



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
April 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, Diane McNally, Michael McEvoy, Deborah Nohr

Administration:

John Gauptman, 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, Stephen Bennett, District Principal, Educational Staffing, Human Resource Services, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 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.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

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

A4. Community Presentations

- iii) Barbara Macaulay, Committee Chair, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, speaking in place of Kirk Doherty, Bill 22
- iv) Rob Paynter, Parent, District Strategic Planning
- v) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils, Politics in the School System

A5. Trustees' Report

- a) Trustee Horsman
- b) Trustee Nohr
- c) Trustee McEvoy
- c) Trustee McNally

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the March 26, 2012 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

b) It was moved and seconded:

That the March 28, 2012 Special Board Budget Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

- c) It was moved and seconded:

That the April 4, 2012 Special Board Budget Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

A4. Community Presentations (5 minutes per presentation)

- a) Tara Ehrcke, President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), spoke regarding her opposition to Bill 22 and the proposed District budget being inadequate to meet the needs of students in the District.
- b) Keely Roden, Social Justice Committee Chair, GVTA, spoke of her opposition to Bill 22 and the negative impact it may have on the future of teachers. Ms. Roden urged support for the repeal of Bill 22.
- c) Barbara Macaulay, Contract Committee Chair, GVTA, spoke of her opposition to Bill 22 and stated that she supports the Board motion to send a letter to the Minister of Education to repeal Bill 22.
- d) Rob Paynter, parent, reviewed his suggestions for District strategic planning and allocation of resources. Mr. Paynter suggested using the current budget surplus towards funding for psychometric testing for District students.
- e) John Bird, President, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC), stated that VCPAC is a non-partisan organization whose primary purpose is to advocate for the rights of students. Mr. Bird stated that "*parents in the District do not wish to have their children or their organization used as pawns in the political battle between the government and the union.*"

A5. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Horsman reviewed that former Trustee Peter Yorke recently passed away and spoke of the twenty three years Peter served on the Board from 1976 to 1999.

Trustee Nohr reported that she attended the regional science fair at the University of Victoria and music night at Arbutus Middle School.

Trustee McEvoy reported that the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) has successfully lobbied the Ministry of Education regarding the carbon offset fees being charged provincially and Boards across the province will be seeing the benefits of recapturing these funds.

Trustee McNally reported that she attended the PAC meeting at Macaulay Elementary and Battle of the Books at Colquitz Middle School.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton highlighted the recent meetings and events she attended including GVTA bargaining, a Ministry conference in Richmond regarding Bill 22, a Principals meeting, a Budget Advisory Committee meeting and lastly the opening day ceremonies for Lakehill Little League to throw out the first pitch.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee meeting

- a) The April 2, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Alpha referred to the minutes from the meeting and presented the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) adopts the revised Policy 6141.1, Board Authority Authorized Courses.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting

- a) The April 10, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the meeting and presented the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the following Professional Development dates for the 2012/2013 School Year be approved:

1. Monday, September 17, 2012
2. Friday, October 19, 2012 (Province Wide)
3. Friday, November 23, 2012
4. Friday, February 15, 2013
5. Friday, May 17, 2013
6. To Be Chosen By Each School

And further, the VPVPA, Exempt Staff, ASA, CUPE 947, CUPE 382 and VCPAC agreed that the dates for the Two-Week Spring Break be approved as March 11th to March 22nd, 2013.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent's Report

None.

D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a) 2012/2013 Annual Budget Debate:

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the \$349,541 projected surplus to class size and composition.

After considering the recommended motion Trustee Leonard moved the following motion. An explanation was given with discussion ensuing amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the \$349,541 projected surplus in the following manner, for the 2012-2013 budget year, upon passing of the budget bylaw.

\$95,563 to add 1 FTE psychologist to help deal with the backlog of psychometric assessments in School District No. 61.

\$50,000 to be added for support services to psychologists and speech and language pathologists so that more time is made available for therapy with special needs students.

\$203,978 will be used for the hiring of Educational assistants for support for classrooms and students.

Trustee McNally moved the following amendment to the motion by adding “for students in grades K-3” to the second paragraph. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the \$349,541 projected surplus in the following manner, for the 2012-2013 budget year, upon passing of the budget bylaw.

\$95,563 to add 1 FTE psychologist to help deal with the backlog of psychometric assessments for students in grades K-3 in School District No. 61.

\$50,000 to be added for support services to psychologists and speech and language pathologists so that more time is made available for therapy with special needs students.

\$203,978 will be used for the hiring of Educational assistants for support for classrooms and students.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee Alpha moving the following amendment to the motion by adding support for “students that are hearing impaired” in paragraph four.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) apply the \$349,541 projected surplus in the following manner, for the 2012-2013 budget year, upon passing of the budget bylaw.

\$95,563 to add 1 FTE psychologist to help deal with the backlog of psychometric assessments for students in grades K-3 in School District No. 61.

\$50,000 to be added for support services to psychologists and speech and language pathologists so that more time is made available for therapy with special needs students.

\$203,978 will be used for the hiring of Educational assistants or teachers for support for classrooms, students and students that are hearing impaired.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b) 2012/2013 Annual Budget Bylaw

Upon completion of the budget deliberations, in order to pass the Annual Budget Bylaw at one meeting, the Board must unanimously agree to give the Bylaw all three readings at one sitting.

Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault advised that under the new Public Sector Accounting Standards for school districts, the budget bylaw amount now includes the operating fund, special purpose funds and the capital fund. In prior years, the budget bylaw reflected only the operating fund. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with clarification of the voting process given by the Secretary-Treasurer.

It was moved and seconded:

That the 2012/2013 Annual Budget Bylaw be given all three readings at the Board meeting on April 16, 2012.

Motion Defeated

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

Against: Trustee McNally

Secretary- Treasurer Ambeault presented the following motion. Discussion ensued around the Board table regarding the budget and the allocation of funding with Secretary-Treasurer Ambeault providing clarification.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2012/2013 Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$194,366,227 be:

Read a first time the 16th day of April, 2012;

Read a second time the 16th day of April, 2012;

And that the Secretary-Treasurer be directed to place the 2012/2013 annual budget in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Education and to submit all forms required.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Ferris, McEvoy, Leonard, Horsman and Orcherton

Against: Trustees McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr and Alpha

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Trustee McNally reported that she will be attending the Saanich Healthy Advisory Committee Fair next week along with the annual general meeting for the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association in Vancouver.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

F1. Proposed Allocation of \$350,000 Budget Surplus – Trustee Alpha

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) use the \$350,000 surplus to support classroom needs in September and October, 2012, as follows: \$100,000 for psychologist time to provide psycho-educational assessments for students in grades K-3 and \$250,000 for additional educational assistants, speech and language pathologists and teachers of the hearing impaired.

Motion Withdrawn

F2. Proposed Allocation of \$350,000 Budget Surplus – Trustee Horsman

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) add 1 FTE psychologist to help deal with the back log of psychometric assessments in School District No. 61 at an estimated cost of \$95,563.

Motion Withdrawn

F3. Proposed Allocation of \$350,000 Budget Surplus – Trustee Horsman

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) add \$50,000 for support services to psychologists and speech and language pathologists so that more time is made available for therapy with special needs students.

Motion Withdrawn

F4. Proposed Allocation of \$350,000 Surplus – Trustee Horsman

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) add \$200,437 for the hiring of Educational Assistants for support for classrooms and students.

Motion Withdrawn

F5. Needs Budget Proposal – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally presented her motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) submit only a needs budget reflecting remedies for the ongoing structural deficit, and reflecting costs for restoration of all service levels to the levels of service that existed in 2001.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr and Alpha

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

F6. Letter to the Minister of Education – Trustee Nohr

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

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 calling on the Government to repeal Bill 22 and instead, have an independent mediator appointed through the Labour Relations Board.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees McNally, Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr and Alpha

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

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 9:54 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair