



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
February 20, 2012 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Trustees Peg Orcheron, Chair, Bev Horsman, Vice-Chair (via speaker phone), Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally, Michael McEvoy, Deborah Nohr

**Administration:**

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Debra Laser, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Kyle Cormier, Director of Human Resource Services, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities, Dave Scott, Director, International Student Program, Jim Soles, Supervisor of Building Projects, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

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

Chair Orcheron recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Introductions were made around the Board table.

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A1. Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved and seconded:

That the February 20, 2012 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

**A6. Community Presentations**

As per Bylaw 9360, "limiting public presentations to 5 minutes for each individual with a limit of 3 speakers per issue" be waived for this meeting only.

**F. New Business/Notice of Motions**

**F3. Recording of Votes – Trustee McNally**

This item moved to **B. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Motion Carried**

**A2. Approval of the Minutes**

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the January 16, 2012 Regular Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga requested her Trustee Report be amended to delete View Royal School as she did not attend this school.

**A3. Business arising from the Minutes**

None.

**A4. Student Achievement****a) Willows Elementary School, A Place of Possibilities for 100 Years**

Wendy Holob, Principal, L'Ecole Willows Elementary, provided a history lesson with respect to L'Ecole Willows over the past 100 years. Gillian Lawson, Vice-Principal, introduced six students who each spoke of the various projects their classrooms were involved in to celebrate. One of the students then presented a painting by artist Leslie Redhead, which depicts the entrance to L'Ecole Willows School. The painting was accepted by Board Chair, Peg Orcheron, on behalf of the School District.

**A5. District Presentations**

None.

**A6. Community Presentations**

- i. Tara Ehrcke, President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), spoke of the letter sent by the Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils (VCPAC) and the Board Chair to the Minister of Education regarding Bill 33. Ms. Ehrcke urged everyone to reconsider their position on this Bill.
- ii. Starla Anderson expressed concerns regarding special needs students in our District. Ms. Anderson urged the Board to consider using the surplus money from the budget to increase Educational Assistant's in classrooms.
- iii. Mitch Barnes, Teacher, advised he has been teaching in the District for 25 years and while acting in an Administrator's role had the opportunity to be involved in interpreting the contract. Mr. Barnes urged the Board to reconsider the information that was sent in the letter to Minister Abbott.
- iv. Nicole Strong, Teacher, spoke as a parent and teacher and encouraged VCPAC to reconsider their position and the letter that was sent to Minister Abbott. Ms. Strong requested that VCPAC reach out to parents of special needs children for their input.
- v. Kristy Kilpatrick, Teacher, stated she is passionate about teaching and the wellbeing of all students in our District. She would like to see Bill 33 remain as is and strongly urged for the letter from VCPAC to the Minister of Education be rescinded.
- vi. Rachel Franklin, parent, stated she is dismayed by VCPAC's position and the letter that was written to Minister Abbott. Ms. Franklin suggested parents in the District should be polled for suggestions.
- vii. Wendy Joyce, parent, presented a slideshow on the Nature of Discrimination on behalf of John Bird, VCPAC, who was absent from the meeting. Ms. Joyce clarified Bill 33 and presented some myths and facts surrounding the Bill.
- viii. Darcy Dragseth, parent, continued with the presentation on myths and facts of discrimination and children with respect to Bill 33.
- ix. D'Arcy Wingrove, parent, presented "The Road Ahead: Allocating and Advocating for Resources." She spoke to determining the resources required for 'all' students and not just those with special needs.

## A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee McEvoy reported that he had attended the Oak Bay High School band concert, Willows PAC meeting and had met with the opposition leader of the government to discuss educational funding.

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that she had attended Mount Douglas, Tillicum and Eagle View Schools, a VCPAC meeting, an all Nations Education Council meeting as well as the opening of Jeneece's Place.

Trustee Nohr shared a letter from a parent who has four children in schools in our District, one being special needs. Trustee Nohr stated that she would like to see the limits of special needs students in our classrooms remain the same. Trustee Nohr reported that she attended a PAC meeting at Willows.

