



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
June 16, 2014 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

---

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

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

**Regrets:**

Trustees Catherine Alpha, Michael McEvoy

**Administration:**

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent, Dave Pitre, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 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 June 16, 2014 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

**A4. Community Presentations**

b) Audrey Smith, Vice-President, VCPAC

**A5. Trustees' Reports**

- a) Trustee McNally
- b) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga
- c) Trustee Ferris
- d) Trustee Horsman

**D1.** b) District Retirement Tea

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

F3. Trustee Nohr - Letter to Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A2. Approval of the Minutes**

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the May 20, 2014 Regular Board Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None****A4. Community Presentations**

- a) Vincenza Gruppuso, Director of the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC), attended the Board meeting on behalf of VCPAC and as a parent with children in the public school system. Ms. Gruppuso spoke to the Board regarding class size and composition and stated that she believes imposing limits in the classroom with respect to composition sends the wrong message to children.
- b) Audrey Smith, Vice-President of VCPAC, attended the Board meeting on behalf of the President, John Bird. Ms. Smith introduced the 2014-2015 executive members of VCPAC and highlighted the priorities and initiatives for the coming year. The main goals will be to provide leadership, promote and facilitate cultural change in our schools and advocate for students rights.

**A5. Trustees' Reports**

- a) Trustee McNally reported that she attended the Aboriginal Nations Education graduation celebration at the Songhees Wellness Centre and year end concerts at Central Middle School and Rockheights Middle School.
- b) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that she attended the Aboriginal Nations Education graduation celebration and thanked the ANED staff for a job well done.
- c) Trustee Ferris thanked Superintendent Bell and the District Leadership Team for their hard work this year.
- d) Trustee Horsman reported that she attended the retirement celebration for Principal Lynn Moorhouse from Craigflower Elementary, the Aboriginal Nations Education graduation celebration, the District strings concert which honored former Superintendent, John Gaipman, the Kiwanis Luncheon which honored District Grade 12 students, and finally, had the pleasure of speaking at the graduation ceremonies for Mt. Douglas and Reynolds High Schools.

**B. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended and spoke at graduation celebrations for Lambrick Park, Aboriginal Nations Education and SJ Willis Education Centre. Chair Orcherton further reported that she has been engaged in meetings, conference calls and media interviews pertaining to the ongoing job action.

Chair Orcherton thanked all teachers, administration, District staff, CUPE and ASA members who have worked so hard this year for students.

## C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) The June 2, 2014 meeting minutes were received for information.
- b) Trustee Horsman referred to the minutes from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) supports the work of the French Immersion Committee.

Trustee Horsman proposed the following amended wording for the motion and provided her rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being answered by Trustee Horsman and Trustee Ferris.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) supports the work of the French Immersion Committee*" be amended to replace the word 'work' with 'recommendation' and by adding 'regarding kindergarten registration' after the word 'Committee'.

**Motion carried Unanimously**

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

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) supports the recommendation of the French Immersion Committee regarding kindergarten registration.

**Motion carried Unanimously**

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 Superintendent Bell.

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receives the 2014-2015 Achievement Contract.

**Motion Carried**

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

### C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The June 9, 2014 meeting minutes were received for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motions.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the revised Policy 3450.1 School (Non-Public) funds.
- Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of Bylaw 9250.2, Notices of Motion at the meeting of June 16, 2014.
- Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

That Bylaw 9250.2, Notices of Motion be:

Read a first time this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014;

Read a second time this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014;

Read a third time, passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) modify its letterhead to include a footer to reflect the composition of the entire Board.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee McNally accepting the suggestion to delete "include a footer to" from the motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) modify its letterhead to reflect the composition of the entire Board.
- Motion Carried Unanimously**

## DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### D1. Superintendent's Report

- a) Superintendent Bell presented the fees for the District's Specialty Academy programs for the 2014-2015 school year and advised that there are no fee increases and that there is one additional academy at Esquimalt High School for rugby. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Bell.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) makes available to the public via the District website, the schedules of fees that have been approved by the School Planning Councils for the District's Specialty Academy programs.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b) Superintendent Bell reported that she was informed the morning of June 12, 2014 that there would be a picket line at the retirement tea venue and made the difficult decision to postpone the District Retirement Tea until a later date.

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

- a) Secretary-Treasurer Laser stated that the district must appoint an Elections Officer to assist with the November 15, 2014 school trustee election. 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 (Greater Victoria) appoint Tom Moore as Chief Elections Officer to conduct the Trustee Elections on November 15, 2014.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES – None**

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

### **F1. Trustee McNally – WiFi**

Trustee McNally presented her motion and provided her rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct senior administration to consult with school communities to explore the possibility of an elementary school site that could be designated as wifi free so the parents requesting accommodation for their children will have a public school option that meets their needs.

**Motion Defeated**

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

### **F2. Trustee McNally – WiFi**

Trustee McNally presented her motion and provided her rationale. Chair Orcherton ruled Trustee McNally's motion out of order due to the motion passed at the November 18, 2013 Board of Education meeting, which leaves the decision within each individual school and school community.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide written rationale of the Board's decision regarding designating an elementary school site as wifi free to the parents requesting accommodation for their children after the Board has made that decision.

**F3. Trustee Nohr – Letter to Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender**

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and provided her rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write another letter to Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender requesting that the Premier demonstrate good faith bargaining by providing the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) with a renewed mandate to bargain class size and composition into the collective agreement and that the Premier request BCPSEA and the BCTF to use the services of a special mediator with a view to reaching an agreement as soon as possible.

**Motion Defeated**

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

**G. COMMUNICATIONS - None****H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

- H1.** Chair Orcherton reported that during the June 16 BCPSEA conference call BCPSEA advised that they had tabled a comprehensive package to the British Columbia Teachers' Federation on June 14 and were awaiting their response which was received via a news conference in the morning of June 16. Chair Orcherton expressed hope that the two parties will get back to the bargaining table soon and negotiate a fair settlement.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer