



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
October 17, 2011 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Trustees Tom Ferris, Chair, Dave Pitre, Vice-Chair, Catherine Alpha, Jim Holland, Bev Horsman, Michael McEvoy, Peg Orcheron, John Young

**Administration:**

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities, John Fawcett, District Principal, Student Support Services, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Trustee Elaine Leonard

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A1. Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved and seconded:

That the October 17, 2011 Agenda be approved with the following additions:

A6. Community Presentations

a) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils - update.

**Motion Carried**

**A2. Approval of the Minutes**

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the September 19, 2011 Regular Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

Trustee Horsman requested that the motion passed at the September 19, 2011 Board of Education Meeting with respect to the Victoria High School memorial corridor of trees be amended.

Chair Ferris stated that this will be discussed later in the meeting under Section A3, Business Arising from the Minutes.

**A3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Trustee Horsman and Alpha presented the following motion:

Recommended Motion:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education declares the new oak trees on the Victoria High School grounds to be memorial trees.

Discussion ensued regarding the original intent and wording of the motion in the September 19, 2011 minutes. Superintendent Gaipman requested clarification from Trustees on whether they wanted the minutes to be changed or if it was just the distinction of the trees being called memorial trees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education declares the new oak trees on the Victoria High School grounds to be memorial trees.

**Motion Carried**

#### **A4. Student Achievement**

##### **a) Me to We – Monterey Middle School**

Sherri Bell, Associate Superintendent, welcomed Deb Whitten, Principal, Monterey Middle School. Principal Whitten provided an overview of the *Me to We* project and then introduced students Devon and Mackenzie to make a presentation. Devon and Mackenzie described recent and future fundraising activities. A power point presentation was shown on how Monterey Middle School has embraced the *Me to We* project and the impact it has had on the school and community. Sean McCartney, Vice-Principal, commented on how proud the staff is with respect to the leadership the students of Monterey Middle School are showing in supporting this worthwhile cause.

#### **A5. District Presentations**

##### **a) 2011-2012 United Way Campaign – John Fawcett**

John Fawcett, District Principal, Student Support Services, introduced and welcomed Linda Hughes, Chief Executive Officer and Wendy Magahay, from the Greater Victoria United Way. District Principal Fawcett presented the District goals for the 2011-2012 campaign. Ms. Hughes spoke about the many functions of the Greater Victoria United Way and areas in which donor money is used. She stated that forging a stronger partnership will be helping so many Greater Victoria people.

Trustee McEvoy spoke about his passion for the United Way and the different projects he has been involved with in the city. Trustees McEvoy and Horsman recommended the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

Whereas the citizens of Greater Victoria have strongly supported investment in the social infrastructure of our community for almost 75 years through the United Way;

And whereas United Way dollars have had a particularly important and positive impact on our students;

And whereas the first priority identified by the United Way's Community Impact Council for 2011/12 is "All that kids can be – supporting children and youth with the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy and well."

I move that the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) enthusiastically endorse the District wide 2011/2012 United Way Campaign and in particular to support efforts to increase participation by schools, students and their families and all employees.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Horsman commented about the various United Way programs and congratulated the United Way for their success.

Trustee McEvoy thanked the United Way representatives for attending and speaking at the Board meeting. Appreciation was also expressed to CUPE partners and the Victoria Labour Council.

#### **A6. Community Presentations**

##### **VCPAC and the Year Ahead (Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)**

VCPAC President, John Bird, presented the VCPAC priorities for the 2011-2012 school year and stated that the primary goal will be to advocate for the rights of the students. He also advised that in February of 2012 VCPAC will host the Vancouver Island Parent Conference in partnership with the Sooke District Parents Advisory Council. VCPAC will participate with trustee elections by providing two all candidates meetings (November 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) as well as provide a written set of questions for candidates to respond to that will be published via media outlets.

#### **A7. Trustee Reports**

Trustee Pitre highlighted a Public Service Announcement from the Saanich Parks and Recreation, "*Saanich Municipality and School Districts work together to get kids moving after school.*" A community grant was received from the Union of BC Municipalities and will be used towards increasing after school physical activity in children. A pilot project involving three schools in our District has begun.

Trustee Horsman stated that she is proud to be a former Reynolds High School student, as this year Reynolds went above and beyond in their fundraising efforts for Cops for Cancer. An outstanding donation of \$84,000 was presented to the Cops for Cancer team.

Trustee McEvoy stated that he was inspired by the presentation this evening by the students of Monterey Middle School and thanked them for attending. Trustee McEvoy advised that he will be attending the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting in Vancouver this weekend along with Trustee Horsman and was excited to say that the Minister of Education, Honourable George Abbott, will be speaking on Saturday morning. Trustee McEvoy had the opportunity to attend a Finance standing committee meeting last week and wanted to report that it was entirely about money and resources and the lack of both. Lastly, as BCSTA President, Trustee McEvoy wanted to stress the importance of the upcoming trustee elections and wished all candidates good luck.

#### **B. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None.

#### **C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **C1. Education Policy Development Committee Meeting**

Trustee Horsman reported that the Committee had enjoyed a detailed presentation by a number of representatives at the Education Policy Development Committee meeting with regard to the Success by 6 program and that she feels that this initiative will bring increased focus on literacy and fully supports the following motions. Trustee Horsman thanked Trustee Pitre for his work on this project.

- a) Minutes from the October 3, 2011 meeting were presented for information.
- b) Success by 6

Trustee Pitre presented the following three motions. He stated that these programs and initiatives will assist young children and their families prior to entering the school system.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education write a letter to the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) advising them of the goals of the Success by 6 organization and ask that a partnership with the BCSTA be created so that trustees across the province can work hand in hand with Success by 6 to ensure that students have a greater degree of readiness when entering into the public school system.

**Motion Carried**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education continues to be an active partner with Success by 6 and PLAY (Partnership, Learning and Advocacy for Young Children) and their initiatives in the development of literacy of infants and preschoolers.

**Motion Carried**

Trustee Young requested that his opposition vote be recorded.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education will ask each of their schools to participate in the Success by 6 funded project "1000 x 5, The Children's Book Recycling Project" which collects gently used children's books to distribute to families attending Greater Victoria School District Strong Start Centers and other community agencies.

**Motion Carried**

Trustee Horsman stated that she feels that the project 1000 x 5 to donate gently used children's books is an extremely good initiative and brought three children's books to donate.

#### **D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

##### **D1. Superintendent's Report**

None.

##### **D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

None.

#### **E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

None.

**F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Trustee Orcherton wanted to clarify the Bill 33 report regarding class size and composition as she was not in attendance in person at the meeting but rather joined in via conference call. Trustee Orcherton wanted to know why the title of the report was changed this year to "Organization of Classes" from "Bill 33 Class Size and Composition Report". Superintendent Gaipman assured her that the title of the report had not changed in the past two years. Trustee Orcherton also asked whether the Ministry of Education had been forwarded a copy of the report. Superintendent Gaipman stated that the Ministry does not receive a copy of the report but a letter was sent to say that the report was approved.

**G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

Trustee Pitre reported out that during the October 3, 2011 Special In-Camera Board meeting it was decided that a letter be sent to the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) in reference to the teachers' job action and essential services. A press release was prepared and issued the following day, October 4, 2011 and was posted on the District website.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Chairman