



**Education Policy Development Committee and Operations Policy and Planning Committee
October 12, 2010 Combined Meeting – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

REGULAR MINUTES

Present: **TRUSTEES**
Bev Horsman, Chair
Tom Ferris
Elaine Leonard
Michael McEvoy
Jim Holland
Catherine Alpha
Peg Orcherton
John Young
Dave Pitre

ADMINISTRATION

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer
Sherry Bell, Associate Superintendent
Patrick Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Chris Harvey, Associate Superintendent
Debra Laser, Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Randy Kaneen, District Principal, Learning Initiatives
Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services
Ted Pennell, Director of Information Technology
Linda Senft, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the October 12, 2010 regular agenda be approved with a change to add item 3.1. Michelle Milne, VPEC member speaking about K/1 split classes.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the September 13, 2010 combined Education Policy Development and Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Michelle Milne, Victoria Public Education Coalition (VPEC) requested an update on the concerns that were raised at the September 13, 2010 Education Policy Development and Operations Policy and Planning combined committee meeting on K/1 split classes. Associate Superintendent Sherri Bell explained that she has personally visited all of the full-day K/1 classes and has met with the teachers. Thus far things are going very well and in-service support has been provided for kindergarten teachers. Randy Kaneen, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, explained that a member of the Learning Initiatives Team has visited all of the full-day K/1 classes and offered support. A kindergarten workshop took place at the beginning of October and another will occur at the end of the month. They will continue the ongoing support and monitoring of all K/1 and full-day kindergarten classes.

4. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

David Futter, GVTA – BCeSIS

David Futter spoke to the committee about the ongoing issues with BCeSIS and the daily struggles and frustrations teachers and administration experience. A discussion took place between Trustees and guests regarding the amount of service interruptions, attendance and report card issues with BCeSIS. The school start up this year had staff experiencing a large amount of service interruptions and there are concerns with BCeSIS as it relates to the recording of information for the November report cards.

Ted Pennell, Director of Information Technology explained that this is the sixth year SD61 has been using BCeSIS. The Ministry of Education oversees BCeSIS and Fujitsu Canada hosts the application on behalf of the Ministry of Education. BCeSIS was developed by AAL Solutions; all school districts across BC are either using BCeSIS or have expressed an intent to use it. The issues experienced this year were related to poor system performance to the point of failure when the system was under load. It appears that most of the performance issues have stabilized and work is continuing to address the performance concerns.

Trustee Orcherton acknowledged the concerns and recommended that a letter be written to the Minister of Education highlighting the issues with BCeSIS.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a moratorium on any future additions to the BCeSIS system until all system performance issues have been fully resolved.

Motion Carried

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Bill 33 – Class Size and Composition Report

Superintendent Gaipman clarified that the vote with respect to Bill 33 is to verify that the organization of classes in the school district is 1) in compliance with class size provisions, and 2) is, in the opinion of the superintendent, appropriate for student learning.

Superintendent Gaipman presented the report and provided details on the District's class size and composition as at September 30, 2010. As per the legislation requirements, the Superintendent must submit the Bill 33 report to the Ministry of Education by October 15, 2010 to verify that the organization of classes in the Greater Victoria School District is in compliance with class size provisions and is in the opinion of the superintendent appropriate for student learning. Superintendent Gaipman confirmed that the District has complied with the legislation requirements.

Trustees thanked teachers, principals, senior management and the Superintendent for doing the best that they can within the guidelines of the Bill 33 legislation. Discussion ensued around the reported class sizes and composition. Trustee Orcherton commented that the provincial government is not providing adequate funding to meet the needs of all students, and that there is a need to continue to advocate for changes to public education funding.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board agrees to rise from the Committee meeting and adjourn to a Special Board meeting this evening to finalize the Bill 33 decision. The Committee meeting will reconvene thereafter.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

6. EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. eLearning GVSD Webpage

Randy Kaneen, District Principal, Learning Initiatives' presentation was deferred to the next Education Policy and Development meeting.

7. PERSONNEL

- a) Correspondence Referred to Committee – none
- b) Unfinished Business – none
- c) Administration Reports to Committee – none

8. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

- a) Correspondence Referred to Committee – none
- b) Unfinished Business – none
- c) **Administration Reports to Committee**

1. 2011/2012 Proposed Budget Planning Cycle

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault provided an overview of the proposed 2011-2012 budget plan. Trustees stated their support of the plan and indicated that additional meetings can be added if needed. The information will be posted to the District website.

9. FACILITIES PLANNING

- a. Correspondence Referred to Committee - none
- b. Unfinished Business – none
- c. **Administration Reports to Committee**

1. Status Report on Capital Projects

Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services provided an update on the progress made on the major capital projects. Special mention was made about a proposal that was received from the Lake Hill Little League Association regarding a ball diamond project at Lake Hill Elementary School. The Lake Hill Little League Association would like to finance the creation of a new ball diamond. Mr. Howley reported that there would be no cost to the district to build the ball diamond and explained that the consultation process has been undertaken in the community. Additional details will be provided when available.

10. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS – none

11. NEW BUSINESS / NOTICE OF MOTIONS - none

12. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – none

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.