Trustee McNally reported that she attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy in Vancouver and that she is the liaison for Success by Six and Healthy Saanich Committees. Trustee McNally reminded everyone that Pink Shirt day is February 29<sup>th</sup> and to wear pink.

## B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton highlighted the meetings and events she has attended including meeting with parents of students entering Kindergarten this September, visiting the Facilities Department, attending the 1<sup>st</sup> public budget meeting of the year, attending a GVTA social, meeting with Mayor Fortin, City of Victoria, attending Monterey Middle School to view some Ted Harrison paintings that are on loan to the school, attended Hillcrest Elementary Storybook Day and a band recital at Oak Bay High School. Chair Orcherton reported that she has met with the Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and that she has made a commitment to meet with the Minister of Education to discuss educational funding issues.

i). Recommended Motion:

### F3. Recording of Votes – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally read the following motion and provided reasons as to why recording votes at meetings should be part of the minutes.

It was moved and seconded;

That all votes will be recorded in the minutes with the Trustee's name and yes, no or abstain. Absent trustees' names will be recorded as absent for the vote; the mover and seconder will be recorded.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with an amendment to the motion to delete the words "the mover and seconder will be recorded".

It was moved and seconded:

That all votes will be recorded in the minutes with the Trustee's name and yes, no or abstain. Absent Trustees' names will be recorded as absent for the vote.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### C1. Education Policy Development Committee

Trustee Alpha provided an overview of the meeting and the District presentations.

- a) The February 6, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Recommended Motion:

Trustee Alpha referred to the minutes from the meeting and read the motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) rename Marine Biology 11 to Marine Biology 12.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## C2. Operations Policy & Planning Committee

Trustee Leonard provided an overview of the meeting and the motions that have been carried forward to this meeting.

- a) The February 13, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b)
  - i) The revision to Regulation 2115 – Associate Superintendent was received for information.
  - ii) The revision to Regulation 2120.010 – Director of Facilities Services was received for information.

The Recommended Motions:

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- i. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move the final budget meeting from April 18, 2012 to our regular meeting of April 16, 2012.

**Motion Carried**

For: McEvoy, Orcheron, Alpha, Leonard, McNally, Horsman, Ferris  
Against: Nohr, Loring-Kuhanga

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- ii. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) form a committee to develop a policy on building school culture with a set of guiding principles for schools to follow.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with the decision to have the wording for this motion worked on further at a future District Leadership Team meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- iii. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt the revised Policy 2221, Department Heads – Secondary Schools.

**Motion Tabled**

Trustee Leonard presented the motion and explained that the clinic no longer exists.

It was moved and seconded:

- iv. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) delete Policy 6172, G. R. Pearkes Clinic Funding.  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- v. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt the revised Policy 2105, District Leadership Team.  
**Motion Carried**

For: Nohr, Leonard, Alpha, Orcheron, Horsman, Ferris, McNally, McEvoy.

Against: Loring-Kuhanga

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- vi. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopt the revised Policy 2115, Associate Superintendent.  
**Motion Carried**

For: Alpha, Leonard, Orcheron, McEvoy, Ferris, McNally, Horsman

Against: Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr

Trustee Leonard presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- vii. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the District of Saanich regarding our preferred choice of student transportation during the closure of the Craigflower bridge.  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### D1. Superintendent's Report

None.

### D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a) Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault advised that a Poll Vote on the following motion was conducted on January 23, 2012.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) refer to the Education Policy Meeting the motion from the January 16, 2012 Board meeting agenda, of writing a letter to parents regarding FSA testing for consideration for the next school year, 2012-2013.

**Motion Carried**

b) **2012/2013 Operating Budget Forecast**

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault stated that the District is carrying a structural deficit in excess of \$8.0 million into the 2012-2013 budget. Given this fact, every effort has been made during the 2011-2012 school year to create one-time savings in order to avoid lay-offs. The combined effect of additional grant funding, resulting from the release of provincial holdback dollars, and cost savings, is a projected one-time operating budget surplus for the year ending June 30, 2012 of \$8,639,000. If this amount is carried forward into the next school year and applied against the projected 2012-2013 deficit, it is anticipated that there will be a one-time surplus of approximately \$350,000 available.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with clarification points being made by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Trustee Leonard moved the following motion with discussion following amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the projected surplus of \$8,639,000 to the 2012-2013 budget shortfall.

**Motion Carried**

For: Ferris, Leonard, Alpha, Orcherton, Horsman, McEvoy

Against: Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr

Abstain: McNally

Trustee Leonard moved the following motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees about the possible allocation of the funds. It was clarified that the discussion should be tabled to the Board budget meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the \$350,000 projected surplus to class size and composition.

**Motion Tabled**

Vote on motion for tabling:

For: Nohr, Leonard, Loring-Kuhanga, Horsman, Orcherton, Ferris

Against: Alpha, McEvoy, McNally

c) **2011/2012 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw**

Recommended Motions:

It was moved and seconded:

- i. That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of the 2011/2012 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting of February 20, 2012.

**Motion Defeated**

(Motion to be carried unanimously)

For: Leonard, Ferris, Horsman, Orcherton, McEvoy, Alpha

Against: Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr, McNally

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2011/2012 in the amount of \$183,085,099 be:

Read a first time the 20th day of February, 2012;

Read a second time the 20th day of February 2012;

And that the Chairperson and the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign, seal and execute this Bylaw on behalf of the Board.

**Motion Carried**

Chair Orcherton called the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the motion.

For: Ferris, McEvoy, Horsman, Orcherton, Leonard, Alpha, Horsman

Against: Nohr, Loring-Kuhanga

Abstain: McNally

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Orcherton calling the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the motion.

For: Ferris, McNally, McEvoy, Horsman, Orcherton, Leonard, Alpha, Loring-Kuhanga

Against: Nohr

Chair advised that the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the motion would be conducted via a Poll Vote.

**E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**E1. Report out from the Budget Advisory Sub-Committee – Peg Orcherton**

Chair Orcherton will report out on the work of the Budget Advisory Sub-Committee at the next Board meeting.

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

**F1. Reimbursement of Playground Equipment Installation Costs – Trustee Nohr**

Trustee Nohr presented the motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a friendly amendment being suggested by Trustee Leonard to replace the word Secretary-Treasurer with Chair to write the letter.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that the time frame be expanded to include 2009, 2010 and 2011 for reimbursement of the installation costs for playground equipment.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**F2. Letter to Minister on Teacher Contract Settlement – Trustee McNally**

Trustee McNally presented the motion. Trustee Alpha removed herself from the discussion of this motion due to being in conflict. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing our position that a fairly negotiated settlement is the best solution for our students and our teachers in this round of collective bargaining.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**F3. Recording of Votes – Trustee McNally – moved to Section B. Chair Report.**

**F4. Budget Costing – Trustee Nohr**

That the Board of Education SD61 direct senior staff to review the budget draft and include costs which may now arise from the reversal of Bills 27 and 28 and to acknowledge the responsibility to build budgets to restore learning conditions to the levels which existed prior to the imposition of those Bills. The costing would include funding for smaller classes, teaching positions and services to students with special needs. This information would be available to the budget committee and any interested trustees.

Motion deferred to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**F5. Budget Advisory Committee – Trustee McNally**

That the Budget Advisory (Ad Hoc) Committee Chair immediately restructure the Budget Advisory Committee (presently made up of Trustees Orcherton, Horsman, Ferris and Alpha) to include all Trustees on an ex officio basis, and members of the public and partner groups who wish to attend.

Motion deferred to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**F6. Additional Budget Input – Trustee Nohr**

That the Board of Education SD61 schedule working meetings with the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer including all interested trustees to develop the 2012-2013 budget based on meeting District goals and input from parents, school staff and any other affected partner group.



Motion deferred to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

**G. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

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

None.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Chair