which came out on March 23rd allowing for a site visit on the 26th and that one manufacturer to be used on project to supply material and only had 4 days to close tender. Accordingly, they respectfully requested an extension of tender of four or five days be granted. The Secretary Treasurer reported that he will be meeting with the Operations Manager tomorrow. Trustee Carr asked that the Board be included in the process as the matter is reviewed.

Member of the public inquired:

- Trustee Budget Line for each Trustee. The Chair explained that there is no more money being allocated – simply a re-distribution of money providing more accountability.
- As to when the public may expect the April, May and June 2009 Financial Statements to be uploaded to the website.
- Date of departure for former Secretary Treasurer, Don Woytowich (May 15); and the appointment of present Secretary Treasurer, Wayne Jefferson (May 25).
- Questioned why there has been such a drastic change to the Financial Statement format. The Secretary Treasurer explained that the Government provides the format and we are legislated to abide by same.
- Questioned as to where the Board sits with respect to the daycare matter. The Secretary Treasurer stated that the media issue had grown prior to the completion of discussions with the operators. The daycares represent a private business entering into a mutually agreed contract and all variables were considered and reiterated and that SD42 is not a public service here to protect private business. Superintendent Unwin added that our mandate is always about the kids.

1. Employee Group Questions

George Serra requested clarification on the daycare/school closing issue, the need for space and the understanding of the six month issue and inquired into whether or not this is clear to the operator. Chair Clarkson reiterated that miscommunication occurred due to the 5 year contract vs. 6 month option out clause.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Ridge Meadows Community Arts Council – Trustee Rempel reported on an outstanding meeting on March 22, 2010, whereby he participated in a workshop dealing with governance.

Good News Items:

Trustee Ward attended the Whonnock Elementary Flag raising ceremony and commended the school for such a great event.

Trustees Palis and Carr together with Deputy Superintendent Meston, attended the MRSS culinary arts dinner and assisted with the Grade 10 Interviews held at Garibaldi Secondary School.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

ORIGINAL - Motion P299 – 09/10

Member (Trustee Rempel) Moved, Member (Trustee Ward) 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 8:10 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer