



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
April 2, 2014 Special Board Budget Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Trustees Peg Orcherton (Chair), Bev Horsman (Vice-Chair), Catherine Alpha (7:15 p.m.), Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

**Regrets:** Trustee Michael McEvoy

**Administration:**

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Nita McBurney, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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.

**1. WELCOME BY PEG ORCHERTON, CHAIR**

Chair Orcherton welcomed everyone and the agenda was accepted as presented. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive input as it relates to the deficit the District is facing for 2014/2015 school year. Chair Orcherton indicated that a brief budget presentation would be made by Superintendent Bell and Secretary-Treasurer Laser with public presentations heard thereafter. Chair Orcherton also advised the dates, times and locations of the upcoming budget meetings to receive further public input.

**2. 2014/2015 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Secretary-Treasurer Laser and Superintendent Bell provided an overview of the budget presentation presented to the Board on March 26, 2014 showing the forecast for the upcoming budget year with reduction options. Superintendent Bell explained that they tried to look at budget reductions that would have the least amount of impact on schools and affect the least amount of students. The budget shortfall has been recalculated to factor in the relocation of the Sundance program. The proposed budget options include a reduction of 8.29 full time equivalent positions. The revised budget options total \$1,552,206 and exceed the amount required to address the deficit by \$53,501.

Chair Orcherton thanked Superintendent Bell and Secretary-Treasurer Laser for their presentation and invited the community speakers in the audience to make their presentations.

Nicole Baker, Sundance parent, stated that Sundance families are still hoping that a more positive solution will be found and distributed a document as follow-up that had been done with Sundance families. She spoke to the document, stating that 14 of the current Sundance students have indicated that they will be leaving the public school system to be home schooled or to attend independent schools. She noted that this will reduce funding to the District.

Ms. Baker suggested that the possibility of a Sundance Community School Centre should be explored. Alternatively, they would like to be given the opportunity to lease the school for one dollar a year to operate as an independent school.

Chair Orcherton thanked Ms. Baker for her presentation.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer