



**Combined Education Policy Development Committee
and
Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
December 2, 2013 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

REGULAR MINUTES

Present:

Catherine Alpha, Chair, Tom Ferris, Bev Horsman, Elaine Leonard, Chair, Edith Loring-Kuhanga via conference call, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

Regrets:

Michael McEvoy, Peg Orcherton

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deb Courville, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Janine Roy, District Principal of Learning Initiatives, Kristine Marshall, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m.

Chair Alpha recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved:

That the December 2, 2013 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved:

That the November 4, 2013 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

It was moved:

That the November 12, 2013 Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Trustee McNally asked for clarification on points 7A and 7B in the November 12, 2013 Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes. Secretary-Treasurer Laser confirmed that both points will be addressed at the January meeting.

4. EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Trustee Alpha, Chair

A. Student Achievement

Superintendent Gaipman presented a summary of the district's graduation rates from 2008 - 2012. The graduation rates have shown consistent improvement over this period. This year, 84.5% of students completed graduation within a 6 year period.

- Female graduation rates increased by 6.6%
- Male graduation rates improved by 7.2%
- English Language Learners (ELL) graduation rates increased by 7.2%
- Graduation with honors improved by 5%
- Students with special needs graduating with a Dogwood Certificate increased by 8.1%

Superintendent Gaipman stated that this growth was the result of the hard work of all staff in the school district over the past five years. He also explained that in order to have improved graduation rates, students must successfully transition from grade to grade. During the past 4 years, the district has seen a consistently improving percentage of students transitioning to the next grade.

Trustees thanked Superintendent Gaipman, expressed their appreciation and asked questions.

Trustee Leonard presented the following motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) put forth a media release about its graduation rates.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Administration was given the direction to send out the media release.

5. OPERATIONS, POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – Trustee Leonard, Chair

Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting began at 8:17p.m.

A. PRESENTATIONS - none

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Sub-Committee on Public Engagement

Chair Leonard and Deputy Superintendent Bell presented Bylaw 9360.01: Question Period During General Meetings of the Board of Education. The purpose of the Bylaw is to provide a framework for the question period.

Points 1, 6, and 9, were agreed to; point 4 and point 7 were deleted and point 4 was replaced with "all questions will be directed to the chair." Points 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be reviewed as additional discussion is needed. Point 14 will be changed from within a week to "in a timely manner" and will be reviewed as additional discussion is needed.

C. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

1. 2014-2015 Budget Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Laser reviewed the proposed 2014-2015 budget plan. Public input to determine budget priorities has been sought and summarization of responses has begun. This summary will be provided to trustees at the January 2014 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

The district will be given detailed funding numbers from the Ministry by March 15, 2014. At that time all expenditure line items will also be calculated.

The Public Board budget presentation together with options to address the budget shortfall will occur on March 26, 2014. April 2, 2014, April 9, 2014 and April 14, 2014 will be dedicated to receiving input on the budget proposals. Approval of the 2014/2015 budget bylaw is planned for April 23, 2014 to provide time to complete the school staffing process for September 2014.

Discussion ensued.

Trustee Horsman presented the following motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2014-2015 Budget Plan

Motion Carried

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

2. Learning Improvement Fund Presentation

Deputy Superintendent Bell presented a summary of the Learning Improvement Fund. It has funded 13 teachers. 188 hours of meeting time, 160 top up hours and 183 new hours have been funded for Educational Assistants. As of December 1, 2013 there is \$70,000 left in the fund and a meeting has been scheduled with the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association to discuss how the remaining funds will be allocated. \$58,000 was provided for professional development which has been used in training teachers and staff to address challenging learning conditions.

D. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

E. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTION

1. Trustee Loring-Kuhanga - Question Focused Budget Meetings

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga presented her motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) hold a series of question-focused budget meetings constituted as meetings of an Ad Hoc Committee (Bylaw 9140) at no cost to the board and to include members of the current (and future) Budget Committee, as well as any interested trustee to be among those "selected" by the Board, and any interested stakeholder to discuss questions raised about the budget and SD61 expenses. Findings and recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee to be presented to the Board at public meetings, beginning with further examination of the 8 items from the Secretary-Treasurer's memo of November 12th. The term of the Ad Committee to be open until two weeks before the final April Board budget debate and vote.

Motion referred to the December 9, 2013 Board Meeting

Discussion ensued and the motion was referred to the December 9, 2013 Board Meeting.

F. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.