



**Operations, Policy and Planning Committee
Special Budget Public Input Meeting
April 14, 2014 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

MINUTES

Present:

Elaine Leonard, Chair, Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Bev Horsman, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Michael McEvoy (arrived 7:25 p.m.), Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr, Peg Orcherton

Administration:

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Doreen Hegan, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Chair Leonard 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 April 14, 2014 regular agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

2. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS - None

3. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

A. Capital/Seismic Project Cost Sharing

Secretary-Treasurer Laser explained that the Ministry of Education has sent a letter to school districts indicating that school districts will be expected to determine how much cash is available to contribute up to 50% of the cost of major capital projects. In a subsequent news article, the Minister cited the Greater Victoria School District as having \$17 million available.

Secretary-Treasurer Laser provided Trustees with a detailed breakdown of the \$17 million being referenced by the Minister. She concluded that the School District has already committed to spending these funds, but that there is \$1.9 million held in the Ministry of Education Restricted Capital account and \$4.1 million held in the Local Capital Reserve that could be available to contribute towards the cost of future capital projects.

Trustee Orcherton worked with Secretary-Treasurer Laser to draft a letter to the Minister of Education regarding District concerns and requested input from Trustees. Trustees provided feedback and gave direction to amend the letter and to send it out on April 15, 2014.

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Chair Leonard announced that motion D will be moved to A and the others will shift down.

A. Trustee McNally - Board Budget Meeting

Trustee McNally presented her motion and rationale.

Secretary-Treasurer Laser clarified that the reason for the current timeline is to enable the Board to meet the contractual obligations as set out in employee group collective agreements.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) delay the final vote on the School District No. 61 budget for 2014-2015 to the May 20, 2014 Board meeting, and in the interim convene the Budget Advisory Committee in the week of April 28th (adding more meetings as needed via the vote of any three Trustees) with expanded attendance to include all interested Trustees.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Alpha, Loring-Kuhanga, and McNally

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

B. Trustee Nohr - Department Funding Reductions

Chair Leonard ruled parts of the motion out-of-order. Trustee Nohr withdrew her motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reduce funding allocations by a total of \$266,000 in the following departments: Superintendent, Associate Superintendents and Learning Initiatives to cover the funding needed to keep Sundance Elementary open.

Motion Withdrawn

C. Trustee Nohr - Exempt Staff Expenses

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale.

Secretary-Treasurer Laser explained that mileage, telephone, professional membership fees, and professional development are all part of the expenses incurred by Exempt employees in order to perform their duties. Superintendent Bell advised that she reviews the expenses incurred by the District Leadership Team.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees. Trustee Nohr withdrew her motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) place a maximum cap of \$5000 for any expenses including professional development for all exempt staff and associate superintendents excluding the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer; any proposed expenses exceeding this cap would require prior approval of the Board.

Motion Withdrawn

D. Trustee Nohr - Funding to Support Need2

Superintendent Bell explained that everything the Need2 Program does with the middle and secondary schools is at no cost to the School District, except for one workshop that was held in the fall at a cost of \$1,200.

Trustee Nohr explained her motion and rationale.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees. Trustee Nohr withdrew her motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provides \$1,000 through the Healthy Schools Department for school based funding available to any interested school in support of suicide prevention training in the Need2 program.

Motion Withdrawn

5. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.