



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
January 16, 2012 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

MINUTES

Present:

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

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Associate Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Debra Laser, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Kyle Cormier, Director of Human Resource Services, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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.

Introductions were made around the Board table due to the recent elections and newly elected Trustees.

Chair Orcherton advised that the meeting was being videotaped by Trustee Nohr's husband. Chair Orcherton also acknowledged the re-election of Gilles Larose as President of CUPE Local 382 and also a recent labour participation award received by CUPE Local 382.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

That the January 16, 2012 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Benula Giasson, Acting President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
- d) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils – Classroom Support Fund/FSA testing

A7. Trustee Reports

- a) Trustee Leonard
- b) Trustee Horsman
- c) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga
- d) Trustee Nohr
- e) Trustee McNally

F. New Business/Notice of Motions

F2. Trustee Loring-Kuhanga withdrew her Motion – Greeting and Acknowledgement

F3. New Business/Notice of Motions

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga requested that Motion F3 be broken into two motions.

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the November 21, 2011 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

- b) It was moved and seconded:

That the December 5, 2011 Inaugural Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

A4. Student Achievement

- a)
- Philanthropy Award, Oak Bay High School Students**

Dave Thomson, Principal, Oak Bay High School, provided an overview of the Cops for Cancer fundraising this past fall which raised a total of \$45,229. Mr. Thomson reported that for the third year in a row the school has received a local philanthropy award due to the many community causes they support. Three students from the school were introduced and each spoke about the types of fundraising activities that the school participated in and the spirit surrounding this worthy cause. A video presentation was made showcasing the fundraising events along with the cheque reveal to the Cops for Cancer team of 2011.

Trustees had questions for the students and thanked them for presenting to the Board.

A5. District Presentations

- a)
- Doug Harrison, Lake Hill Elementary**

Trustee Horsman presented Doug Harrison, Custodian, Lake Hill Elementary School with an appreciation certificate for his dedication and contribution to the Lake Hill recycling program. Unfortunately Mr. Harrison was unable to attend and in his place Jody Waldie, Principal, Lake Hill Elementary, accepted the certificate on his behalf. Trustee Horsman thanked Mr. Harrison for his continued support to the staff and students of Lake Hill Elementary.

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Ms. Benula Giasson, Acting President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) started off by welcoming new Board members. Ms. Giasson presented a brief overview of bargaining over the past ten years and what she feels teachers have given up. She stated that teacher's need a fair and equitable salary increase and that class size agreements should be restored to past practices and called on BCPSEA representatives to take this information back to the bargaining table.
- b) Gail Renard, Co-Chair, local bargaining committee, GVTA, spoke of the first local bargaining meeting she attended on March 7, 2011 where she petitioned to improve working conditions for teachers. Ms. Renard believes that local bargaining gives the opportunity to negotiate needs of teachers and would like to see it resume.

- c) Kirk Doherty, Co-Chair, local bargaining committee, GVTA, introduced himself as a District English teacher. Mr. Doherty feels that the needs and issues of District teachers are not being met and would like to see local bargaining/negotiations get back to the table. He urged the Board to approve and pass Trustee Nohr's motion for more local bargaining dates to be set.
- d) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC), presented a 'draft' proposal for a classroom support fund which is still in the consultation phase. Mr. Bird advised that current funding does not take into consideration the needs of all students. The proposal can be viewed on the VCPAC website and input provided.

Mr. Bird provided a handout on Foundation Skills Assessment Testing (FSA) and advised that VCPAC does not take a position one way or the other with regard to this testing. Mr. Bird gave an overview of current FSA testing and its reliability.

A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Leonard passed around images of artwork that Mount Douglas Secondary students submitted in a contest to have their work on display at Jeneece Place the new facility for families to stay while their children are receiving treatment at Victoria General Hospital. Some of the images were chosen and will now be on display

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported on her recent visits to Eagle View, George Jay, McKenzie Schools and how impressed she was by the level of commitment by our District teachers and staff.

Trustee Nohr advised that she has visited Mount Douglas, Frank Hobbs, Victoria West and Eagle View Schools and has plans to visit more schools soon.

Trustee McNally advised that she has been assigned the Esquimalt family of schools and looks forward to visiting all schools in the near future.

Trustee Horsman reported that she recently attended the parent's information night at Reynolds School and had the pleasure of being provided a tour by student ambassadors.

B. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Orcherton stated that she is looking forward to working with the new Board and highlighted a few initiatives that have already taken place to improve the Board meetings. Chair Orcherton reported that the new Board has had two orientation sessions in January to review matters such as District procedures, policies and departmental budgets. District Policies, Bylaws and Regulations will now be reviewed at weekly District Leadership Team meetings and updated/revised as needed. Chair Orcherton conveyed that the Board is very aware of current contract negotiations and is hopeful and committed that a settlement will be reached soon.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee and Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

Trustee Alpha provided an overview of the District presentations made at the January 9, 2012 meeting and the amazing routes to graduation available to students in the Greater Victoria School District through programs in our schools.

- a) The January 09, 2012 combined meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Recommended Motions

It was moved and seconded:

i)	That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopts the revised Policy 1150, Communications.	Motion Carried
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Trustee Nohr requested that her vote in opposition be recorded.

ii)	That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) delete Policy and Regulation 1219, School Consultative Group.	Motion Carried Unanimously
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iii)	That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopts the revised Policy 8251, Trustees' Code of Ethics.	Motion Carried Unanimously
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D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent's Report

a) Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2011-2012

Superintendent Gaipman gave an overview of the report that the Board received in December and highlighted a few programs encapsulated in the report such as Fast Track and Friends for Life. Superintendent Gaipman explained that the report is prepared with the help of many senior administrative staff members.

A discussion followed with Trustees asking questions of Superintendent Gaipman. Chair Orcherton advised Trustees to forward specific questions to the Chair of the Education Policy Development Committee.

Trustee Ferris thanked the Superintendent for the report and believes it explains for Trustees how the District achieves goals from year to year.

It was moved and seconded:

To approve the "Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2011-2012" in accordance with Section 79.3 of the <i>School Act</i> .		Motion Carried
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D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a) Big Brothers Big Sisters – trailer storage

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault advised that a letter was received from Big Brothers Big Sisters requesting permission to leave a trailer on District property for a drop off point for donations. Permission has been granted.

b) 2012-2013 Budget Planning Cycle

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault advised of one amendment to the 2012-2013 Budget Planning Cycle meeting dates. Monday, April 9th is a Statutory holiday (Easter Monday).

This date has been deleted and Wednesday, April 18th 2012 has been added in its place.

c) **Trustee Remuneration**

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault explained the motion that was brought forward and passed at a Board of Education meeting on April 25, 2005. The motion states that Trustee remuneration would be based on the average of five school districts in British Columbia with comparable student population and that the Secretary-Treasurer would automatically review this every three years beginning in 2008.

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

E1. BCPSEA Representative – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally advised that she would be attending the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association AGM and was seeking guidance on a motion put forward by School District No 82 (Coast Mountain). The motion pertained to BCPSEA paying for one senior staff member from each district to attend meetings along with the Trustee representative.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of this motion with suggestions being made to Trustee McNally and direction given that she should vote in favor of the motion.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

F1. Local Bargaining – Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr thanked the teachers that were in attendance and stated that she would like to see local bargaining negotiations resume.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) set three suggested dates to be coordinated with the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) for the purpose of resuming local bargaining.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees and Trustee Horsman proposed the following amendment.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves adding the words "regarding items identified in Appendix 2" to the original motion.

Motion Carried

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) set three suggested dates to be coordinated with the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) for the purpose of resuming local bargaining regarding items identified in Appendix 2.

Motion Carried

F2. Greeting and Acknowledgement – Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

That all Greater Victoria School Board Meetings and Committee Meetings begin with acknowledging that we live, learn and work on traditional territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees nations.

Motion Withdrawn

F3. Letter to BCPSEA – Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

Trustee Alpha stepped aside and did not participate in this motion.

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga provided background on the two motions and explained why the letter should be written. Discussion ensued with Brad Hall, CUPE Local 947 President, making the point that if this letter is written it would essentially reopen every other contract that has been bargained in the past two years.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) remove the net zero mandate thereby allowing BCPSEA to bargain with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) in good faith.

Motion Defeated

Trustee McNally put forth the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend the Regular Board meeting of January 16, 2012 to 11:15 p.m.

Motion Carried

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga continued on with the second part of her original motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that he restore special needs funding as per the BC Supreme Court ruling on Bills 27 and 28.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee McNally putting forth the motion to refer this motion to the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) refer the motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that he restore special needs funding as per the BC Supreme court ruling on Bills 27 and 28 to Operations, Policy and Planning Committee.

Motion Carried

F4. FSA Letter to Parents – Trustee McNally

Motion did not get heard at the meeting and will be moved to the next Education Policy Development Committee meeting on February 6, 2012.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) instruct the Chairperson to write a letter modeled on the Vancouver School Board letter dated January 13, 2009, directed to the parents and guardians of the students in SD61 who are eligible to write the FSA test, and that the Board ensure that the letter gets to parents and guardians in the fastest way possible.

F5. Recording of Votes – Trustee McNally

Motion did not get heard at the meeting and will be moved to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting agenda of February 13, 2012.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) records in the minutes all votes with the Trustee's name and yes, no or abstain. Absent Trustees names will be recorded as absent for the vote; the mover and seconder will be recorded.

F6. Community Consultation for 2012-2013 Budget – Trustee Alpha

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Budget Committee will initiate a community consultation process to gather information which will lead to the development of the 2012-2013 Budget.

This process will seek:

1. Current levels of service in the District
2. Impacts of previous cuts to service and programs
3. Additional resources which will supply quality learning and working conditions in our District.

This will include but not be restricted to the following groups:

- Student Support Services (gifted, Ab Ed, ESL)/Non enrolling teachers
- International Student Program
- Classroom Teachers
- Educational Support Workers
- Parents
- Students
- Transportation
- Custodial
- Maintenance
- Clerical Staff
- Principals/Vice Principals
- Senior Administration
- Community Members

Further, the Board instructs the Budget Committee to conduct all consultations in public.

Trustee Horsman suggested amending the motion by deleting "*Budget Committee*" from the first line and completely deleting the last line as it is already understood that the meetings are held with public meetings.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) will initiate a community consultation process to gather information which will lead to the development of the 2012-2013 Budget.

This process will seek:

1. Current levels of service in the District
2. Impacts of previous cuts to service and programs
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- Transportation
- Custodial
- Maintenance
- Clerical Staff
- Principals/Vice Principals
- Senior Administration
- Community Members

Motion Carried

F7. Trustee Remuneration – Trustee Horsman

Trustee Horsman requested all Trustees to support this motion. Trustee McEvoy gave a brief history on Trustee remuneration and asked all Trustees to support the motion given the current economic environment.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) refuse any raise in the basic Trustee remuneration rate for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion Carried

F8. Policy and Regulations working committee -Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

Motion did not get heard at the meeting and will be moved to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting agenda of February 13, 2012.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) establish a small working committee (consisting of 2 trustees, 1 executive member, 1 teacher, 1 administrator, 1 parent and 1 CUPE member) to review all of the policies and regulations and to report revisions to OPPS on a monthly basis.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

- G1.** Letter received on January 9, 2012 from the GVTA to Board Chair.

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

Chair Orcherton advised that the employment contracts for the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer had been extended to June 30, 2016.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 11:08pm

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair