



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
February 17, 2014 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

MINUTES

Present:

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

Regrets:

Trustee Michael McEvoy

Administration:

Sherrill Bell, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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 17, 2014 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A7. Trustees' Reports

- a) Trustee McNally
- b) Trustee Ferris

Motion Carried Unanimously

A2. Approval of the Minutes

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the January 20, 2014 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A3. Business arising from the Minutes – None

A4. Student Achievement

Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, introduced and welcomed Elaine McVie, Principal of James Bay Community School.

Principal McVie introduced Lindsay Swan, Vice-Principal and Joy Nugent, teacher and gave a brief overview of a project Ms. Swan and Ms. Nugent's grade 4/5 classes have been working on this year. Ms. Nugent described how developing habits of mind in the 'Think Tank' encourages student collaboration and innovation and promotes reflective and critical thinking skills.

Students Lily, Amanda, Jacob, Yuzuka, Olivia, Jaden and Hazem spoke about their projects and provided demonstrations on how it has helped them to develop better listening skills, to be tolerant of each other and to persevere to find an answer after questions have been asked.

Chair Orcherton thanked Principal McVie, Vice-Principal Swan, Ms. Nugent and the students for attending and presenting to the Board.

A5. District Presentations - None

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Dr. Starla Anderson attended and spoke to the Board regarding the benefits of adding a Question and Answer Period at Board meetings. She urged the Board to add a Q & A period to future board meetings.
- b) Alex Nelson attended and spoke to the Board regarding his experience while at St. Michaels Residential School in Alert Bay. Mr. Nelson conveyed a message about the importance of teaching the history of First Nations people to students. Mr. Nelson urged the Board to support the motion that Trustee Loring-Kuhanga has on the agenda this evening.
- c) Monique Gray-Smith attended and spoke to the Board regarding the history of residential schools and the opportunity to teach aboriginal culture in our school district. Ms. Gray-Smith encouraged the Board to invest in our common humanity as Canadian citizens and to support the motion that Trustee Loring-Kuhanga has on the agenda this evening.

A7. Trustees' Reports

- a) Trustee McNally reported that she attended a PAC meeting at View Royal Elementary, a meeting at Craigflower Elementary and a Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee Meeting.
- b) Trustee Ferris reported that he had been contacted by the Victoria High School Alumni Association who advised him that the City of Victoria is interested in matching funding with the Association to install an outdoor athletic facility at the school.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended a PAC Congress meeting held at SJ Willis on January 23, 2014 and spoke to parents about the role of a Trustee, a VCPAC meeting at Rockheights Middle School and a "Dessert Night" fundraising event at Central Middle School on February 5, 2014.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) The February 3, 2014 meeting minutes were presented for information.

- b) Trustee Horsman referred to the minutes from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Acting Superintendent Bell.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the following Board Authority Authorized courses: Rugby 10, Rugby 11 and Rugby 12.

Motion Carried

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

Trustee Horsman stated that Trustees received a letter indicating that Esquimalt Secondary School is reviewing the rugby academy proposal and that they will bring it back to a future Education Policy Development Committee Meeting.

- c) Trustee Horsman referred to the minutes from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting and presented the following motion that had been tabled from that meeting. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Premier of British Columbia urging the Premier to abandon the Province's appeal of the ruling of Justice Griffin in *British Columbia Teachers' Federation v. British Columbia*, 2014 BCSC 121, Date: 20140127, Docket L021662, Registry: Vancouver.

Motion Defeated

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

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The February 11, 2014 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) THAT THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR THE 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR BE APPROVED AND THAT THE 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR BE POSTED ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE:

2014/2015 School Year Calendar*

School Opening	September 2, 2014
First non-instructional day 2014	September 22,
Thanksgiving	October 13, 2014
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 24, 2014
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2014
Third non-instructional day	November 21, 2014
Schools close for Winter vacation	December 19, 2014
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 5, 2015

Family Day	February 9, 2015
Fourth non-instructional day	February 20, 2015
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 6, 2015
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	March 23, 2015
Good Friday	April 3, 2015
Easter Monday	April 6, 2015
Victoria Day	May 18, 2015
Fifth non-instructional day	May 19, 2015
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 26, 2015

*Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school

Motion Carried Unanimously

- ii) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following motion. Chair Orcherton circulated a 'draft' letter to be sent to Premier Clark and requested feedback from Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to Premier Clark strongly urging the Provincial Government to return to the bargaining table, in good faith, to negotiate class size and composition language and to fully fund the agreed to language.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst Trustees. Trustee Loring-Kuhanga proposed the following amended wording for the motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to Premier Clark strongly urging the Provincial Government to fully fund the agreed 2002 contractual language.

Chair Orcherton did not accept the amended wording as it substantially changed the intent of the motion on the table.

Chair Orcherton called for the question on the original motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to Premier Clark strongly urging the Provincial Government to return to the bargaining table, in good faith, to negotiate class size and composition language and to fully fund the agreed to language.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Ferris, Orcherton, Horsman, Leonard

Against: Trustees McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Alpha, Nohr

- iii) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior administration to provide a review of WorkSafeBC surcharges for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 for the February 2014 Board meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Laser provided information to Trustees with respect to the premiums that are paid to WorkSafeBC. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Laser. Trustees requested information about the types of accident claims. It was suggested that the motion be tabled to the March 3, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

To table the motion, *“That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior administration to provide a review of WorkSafeBC surcharges for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 for the February 2014 Board meeting”* to the March 3, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent’s Report – None

D2. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

a) 2013/2014 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

Secretary-Treasurer Laser presented the 2013-2014 Amended Annual Budget stating that the Amended Annual Budget takes into account both the revenues and the expenditures arising from the actual September 30, 2013 enrolments, all grant amounts confirmed subsequent to the approval of the annual budget, and all amounts carried forward from the previous fiscal year. As such, the Amended Annual Budget provides a better comparison to the actual results to be reported in the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The Amended Annual Budget has been prepared based on the Public Sector Accounting standards which require the budget to include the operating, special purpose and capital funds. Consequently, the budget bylaw amount of \$207,798,396 includes the total budgeted expenses in the operating, special purpose and capital funds.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Laser.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 agrees to give all three readings of the 2013/2014 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting of February 17, 2014.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2013/2014 in the amount of \$207,798,396 be:

Read a first time the 17th day of February, 2014;
Read a second time the 17th day of February, 2014;
Read a third time, passed and adopted the 17th day of February, 2014;

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves up to \$800,000 spending for capital assets from the local capital reserve.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES – None**F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS****F1. Sundance School – Trustee Nohr**

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and provided her rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) change the date for consideration of Sundance School as one of the suggested cost reductions to sometime after the March 26th Special Board Budget Meeting 2014-2015 when all other reductions will be outlined.

Discussion ensued amongst the trustees with Chair Orcherton suggesting an amendment to the motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) change the date for consideration of Sundance School as one of the suggested cost reductions to sometime after the March 26th Special Board Budget Meeting 2014-2015 when all other reductions will be outlined*" be amended to replace the word "*change*" to "*move*" and the word "*sometime*" be replaced with "*March 27, 2014, immediately.*"

Motion Carried

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

Chair Orcherton called for the question on the original motion as amended.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) move the date for consideration of Sundance School as one of the suggested cost reductions to March 27 2014, immediately after the March 26th Special Board Budget Meeting 2014-2015 when all other reductions will be outlined.

Motion Carried

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

F2. 2013 BCSTA AGM Motions – Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga presented her motion and provided a rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the BCSTA follow up on all Motions that were passed at the 2013 AGM regarding residential schools and request that the Ministry of Education develop a required high school course for graduates in public schools similar to the 25 hour course that is provided to all graduating students in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to split the motion into two motions and to include more specificity.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) recommend that the BCSTA follow up on all Motions that were passed at the 2013 AGM regarding residential schools.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education develop a required high school course regarding residential schools in Canada for all graduates in public schools similar to the 25 hour course that is provided to all graduating students in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Motion Carried Unanimously

G. COMMUNICATIONS – None

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

The following two items were reported out from In-Camera meetings:

- i) Chair Orcherton reported out that effective February 15, 2014 Sherri Bell assumed the role of Acting Superintendent of Schools.
- ii) Chair Orcherton reported out that a grassy area of land located at Facilities Services, 491 Cecilia Avenue, will be graveled to generate parking rental income.

I. ADJOURNMENT

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer