



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

MINUTES

Present:

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

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, Kim Munro, Director, Human Resource Services, Seamus Howley, Director, Facilities Services, Mark Walsh, Manager, Labour Relations, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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.

Introductions were made around the Board table.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

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

A7. Trustees' Reports

- a) Trustee Horsman
- b) Trustee Nohr

F. New Business/Notice of Motions

- F2. Trustee Nohr - District Code of Conduct

Motion Carried Unanimously

A2. Approval of the Minutes

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the September 15, 2014 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None

A4. Student Achievement

Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, introduced and welcomed Amy Polson, Principal of Lake Hill Elementary School. Ms. Polson introduced Vice Principal, Michelle Vingo and several grade five students who attended the Board meeting to share their fundraising efforts on behalf of a fellow student. Dacian introduced himself and explained the condition that he has called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and that his fellow students have been fundraising to help his family purchase a specialized van that will accommodate his wheelchair. Each student spoke about the fundraiser they participated in and what it meant to help Dacian and his family.

Chair Orcherton thanked Ms. Polson, Ms. Vingo and Lake Hill Elementary students for attending the Board meeting.

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

- a) Carolina Tudela, a parent of children in the school district, addressed the Board about a proposal made by the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) with respect to classroom resources funding and stated that she did not support the proposal.
- b) Nicole Strong, a parent of children in the school district, spoke to Trustees about the letter that VCPAC sent to schools regarding their proposal for a classroom resources fund. Ms. Strong stated that she did not support the proposal.
- c) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils spoke to the vision of the proposed VCPAC Classroom Resources Fund. Mr. Bird explained that it is not merely about resources, it's about protecting classrooms. The proposal is about conversation, sharing, engagement and the building of relationships that will serve children well.
- d) Sally Gilbert, a parent of children in the school district expressed her concern about the classroom resources fund proposed by VCPAC.
- e) Bobby Arbess, a parent of a child in the school district presented his viewpoint about equality for students and teachers in the classroom and urged the Board to advocate for more funding for public education.
- f) Jason Gammon, Vice- President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association addressed the Board about the issue of September pay for teachers. Mr. Gammon stated that teachers should receive eight days' pay for eight days work in September.

A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Horsman reported that she attended Reynolds Secondary School for the annual whole school head shaving fundraiser for Cops for Cancer. Trustee Horsman further reported that one of this year's guest riders was Dean Norris-Jones, a teacher at Reynolds.

Trustee Nohr reported that she was impressed by the sense of caring that she observed in all of the schools that she visited in October.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that she had a busy month attending functions at various schools, including, a PAC barbecue for George Jay Elementary at the Fernwood Community Centre, the first day of school at the new seismically upgraded Quadra Elementary, a VCPAC meeting at Oaklands Elementary and the arrival of the new kindergarten students at George Jay Elementary. Chair Orcherton also attended the Cops for Cancer head shaving fundraiser at Reynolds Secondary School and stated how impressed she was by the amount of money that was raised in a short period of time.

Chair Orcherton further reported that she attended a Community and Culture meeting on September 25, 2014 and that spoke on behalf of the Board on September 27, 2014 at the Community Association of Oak Bay National Culture Day.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) The October 6, 2014 meeting minutes were received for information.

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The October 14, 2014 meeting minutes were received for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes of the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following recommended motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Policy 4144.1, Workers Compensation.

Kim Munro, Director of Human Resource Services stated that she has had discussion with the union groups subsequent to the October 14, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and requested that Policy 4144.1, Workers Compensation, be referred to a future Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the revised Policy 4144.1, Workers Compensation*" be referred to a future Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bell provided Trustees with an update about the Suicide Prevention Programs within District schools and advised that she would be checking in with schools again this school year.

Superintendent Bell responded to an email question from Trustee Loring-Kuhanga regarding proposed changes to legislation with regard to cyber bullying. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Bell.

D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report - None**E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES****E1. Trustee Horsman - BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting Motions**

Trustee Horsman provided an overview of the motions that have been submitted to the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) from Boards of Education around the province in preparation for the October 25, 2014 Provincial Council meeting. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with direction being given to Trustee Horsman.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**F1. Trustee McNally - Budget Ad Hoc Committee**

Trustee McNally presented her motion and provided her rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) immediately convene and advertise publicly an ad hoc committee with three tables

a) to meet at minimum monthly (more, or less, often by agreement of attendees) until the final budget vote to examine the current budget and any financial information as needed, including the line item budget, in order to propose this year's one time only savings to address the budget's \$8.5 million structural deficit

b) one table to be composed of any interested SD61 community members including VCPAC and any interested trustees; one table to be composed of interested SD61 employee groups and any interested trustees; one table to consist of interested members of the SD61 PVPA and any interested trustees; tables to meet on the same evening, same venue; format of evening as open question period or other format to be decided by the tables

c) the Secretary-Treasurer or designate and Superintendent to be present at the meetings

d) to report to the Board monthly, method and meeting to be determined by the committee members at each table,

e) and that the meetings be held at 6:30 pm in school libraries.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees. Trustee Leonard moved that the motion be referred to a future Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) immediately convene and advertise publicly an ad hoc committee with three tables*

a) to meet at minimum monthly (more, or less, often by agreement of attendees) until the final budget vote to examine the current budget and any financial information as needed, including the line item budget, in order to propose this year's one time only savings to address the budget's \$8.5

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c) the Secretary-Treasurer or designate and Superintendent to be present at the meetings

d) to report to the Board monthly, method and meeting to be determined by the committee members at each table,

e) and that the meetings be held at 6:30 pm in school libraries” be referred to a future Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.”

Motion Carried

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

F2. Trustee Nohr provided a Notice of Motion for the November 3, 2014 Education Policy Development Committee meeting regarding a District Code of Conduct.

G. COMMUNICATIONS - None

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

 Chair

 Secretary-Treasurer