



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)  
September 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting - Goward House, 2495 Arbutus Road

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**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Trustees Peg Orcherton, Chair, Bev Horsman, Vice-Chair, Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Michael McEvoy, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

**Regrets:**

Trustee Edith Loring-Kuhanga

**Administration:**

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent, Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Kelsey Hoi, Mount Douglas High School, Student Representative, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 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.

Chair Orcherton welcomed Mount Douglas High School Student Representative, Kelsey Hoi, to the meeting and new Associate Superintendent's Shelley Green and Cam Pinkerton.

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING**

**A1. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Orcherton referred Trustees to Bylaw 9360 and more specifically the point that states "*Limiting public presentations to 5 minutes for each individual with a limit of 3 speakers per issue*" with respect to agenda item A6. Community Presentations. Chair Orcherton requested a motion from the floor to allow for more speakers on the issue of "binding arbitration" for the Board of Education meeting of September 15, 2014.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) allow for more than three speakers under agenda item A6. Community Speakers, on the issue of "binding arbitration" for the Board of Education meeting on September 15, 2014.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

That the September 15, 2014 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

**A6. Community Presentations**

- a) Carolina Tudella, SD61 Parent, Binding Arbitration
- b) Ross Gilbert, High School Teacher, Binding Arbitration
- c) Carolyn Howe, Elementary School Teacher, Binding Arbitration
- d) David Futter, Middle School Teacher, Binding Arbitration
- e) Bev Bacon, SD61 Teacher, Binding Arbitration

**A7. Trustees' Reports**

- a) Trustee Nohr

**E. Reports from Trustee Representatives**

- a) Trustee Horsman

**F. New Business/Notice of Motions**

- F1. Trustee McNally - Bylaw 9010

**Motion Carried Unanimously****A2. Approval of the Minutes**

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the June 16, 2014 Regular Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b) It was moved and seconded:

That the August 25, 2014 Special Board Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously****A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None****A4. Student Achievement - None****A5. District Presentations - None****A6. Community Presentations**

- a) Carolina Tudela, a parent of a grade twelve student in the District, attended the Board meeting to request Trustees to advocate for teachers and students in the District. Ms. Tudela also expressed her displeasure about the closure of Sundance Elementary School and class size and composition issues.
- b) Ross Gilbert, School District No.61 high school teacher, attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), to speak about binding arbitration. Mr. Gilbert expressed his dismay at the perceived lack of communication at the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting of September 8, 2014 and urged Trustees to advocate for proper funding for public education.
- c) Carolyn Howe, School District No. 61 elementary school teacher, attended the Board meeting on behalf of the GVTA, to speak about binding arbitration. Ms. Howe urged Trustees to consider class size and composition when making decisions.
- d) David Futter, School District No. 61 middle school teacher, attended the Board meeting on behalf of the GVTA as the newly elected Social Justice Chair, to speak about binding arbitration. Mr. Futter urged Trustees to send a message to the government to remove item E.80 from the bargaining table.
- e) Bev Bacon, School District No.61 teacher, attended the Board meeting to seek support from Trustees related to special education. Ms. Bacon urged Trustees to be valiant defenders of public education and champions of adequate funding for special education.

**A7. Trustees' Reports**

- a) Trustee Nohr reported that she visited the strike lines at many schools in the District over the summer months.

**B. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Orcherton reported that the Board met over the summer months to discuss, deliberate and respond to issues as they unfolded during the teachers' strike. Chair Orcherton thanked the Board for their attentiveness and availability for the extra meetings. Chair Orcherton further reported that she participated in numerous media interviews to advocate for a solution that would get students and teachers back in the classroom.

Chair Orcherton thanked all School District employees on behalf of the Board for the necessary work they have continued to do during challenging times.

**C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS****C1. Joint Education Policy Development and Operations, Policy and Planning Committee**

- a) The September 8, 2014 meeting minutes were presented for information.

**D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS****D1. Superintendent's Report - None****D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

- a) 2013/2014 Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer Laser referred Trustees to the Audited Financial Statements and provided an overview of the financial position for the year ended June 30, 2014. Secretary-Treasurer Laser answered questions of clarification from Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the internally restricted surplus appropriation of \$14,305,021 as shown on Schedule 2 of the Financial Statements, being held for school level funds \$4,966,701 (Note A), unspent project budgets \$2,507,438 (Note B), purchase order commitments \$530,882 (Note C), and the previously approved budgeted surplus \$6,300,000 (Note D) be approved;

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Laser.

It was moved and seconded:

That the June 30, 2014 unrestricted operating surplus of \$4,250,959 (Note E) be carried forward to be applied towards the 2015/2016 projected deficit; (The deficit is forecast to be in excess of \$6.3 million.)

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

That the audited financial statements of the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria), for the year ended June 30, 2014, be approved;

And that the Board Chair, the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to execute these statements, where applicable, on behalf of the Board.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b) Statement of Financial Information

Secretary-Treasurer Laser referred Trustees to the Schedules as required by the Financial Information Act for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and explained that there were no changes to the reporting requirements. Trustees asked questions of clarification of Secretary-Treasurer Laser.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the schedules as required by the Financial Information Act for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

- E1. Trustee Horsman advised the Board that the British Columbia School Trustees' Association Provincial Council meeting is scheduled for October 24 and 25, 2014.

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

- F1. Trustee McNally provided a Notice of Motion for the October 14, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting regarding Bylaw 9010.

**G. COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

- H1. Chair Orcherton reported out to the public the following motion that was carried at the September 15, 2014 In-Camera Board meeting:

In the event that current mediation with Vince Ready fails to succeed in a mediated settlement that, the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to BCPSEA calling on them to replace E.80 with an interim class size and composition proposal that does not impact the present legal action currently before the courts, and further ask BCPSEA and the BCTF to again resume bargaining with a mediator and for all labour disruption to cease while the parties are in negotiations, in order to immediately allow our students and teachers back in the classroom.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer