



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
November 18, 2013 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 (via conference call), Michael McEvoy, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Ted Pennell, Director of Information Technology, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, Simon Burgers, District Vice-Principal, Languages and Multiculturalism, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 November 18, 2013 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A7. Community Presentations

f) Janis Hoffman, Grandparent, Wi-Fi

A8. Trustees' Reports

- a) Trustee McNally
- b) Trustee Horsman
- c) Trustee Nohr

Motion Carried Unanimously

A2. Approval of the Minutes

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the October 21, 2013 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A3. Business arising from the Minutes – None

A4. Student Achievement

Glanford Middle School Principal, Louie Scigliano, thanked the Board for inviting a few of his students to attend the Board meeting and to share a recent school activity and video.

Taylor, Benji, Logan and Prabhleen introduced themselves as Glanford Middle School students and each spoke briefly about a creativity activity the entire school was recently challenged to by Vice-Principal, Leah Moreau. They explained how their class came up with an innovative idea and created a video showcasing what they had done which was called the 'cup game'. The students played their video after which they handed out cups around the Board table to demonstrate to the Board how to play the game.

Chair Orcherton thanked Principal Scigliano, Vice-Principal Moreau and the students for attending and presenting to the Board.

A5. Public Apology

Trustee Nohr read the following statement:

I am addressing my apology to the Superintendent of Schools who is our CEO.

I sincerely apologize for the distress which I have caused our Superintendent and for my actions:

1. I should have respected the will of the majority of the Board for the Greater Victoria School District when I attended the District Health and Safety Committee. If I am unsure of the process, I will contact the Board Chair for advice.
2. Clearly my email of June 13, 2013 which I sent to our Superintendent was considered both derogatory and offensive due to its timing, content and distribution.
3. On January 7, 2013, my statement about the Superintendent's communication with school based staff was due to my confusion about the Wi-Fi moratorium and I understand that the Superintendent felt it was derogatory and inaccurate.
4. I agree to channel all further requests for information from District Senior Staff through the Board Chair in writing and I will refrain from any further direct communications with the Superintendent in order that we may continue to be a District that is known for its educational success.

A6. District Presentations

Superintendent Gaipman advised the public that Blanshard Elementary School was closed in 2003 and both Lot A (Land and Building at 950 Kings Road) and Lot B (Land at 955 Hillside Avenue) were leased for a 99 year term commencing January 1, 2005.

The Board of Education has been approached by an interested party to purchase the fee simple interest and return the land to the public domain, subject to Ministerial approval under the provisions of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order.

Superintendent Gaipman advised that the Board intends to submit a request to the Minister of Education for approval to dispose of Lot B at 955 Hillside Avenue and that further details cannot be disclosed at this time as the proposal has not been concluded.

A7. Community Presentations

- a) Emily Federico, South Park Elementary, Parent Advisory Council, attended the Board meeting to address recent media coverage and how it relates to the position of the PAC with respect to the proposed pilot program of Coastal Kindergarten. Ms. Federico stated that the South Park PAC has embraced this proposed pilot and is looking forward to having the program in their school.
- b) Tiffany Carlyle, James Bay Community School, Parent Advisory Council, attended the Board meeting to speak on behalf of the PAC and their thoughts with respect to the pilot program of Coastal Kindergarten. Ms. Carlyle stated that the James Bay PAC feels this program will be a great asset to the school and a wonderful experience for students to start their schooling experience.
- c) Bonnie Davidson, parent, attended the Board meeting to provide some background on nature pre-school and her request to start a pilot program for Coastal Kindergarten in the District. Ms. Davidson stated that play based learning opportunities create lifelong learners and urged the Board to vote in favour of the motion to be presented at this evenings meeting.
- d) Peter Milne, parent, attended the Board meeting to state his concern over the motions on the agenda this evening with regard to the installation of Wi-Fi in District elementary schools. Mr. Milne provided information and urged the Board to vote against these motions and to not lift the moratorium on Wi-Fi installation in elementary schools.
- e) John Bird, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, attended the Board meeting to speak about moving our culture and encouraging schools and families to learn together. Society is experiencing rapid changes and for children this is normal and rather than preparing students for the real world we should be encouraging students to change the world.
- f) Janis Hoffman, grandparent, attended the Board meeting and provided information regarding Wi-Fi. Ms. Hoffman urged the board to vote against the Wi-Fi motions and to not lift the moratorium on Wi-Fi installation at elementary schools.

A8. Trustees' Reports

- a) Trustee McNally reported that she attended a Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting, the Cooper Smith Music Library Collection naming and dedication at SJ Willis Education Centre, a Remembrance Day ceremony at Rockheights Middle School, and a parent advisory council meeting at Esquimalt High School.
- b) Trustee Horsman reported that she attended a Remembrance Day ceremony and a musical evening at Reynolds Secondary School and the Cooper Smith Music Library Collection naming and dedication at SJ Willis Education Centre.
- c) Trustee Nohr reported that she attended the Willows Elementary and Frank Hobbs Elementary Remembrance Day ceremonies, and a night of music at Mount Douglas High School.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that over the past month she attended a radio interview at CFX on October 22, 2013, a celebration of the program Success by Six at Rockheights Middle School which acknowledged the group reaching a milestone of \$50,000 books being donated, the British Columbia School Trustees Association Provincial Council meetings in Vancouver on October 25 and 26, 2013, the Cooper Smith Music Library Collection naming and dedication on October 29, 2013, an evening of music at Reynolds Secondary School on November 6, 2013 and a Remembrance Day ceremony at L'ecole Willows Elementary on November 8, 2013.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) The November 4, 2013 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Alpha presented the following recommended motion that had been referred from the October 21, 2013 Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Program of Choice Application: Coastal Kindergarten Program Proposal for a two year pilot located at James Bay Community School and South Park Family School beginning September, 2014.

Deputy Superintendent Bell provided further information and clarification to the Board with regard to the pilot program and the consultation process. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to refer the motion to the December 9, 2013 Board of Education meeting so that further consultation could be done with teachers.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) refer the motion "*to approve the Program of Choice Application: Coastal Kindergarten Program Proposal for a two year pilot located at James Bay Community School and South Park Family School beginning September, 2014*", to the December 9, 2013 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Nohr and McNally

Against: Trustees Ferris, McEvoy, Loring-Kuhanga, Orcherton, Horsman, Alpha and Leonard

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Orcherton calling the vote on the main motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the Program of Choice Application: Coastal Kindergarten Program Proposal for a two year pilot located at James Bay Community School and South Park Family School beginning September, 2014.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustee McNally

Trustee Alpha presented the following recommended motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the addition of a French Immersion program at George Jay Elementary School, beginning September 2014 with the introduction of a kindergarten class.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The November 12, 2013 meeting minutes were presented for information.

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent's Report – None

D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report – None

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

E1. BCSTA Provincial Councilor Report – Trustee Horsman

Trustee Horsman provided a verbal report to the Board with respect to motions that were passed at the British Columbia School Trustees Association Provincial Council meeting in October. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Trustee Horsman.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

F1. Trustee Remuneration – Trustee Ferris

Trustee Ferris presented his motion and provided his rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) table discussion of Trustee remuneration, including the motion referred from the October 21, 2013 Board of Education meeting, until the October 2014 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustee Leonard

F2. Continue Monitoring Wi-Fi Documentation – Trustee Ferris

Trustee Ferris presented his motion and provided a rationale statement.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continues to monitor documentation from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Provincial Health Officer, Health Canada and the World Health Organization with regard to the use of Wi-Fi in schools. Further, the Wi-Fi Committee recommends that the Board reviews, on an annual basis, those recommendations and receives updates on any changes.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the motion by adding “*and information provided by Citizens for Safe Technology, Dr. Kerry Crofton, the Advisory Board of Doctors for Safer Schools, and Canadians for Safe Technology.*”

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continues to monitor documentation from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Provincial Health Officer, Health Canada, the World Health Organization and information provided by Citizens for Safe Technology, Dr. Kerry Crofton, the Advisory Board of Doctors for Safer Schools, and Canadians for Safe Technology with regard to the use of Wi-Fi in schools. Further, the Wi-Fi Committee recommends that the Board reviews, on an annual basis, those recommendations and receives updates on any changes.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees: McNally, Loring-Kuhanga and Nohr

Against: Trustees Ferris, McEvoy, Leonard, Orcherton, Horsman and Alpha

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to table the motion until further research can be conducted.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) table the motion, “*continues to monitor documentation from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Provincial Health Officer, Health Canada and the World Health Organization with regard to the use of Wi-Fi in schools. Further, the Wi-Fi Committee recommends that the Board reviews, on an annual basis, those recommendations and receives updates on any changes*” until further research can be conducted.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Nohr and McNally

Against: Trustees Ferris, McEvoy, Orcherton, Horsman, Alpha and Leonard

Abstain: Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Orcherton calling the question on the main motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) continues to monitor documentation from the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Provincial Health Officer, Health Canada and the World Health Organization with regard to the use of Wi-Fi in schools. Further, the Wi-Fi Committee recommends that the Board reviews, on an annual basis, those recommendations and receives updates on any changes.

Motion Carried

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

F3. Allow Use of Wi-Fi in Elementary Schools – Trustee Ferris

Trustee Ferris presented his motion and provided a rationale statement.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) allow the use of Wi-Fi in elementary schools subject to each school first obtaining the support of their school community.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to table the motion until information can be obtained.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) table the motion "*allow the use of Wi-Fi in elementary schools subject to each school first obtaining the support of their school community*" until further information can be obtained.

Motion Defeated

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

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Orcherton calling the vote on the main motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) allow the use of Wi-Fi in elementary schools subject to each school first obtaining the support of their school community.

Motion Carried

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

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 10:07 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer