



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
November 21, 2011 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

MINUTES

Present:

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

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Debra Laser, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Kyle Cormier, Director, Human Resource Services, Nita McBurney, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

Chair Ferris welcomed newly elected trustees Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally and Deborah Nohr to the meeting.

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

That the November 21, 2011 Agenda be approved with the following additions:

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Debra Swain, GVTA, Professional Autonomy and Professional Development
- b) Viva Moodley, GVTA, Transparent Governance

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of Minutes

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the October 11, 2011 Special Board Minutes be approved as amended, Bill 33 – Superintendent's Report on Class Size, to reflect that Trustee Orcherton abstained.

Motion Carried

b) It was moved and seconded:

That the October 17, 2011 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

A4. Student Achievement

Poetry Slam, Reynolds Secondary School

Chair Ferris welcomed Alana Charlton, Principal and Brad Cunningham, English teacher from Reynolds Secondary School. Principal Charlton acknowledged and thanked the Board of Education for their clear understanding of student engagement and for their support and attendance at so many events at Reynolds School. Principal Charlton stated that Mr. Cunningham is a teacher who instructs slam poetry, adding that he helps connect students to their learning and increase their sense of community. Slam poetry is a form of poetry where the students strongly connect to open words. Reynolds has an open mike every month where 50 to 120 students come of their own volition. There will be a championship this year with ten high schools competing. Five Reynolds students, as a group, shared slam poetry readings after which Chair Ferris thanked the Reynolds students for taking the time to share their slam poetry with the Board.

A5. District Presentations

2011 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

Kristy Kilpatrick

Chair Ferris began by stating that it is a great honour to speak about the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. He stated that people around the country have made a point about individualized learning and new ways of teaching and Kristy Kilpatrick exemplifies the best in teaching. Kristy is recognized for ensuring that students are given a reason to learn and for giving our community a future. Chair Ferris presented Ms. Kilpatrick with the Teaching Excellence Award.

Lansdowne Middle School

Trustee Holland presented a Prime Minister's Award to Lansdowne Principal Ken Andrews for the school's "Outstanding Support of Teacher Excellence". Lansdowne has worked hard to create a very effective and valuable teaching team. Lansdowne Middle School is committed to the success of their students.

A6. Community Presentations

Debra Swain, GVTA Pro-D Chair – Professional Autonomy and Professional Development

Debra Swain, GVTA Pro-D Chair stated that she would speak about two things very important to teachers; professional autonomy and professional development. Ms. Swain read an excerpt about professional autonomy from the GVTA Collective Agreement. She said that she has seen teachers doing amazing things, working within the limits of the prescribed curriculum, and that teachers must have professional autonomy to make choices that help students learn. She went on to state that the District and GVTA have worked together for many years, jointly funding for teachers to engage in professional development activities. A BCTF Research Report by Charlie Naylor was distributed. Ms. Swain requested that the Board of Education read and consider the report, adding that she hopes that they can continue to work together.

Viva Moodley, GVTA – Transparent Governance

Mr. Moodley began by congratulating the new trustees and sharing fond recollections of outgoing Trustees Young, Holland and Pitre and wishing them well. Mr. Moodley stated that he has a list of 21 arbitrations that are scheduled to be heard which are costly and indicated that it would be better to settle matters earlier. He stated that the bargaining team has not met since June 30th and encouraged a return to the table to continue negotiations.

Wendy Holob, Victoria Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association

Wendy Holob, President of the Victoria Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association welcomed the new Trustees, stating that she was looking forward to working with them. She thanked the outgoing Trustees for their wise counsel and thoughtful deliberations and noted that these Trustees had given, over time, over 110 years of educational wisdom leaving a huge legacy. She ended by thanking the Board for making the Greater Victoria School District a leader in education.

A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Holland thanked fellow trustees for a life-changing nine years and acknowledged their support, dedication and commitment, stating that it has been a tremendous honour. Trustee Holland told the senior administration that they have been amazing to work with, supportive, professional, always inspiring him with their integrity and that he would miss being part of a team of committed and professional people.

Trustee Pitre shared in what Trustee Holland stated, passing his thanks around the table. Trustee Pitre said that he benefited tremendously from the opportunity to work on behalf of students, families and staff and that he would like to acknowledge those people who supported and believed in him. He asked that his thanks be conveyed to staff in the schools for all that they do for students, staff and community. Trustee Pitre spoke of his work with the early years' group, Success by Six, and commented that this initiative will remain very important to him and asked that the Board keep a representative trustee involved.

Trustee Orcherton thanked the incumbent Trustees for their time at the table and for what she has learned from them. She also welcomed the three new Trustees who will be joining the Board on December 5th and expressed her desire to work together for what is best for children and education.

B. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Ferris reported out on the Board of Education's meeting with Minister of Education George Abbott after the opening ceremony for the Fairey Technical building at Victoria High School. Chair Ferris stated that there was a good discussion about student needs and Trustees took the opportunity to strongly advocate for adequate funding levels and a better funding formula.

Chair Ferris commented that this evening is the end of a Board of Education and that soon a new Board will begin its term. Chair Ferris acknowledged the trust that the Board has placed in him over the past four years and added that they have been an incredible Board to work with. He thanked the District Leadership Team and most notably Superintendent Gaipman for his support. Chair Ferris thanked out-going Trustees John Young, Dave Pitre and Jim Holland for their commitment to public education.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**C1. Education Policy Development Committee**

Trustee Horsman reported that the Committee had enjoyed the Making Math Meaningful presentation that demonstrated numeracy being taught at different levels, adding that it was a fun and informative evening.

- a) Minutes from the November 7, 2011 meeting were presented for information.

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) Minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting were presented for information.
b) Minutes from the November 14, 2011 meeting were presented for information.

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**D1. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gaipman stated that this evening was the last Board Meeting for three Trustees. He noted that for the past three years, the Board has worked very well together and that the out-going Trustees will be missed. Superintendent Gaipman recognized Trustees Young, Holland and Pitre.

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairperson