



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
November 19, 2012 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees Peg Orcherton, Chair, Bev Horsman, Vice-Chair, Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

Regrets: Trustee McEvoy

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Dave Brandon, Acting Director of Human Resource Services, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Nita McBurney, Recording Secretary

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

Chair Orcherton 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. Chair Orcherton formally introduced the District's new Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Debra Laser.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

That the November 19, 2012 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga
- ii) Trustee Nohr

A4. Community Presentations

- ii) Tammy Jeske, Wi-Fi in Schools and accommodation for children with electromagnetic intolerance or sensitivity
- iii) Janis Hoffman (on behalf of her daughter, Lori Hoffmann), Wireless Technology in Schools

A5. Trustees' Report

- a) Trustee Horsman
- b) Trustee McNally

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved and seconded:

That the October 15, 2012 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga presented a Notice of Motion regarding adding a question and answer period to the board agenda. The motion was referred to the December 3, 2012 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting.

Trustee Nohr stated that she will bring her questions regarding the International Student Program presentation to the December 3, 2012 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting.

A4. Student Achievement

Grant Boland, Vice-Principal, Victoria High School introduced the school's band director, Mr. Eric Emde. Mr. Emde presented the Vic High Pop Choir. The students sang a song that they had sung at their Remembrance Day Assembly entitled, "Love and Honour".

Chair Orcherton thanked the choir for their performance.

A5. Community Presentations

- a) Walter McGinnis, Wireless Internet Technology in Public Schools
Mr. McGinnis acknowledged that a lot of Wi-Fi discussions have occurred over the last few years. He stated that the Board has the authority to oppose Wi-Fi and that he does not believe that the Board can rely on Dr. Kendall's advice regarding the effects of Wi-Fi. A solution with respect to the use technology needs to be found.
- b) Tammy Jeske, Wi-Fi in Schools
Ms. Jeske stated that she would like to see the direction from the board go further to ask teachers to remove any unofficial Wi-Fi until the District makes a decision as to whether or not to move forward. She feels that the District should not allow unofficial Wi-Fi in schools until it has been determined that it is safe for children.
- c) Janis Hoffmann, Wi-Fi in Schools
Ms. Hoffmann spoke on behalf of her daughter, Lori Hoffmann, whose son gets severe headaches from Wi-Fi. She feels that a consent letter should be signed off by parents regarding Wi-Fi in schools. Ms. Hoffmann expressed that the safe way to proceed is with hard-wired internet connections.

A6. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Horsman reported that she attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Remembrance Day Assemblies at Reynolds Secondary and Rogers Elementary, sharing information that had occurred at both assemblies.

Trustee McNally reported that she attended the Victoria Civic Orchestra concert at Oak Bay, the United Way kick-off and the Remembrance Day Assembly at Rockheights Middle School. She also attended the BC Education Plan Graduation Planning Requirements Session at SJ Willis.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended a meeting with Don McRae, the Minister of Education on Friday, November 9th at the Fairey Tech facility at Victoria High School. Chair Orcherton talked to the Minister about the Board's wish to meet with him to discuss funding. Minister McRae asked for a letter requesting a meeting. This has been sent and Chair Orcherton hopes to report back on this item soon.

Kim Munro has been hired as the new Director of Human Resource Services. Ms. Munro has an extensive human resources background and comes to the District from the District of Burnaby. Her start date will be January 14, 2013. Chair Orcherton extended her thanks to the staff in Human Resources who are carrying on in the interim.

Chair Orcherton stated that the Teachers' Pension Board has announced a 1.3% increase to the employer contribution rates effective July 1, 2013. This results in a \$1.2 million increase in cost to the school district without any opportunity for input. Chair Orcherton advised that she will seek a meeting with the Premier to request that the Provincial Government fund School Districts entirely for the pension cost increase and further, that a review be conducted as it relates to the management of the BC Teachers' Pension Fund.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) Approval of the October 1, 2012 Minutes

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the October 1, 2012 Education Policy Development Committee Regular Minutes.

Motion Carried

- b) The November 5, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- c) Trustee Horsman referred to the minutes from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting and presented the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve Aboriginal Cultural Connections 12 as a Board/Authority Authorized course.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The November 13, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard invited Superintendent Gaipman to give a report on Wi-Fi. Superintendent Gaipman listed the elementary schools that have Wi-Fi routers and how many routers were at these schools. Clarification was sought and provided from Associate Superintendent Pat Duncan as it relates to George Jay. George Jay School had approached their staff and parents and they received full support to have Wi-Fi routers installed in their school. This occurred prior to November, 2010.
- c) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and spoke to the motion from the meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) remind the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association and School District staff regarding the current Board direction related to Wi-Fi in elementary schools.

Trustee McNally proposed a friendly amendment to the motion as follows:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that GVTA and School District staff align with the current Board position that apart from George Jay no Wi-Fi be used in K to 5 schools.

It was noted that this motion was not a friendly amendment as it was substantively different.

Based on the discussion at the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting, Trustee Leonard provided a change to the motion from the meeting in order to provide greater strength and clarity.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to ensure that no new routers be placed in any school until such time as the Board has changed its present direction.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Ferris, Nohr, Leonard, Alpha, Horsman and Orcherton
Against: Trustees McNally and Loring-Kuhanga

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

None.

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Trustee McNally attended the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association meeting as the Trustee Representative as well as the British Columbia School Superintendents' Association/British Columbia School Trustees' Association Conference.

Trustee Horsman attended the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting and she also attended the BCSSA/BCSTA Conference.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

F1. Letter to Minister McRae Requesting New Targeted Funding – Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion. A lengthy discussion ensued among Trustees, including input from John Bird, President of Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide the new Minister of Education, Don McRae, with an advocacy letter requesting new targeted funding for students in grades K to 3 who present with significant learning or behavioural challenges, before they become a priority for psycho-educational assessment and Individual Education Plan support. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Alpha, Horsman, Loring-Kuhanga, McNally and Nohr
Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard and Orcherton

F2. Letter to Minister McRae Requesting Educational Assistance Funding - Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion. A discussion ensued among the Trustees, including input from Ms. Gillian Miller, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association Secretary-Treasurer.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide the new Minister of Education, Don McRae, with an advocacy letter requesting full funding, 30 hours of educational assistance time, for students with designations on the autism spectrum (A.S.D.) or with intensive behaviour. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

Trustee Horsman suggested replacing "requesting full funding, 30 hours of educational assistance time" with "requesting additional funding to be added to existing funding" which was accepted by Trustee Nohr. Further discussion occurred.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write an advocacy letter to the Minister of Education, Don McRae, requesting additional funding to be added to existing funding for students with designations on the autism spectrum (A.S.D.) or with intensive behaviour. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F3. \$10/Day/Child Care Plan - Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion. A discussion ensued among the Trustees after which it was decided to refer motions F3 and F4 to the January 7, 2013 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) endorse the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning, otherwise known as the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan.

F4. Encourage Awareness of the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan - Trustee Nohr

The motion was referred to the January 7, 2013 Education Policy Development Committee meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) encourage awareness of the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan to our partner groups and request that they endorse the program as well.

F5. Letter to Minister McRae Requesting Reinstatement of Targeted Funding - Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion. Discussion ensued among the Trustees regarding funding for special needs students as well as the recent Judge Abella decision concerning North Vancouver student Jeffrey Moore.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide the new Minister of Education, Don McRae, with an advocacy letter requesting the reinstatement of full targeted funding for students with learning disabilities designations. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

Trustee McNally suggested adding the words “in addition to current to current funding” after the word designations which was accepted by Trustee Nohr. Further discussion occurred among the Trustees and President of VCPAC, John Bird.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide the new Minister of Education, Don McRae, with an advocacy letter requesting the reinstatement of full targeted funding for students with learning disability designations in addition to current funding. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Alpha, Loring-Kuhanga, McNally and Nohr
Against: Trustees Ferris, Horsman, Leonard and Orcherton

F6. Stewardship Report - Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion. A brief discussion ensued among the Trustees after which it was decided to refer motions F6 and F7 to the December 3, 2012 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) develop and implement a stewardship report for all Board meetings to include the action taken, person responsible and progress report (which may include timeline and/or date of progress report).

F7. Adding Stewardship Report to Bylaw 9360 - Trustee Nohr

The motion was referred to the December 3, 2012 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) add Stewardship Report to Part 12 of Bylaw 9360, “General Meeting of the Board”, to read:

The Order of Business on the SD61 Board of Education Board meeting Agenda shall be:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Business Arising From the Minutes
4. Unfinished Business
5. Student Achievement
6. District Presentations
7. Public Disclosure of In-Camera Items
8. Community / Public Presentations
9. Trustees' Reports / Reports from Trustee Representatives
 - 9.1 Chair's Report
10. Board Committee Reports
 - 10.1 Education Policy Development Committee
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Recommended motions
 - 10.2 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Recommended motions
11. District Senior Administration Reports
 - 11.1 Superintendent's Report
 - 11.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report
12. New Business / Notice of Motions / * Stewardship Report
13. Adjournment

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 10:17 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair