



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
January 20, 2014 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

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

**Administration:**

John Gaiptman, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Munro, Director, Human Resource Services, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, 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.

Chair Orcheron recognized and acknowledged the recent passing of former school trustee, John Young and requested a minute of silence in his honor.

Chair Orcheron announced the establishment of the John Young Legacy Scholarship through the Greater Victoria School District and anybody wishing to donate can do so by forwarding cheques to the Financial Services office.

Introductions were made around the Board table.

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A1. Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved and seconded:

That the January 20, 2014 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

**A7. Trustees' Report**

- a) Trustee McNally
- b) Trustee McEvoy
- c) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

**G. Communications**

- a) Letter from the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A2. Approval of the Minutes**

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the December 9, 2013 Regular Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None****A4. Student Achievement**

Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, introduced and welcomed Barb Hardy, Principal of Ecole Margaret Jenkins Elementary, who was dressed in period costume as Maggie Jenkins. Ecole Margaret Jenkins Elementary School is celebrating the schools' 100 year centennial and Principal Hardy (aka Maggie) gave a brief description of the events that will be taking place at the school throughout the year.

Nelson, a grade 4 student, made a brief presentation sharing some of the research he had done on the history of the school.

Grade 4/5 teacher, Mr. Steven Toleikis, introduced Marilla, Isabel, Nolan, Melissa and Caitlin who shared the project their class is participating in called "The Heritage Project" and explained the Kidblog they are using to post their comments and projects.

Chair Orcherton thanked Principal Hardy, Mr. Toleikis and the students for attending and presenting to the Board.

**A5. District Presentations - None****A6. Community Presentations**

- a) Lise Tetrault attended the Board meeting to speak on behalf of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association. Ms. Tetrault was speaking against the proposed Attendance Awareness Program and urged the Board to lobby the Provincial Government to increase funding to school districts.
- b) Kirk Doherty attended the Board meeting to speak on behalf of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association. Mr. Doherty was speaking against the proposed Attendance Awareness Program and stated that the current British Columbia Teachers' Federation health and wellness program appears to be working sufficiently without spending money to implement a program in the school district.

**A7. Trustees' Reports**

Trustee McNally reported that she attended Victoria High School for their information night and a Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee meeting.

Trustee McEvoy reported that he attended an Oak Bay High School Design Committee meeting with Oak Bay Council members and representatives of the district and also wanted to fondly remember former Trustee John Young.

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that before the winter break she was able to attend winter concerts, band concerts, sing-alongs and craft nights at the following schools: Craigflower, Lakehill, Macaulay, Tillicum, Rogers, Strawberry Vale, Central, Esquimalt, Spectrum, and Lambrick Park.

**B. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Orcherton reported that on December 12, 2013 she met with NDP Education Critic, Rob Fleming to discuss issues facing our Board and the importance of public education.

Chair Orcherton acknowledged how busy December is and thanked Trustees who were able to attend winter concerts and Christmas celebrations on behalf of the Board and reported that she was able to attend a few as well.

Chair Orcherton went on to report that she was interviewed by Alan Perry on CFAX on December 30, 2013 and attended an Artist's Opening Reception at Goward House on January 12, 2014 which displayed artwork from Frank Hobbs, Arbutus, Lambrick Park and Mt. Douglas.

Lastly, Chair Orcherton was pleased to report that a strike has been averted with CUPE Local 947 as a tentative agreement was reached on January 17, 2014. The membership will vote to ratify the agreement by the end of January.

## C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) Trustee Alpha presented the minutes from the January 6, 2014 Education Policy Development Committee meeting for information.

### C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) Trustee Leonard presented the minutes from the January 13, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following motion that had been tabled until the Secretary-Treasurer could be present.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Laser and Director of Human Resource Services, Kim Munro.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No.61 (Greater Victoria) implement the Attendance Awareness Program and proceed to hire a Human Resource Advisor, Wellness and Attendance Awareness, to coordinate the program.

**Motion Carried**

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

## D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

### D1. Superintendent's Report

#### a) Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2013-2014

Superintendent Gaiptman referred the Board to the Superintendent's Report on Achievement and stated that he would be happy to answer any questions.

It was moved and seconded:

To approve the "Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2013-2014" in accordance with Section 79.3 of the *School Act*.

**Motion Carried**

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

**D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report - None**

**E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES - None**

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

**F1. iPad Safety – Trustee McNally**

Trustee McNally presented her motion and provided her rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Associate Superintendent Pat Duncan.

It was moved and seconded:

- a) i. That the Board ensure that all K-5 classrooms with wifi capability have simplified iPad safety requirements posted where students can read them, and  
 ii. that the instructions are clearly interpreted in drawings for non-readers;  
 iii. that the classroom teacher review these safety requirements with students as needed and if unsafe operation of the iPad is noted, and  
 iv. that all school personnel who will be working with students and iPads be given a copy of the iPad safety information below:

*School Staff Information:*

*Exposure to Radio Frequency Energy: iPad contains radio transmitters and receivers. When on, iPad sends and receives radio frequency (RF) energy through its antenna. The Wi-Fi and Bluetooth® antennas are located behind the screen to the left of the Home button, and behind the Apple logo. iPad has been tested and meets the SAR exposure requirements for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth operation. A cellular antenna is located at the top edge of the iPad Wi-Fi + 3G, when oriented with the Home button at the bottom. For optimal mobile device performance and to be sure that human exposure to RF energy does not exceed the FCC, IC, and European Union guidelines, always follow these instructions and precautions: Orient the device in portrait mode with the Home button at the bottom of the display, or in landscape mode with the cellular antenna (located under the black edge at the top of the device) away from your body or other objects.*

*Electronic Interference: The wireless transmitters and electrical circuits in iPad Wi-Fi + 3G may cause interference in other electronic equipment. If you have any reason to suspect that interference is taking place, turn iPad off immediately (press and hold the Sleep/Wake button, and then slide the onscreen slider)*

*Medical Devices: iPad contains radios that emit electromagnetic fields...[which] may interfere with pacemakers or other medical devices. If you wear a pacemaker maintain at least 6 inches (approximately 15 cm) of separation between your pacemaker and iPad...iPad has magnets along the left edge of the device and on the right side of the front glass which may interfere with ...medical devices.*

*Medical conditions: If you have any medical condition that you believe could be affected by iPad (for example, seizures, blackouts, eyestrain or headaches),*

*consult with your physician prior to using iPad.*

*Seizures, Blackouts, and Eyestrain*

*A small percentage of people may be susceptible to blackouts or seizures (even if they have never had one before) when exposed to flashing lights or light patterns such as when playing games or watching video. If you have experienced seizures or blackouts or have a family history of such occurrences, you should consult a physician before playing games or watching videos on your iPad. Discontinue use of iPad and consult a physician if you experience headaches, blackouts, seizures, convulsion, eye or muscle twitching, loss of awareness, involuntary movement, or disorientation. To reduce risk of headaches, blackouts, seizures, and eyestrain, avoid prolonged use, hold iPad some distance from your eyes, use iPad in a well-lit room, and take frequent breaks.*

*Glass Parts*

*The outside cover of the iPad screen is made of glass. This glass could break if iPad is dropped on a hard surface or receives a substantial impact. If the glass chips or cracks do not touch or attempt to remove the broken glass and stop using iPad.*

- b) That the Board ensure all middle school classrooms have summarized points from the iPad safety section in the manual posted in every classroom and that the classroom teacher supervising operation of iPads review the safety information as needed / when unsafe operation is observed.

*Proposed summary: If you hold the iPad in Portrait mode with the short edges at the top and bottom, keep the Home button at the bottom. If you hold the iPad in Landscape mode with the long edges on the top and bottom, hold the iPad so the the cellular antenna (located under the black edge at the top of the device) is away from your body. Use the iPad on a table top. Do not hold it against your body.*

- c) That high school classrooms have the iPad safety information from the applicable manual posted and visible to students, and that it be brought to students' attention by the classroom teacher as needed.
- d) That any information posted in classrooms and / or provided to teachers regarding safe operation of iPads be sent to parents by the Administration of every school in which wifi is used.
- e) That the link to videos of recorded iPad emissions on the SafeInSchool site be provided to parents by school Principals. (<http://www.safeinschool.org/2012/01/ipad-iphone-wi-fi-radiation-and.html>)

**Motion Defeated**

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

## G. COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Orcherton referred Trustees to a letter that she had received from the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) dated January 20, 2014. VCPAC advised Chair Orcherton that Trustee Nohr had distributed incorrect information to their members regarding Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) score results.

Trustee Nohr stated that she had obtained the information she provided from a link on the Ministry of Education website. Chair Orcherton sought direction from the Board on how to rectify this situation. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with direction being given to Superintendent Gaipman to forward the correct information to VCPAC. Trustee Nohr requested that Superintendent Gaipman provide further information at the Education Policy Development Committee meeting on February 3, 2014.

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

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer