



Operations Policy and Planning Committee
November 8, 2010 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom

REGULAR MINUTES

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

ADMINISTRATION
John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer
Patrick Duncan, Associate Superintendent
Debra Laser, Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services
Doreen Hegan, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

That the November 8, 2010 regular agenda be approved with a change to 5.A.1 Bylaw 9360.1 In Camera Meetings, General Sessions being deferred to the January 10, 2011 meeting, and an added Presentation 4.3 Andrew Bailey, Parent.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the October 12, 2010 combined Education Policy Development and Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - None

4. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

Trustee Leonard welcomed the presenters and informed the Committee that Karen Weiss wasn't able to attend the meeting.

1. David Futter, Teacher – WiFi

David Futter stated that he would like to see an open discussion about WiFi in schools and expressed his concern about the environment that students are learning in. Mr. Futter suggested that the District Health and Safety Committee review the literature and report back to the Board of Education.

Tammy and Robert Jeske – WiFi

Tammy and Robert Jeske stated that they are representing Citizens for Safe Technology, a not-for-profit society made up of individuals concerned about the increase in public exposure to harmful wireless technology. They noted that since WiFi is potentially damaging to children, their request is to keep children's exposure as low as possible. It was suggested that the schools continue to use wired technology to keep the students in a safer environment until further research has been completed.

2. Walt McGinnis, Electrician – Wireless Technology

Mr. McGinnis stated his concern about the vulnerability of children to the exposure of electromagnetic radiation. He requested that the installation of more WiFi in classrooms be held off until there is a better understanding of the health risks involved.

3. Andrew Bailey, Parent

Mr. Bailey stated that he is an employee of the school district in the Information Technology Department, but that he was speaking this evening as a parent. He noted that WiFi is a tool that facilitates the use of a laptop by his son in each classroom so that he can succeed in school. Mr. Bailey commented that he is in support of WiFi and that he is placing his trust in the individuals trained to assess risk in this area.

Trustee Orcherton acknowledged the comments made by the presenters and stated her support for further discussion and research into the issues related to WiFi.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board take a precautionary look to allow the District Health and Safety Committee to review WiFi in our District, to review relevant information and to present recommendations back to the Board.

Motion Carried

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault informed the Committee that there have been thousands of articles published in the last 30 years regarding WiFi and its affects. He quoted several articles from various Health organizations stating that the use of WiFi is safe. WiFi enables students and teachers to use technology in its fullest to support their learning and teaching environments.

5. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

A) Administration Reports to Committee

1. Bylaw 9360.1 – In Camera Meetings, General Sessions

It was suggested that this item be tabled to the January 10, 2011 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting to allow time for further input.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board agrees to give all three readings of Bylaw 9360.1 In Camera Meetings, General Sessions at the meeting of November 15, 2010.

Motion Tabled

It was moved and seconded

That Bylaw 9360.1 In Camera Meetings, General Sessions be :

READ A FIRST TIME THE 15TH day of November, 2010
READ A SECOND TIME THE 15TH day of November, 2010
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 15TH day of November, 2010

Motion Tabled

2. Policy 6216.1 – Trust Fund

Policy 6216.1 “Trust Fund” was originally adopted by the Board of Education in September 1975. The “Community Education Trust Fund (1975)” no longer exists.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve that Policy 6216.1 Trust Fund be struck from the record.

Motion Carried

3. Policy & Regulation 3501 – Annual Operating Budget

There was discussion regarding the proposed changes to Policy and Regulation 3501.

Trustee Pitre acknowledged the comments made and suggested that this item be tabled to the January 10, 2011 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting to allow more time for input.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Policy 3501 Annual Operating Budget.

Motion Tabled

Trustee Leonard invited members of the public to submit suggested changes and comments by emailing Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault. Revised documents will be presented at the January meeting.

4. Bylaw 9111 – Charitable Trust Fund

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault informed the Committee that Bylaw 9111, Charitable Trust Fund has been amended to bring the Bylaw up to date with current naming conventions.

6. FACILITIES PLANNING

A. Administration Reports to Committee

1. Status Report on Capital Projects

Trustee Leonard informed the Committee that the Status Report on Capital Projects will be presented at the Board meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010.

7. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS – none

8. NEW BUSINESS / NOTICE OF MOTIONS - none

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – none

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.