



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
June 18, 2012 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:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy 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 7:38 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 June 18, 2012 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A5. Community Presentations

- v) Michelle Milne, Parent, Anaphylaxis
- vi) Karen Weiss, Parent, Consent

A6. Trustees' Report

- a) Trustee Nohr
- b) Trustee Ferris
- c) Trustee McNally
- d) Trustee Horsman

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

- a) It was moved and seconded:

That the May 22, 2012 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

A4. Student Achievement

Associate Superintendent Duncan introduced Cheryl Nigh, a science teacher from Gordon Head Middle School. Ms. Nigh introduced two of our grade nine science students and spoke of their success at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair. Matt and Andrea presented a slideshow outlining their experiment of improving reading success in grade one students. Chair Orcherton thanked Matt and Andrea for attending the meeting and sharing their experiment with the Board.

A5. Community Presentations

- i) Dr. Bharat Chandramouli, Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter, congratulated and thanked the Board for passing the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) motion at the June Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting. Dr. Chandramouli provided background information about CETA and the effect it may have on school boards.
- ii) Barbara Mitchell Pollock, Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter, provided a brief history of the Council of Canadians and what they represent. Ms. Mitchell Pollock proposed an amendment to the CETA motion that was approved at the June Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and provided a written document to the Board.
- iii) Tara Ehrcke, President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, spoke regarding a meeting she recently attended which outlined the allocation of funds for the Learning Improvement Fund. Ms. Ehrcke reiterated the GVTA's position on class size and composition.
- iv) Michelle Milne, parent, spoke of a proposal to increase awareness in schools with children that have anaphylaxis. Ms. Milne provided a sample handout that could be sent home to parents at the beginning of each school year.
- v) Karen Weiss, parent, provided handouts to the Board with respect to Wi-Fi and the potential health risks to children. Ms. Weiss urged the Board to consider having one school in the District Wi-Fi free.

A6. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Horsman extended her gratitude to the Board for their support at last month's meeting by wearing funky hats and she was pleased to report that \$500 was raised that evening.

Trustee Nohr thanked the speakers who attended and spoke at the meeting this evening. Trustee Nohr reported that she attended events at Frank Hobbs, Craigflower, Margaret Jenkins, Sir James Douglas, Esquimalt High and the District retirement tea.

Trustee Ferris extended thanks to the teaching staff in our District schools for the great job that they do and to the District Leadership Team for the support they provide to the Board.

Trustee McNally reported that she attended several events including a grad ceremony at UVIC, a Healthy Advisory Committee meeting at Saanich and the District retirement tea. Trustee McNally also visited Cloverdale Elementary and Esquimalt High for their grad ceremony and the student lead quintet concert.

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that she attended the District Aboriginal grad ceremony at SJ Willis and thanked Nella Nelson and her staff for their efforts. Trustee Loring-Kuhanga also attended the Esquimalt High School pole raising and wall mural dedication.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that as a result of a motion passed at the May 22nd 2012 Board meeting the public can now read advocacy letters and responses on our District website. Chair Orcherton also highlighted some of the meetings and year end events that she attended over the past month including attending an Oak Bay High replacement Advisory Committee meeting, a meeting with the Mayor of Esquimalt, Barb Desjardins and the District retirement tea.

Chair Orcherton thanked the Trustees, Senior Administration, District staff, teachers, students and parents and wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**C1. Education Policy Development Committee meeting**

- a) The June 4, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Alpha referred to the minutes from the meeting and presented the following motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked and answered by Deputy Superintendent Bell.

That the Board of Education School District 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the 2012-2013 Achievement Contract.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Alpha and Nohr

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting

- a) The June 11, 2012 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the meeting and presented the following motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the submission of the Needs Budget letter and costing to the Minister of Education with the addition of Note 3: "The budget costing reflects the input received from the consultative process with our educational partner groups, school planning councils and the public".

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustee Leonard

Trustee Leonard presented the following motion.

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approves the 2012/2013 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee Leonard presented the following motion.

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Ministry of Education asking that School Districts in British Columbia be exempted from the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) because of implications on the Board's ability to hire local trades people and purchase local goods and services. That the Board will copy the BCSTA, Public School Boards, and members of Parliament.

Trustee Horsman proposed an amended version of the motion. A discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request Prime Minister Harper to change the terms of the draft Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) from any restrictions in the CETA agreement that will not protect the autonomy of School District No.61. Further, this Board of Education requests that all school districts in British Columbia be exempted. That this resolution be sent to the provincial and federal government ministers responsible for the CETA negotiations, the British Columbia School Trustees Association and any other relevant bodies for consideration and circulation.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Specialty Academy Fees

Associate Superintendent Duncan reviewed the schedule of fees and letters from the School Planning Councils. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked of Associate Superintendent Duncan.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) makes available to the public via the District website, the schedules of fees that have been approved by the School Planning Councils for the District's Specialty Academy programs.

Motion Carried

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

D2. Learning Improvement Fund

Deputy Superintendent Bell provided the Trustees with a tentative expenditure plan for 70% of the Learning Improvement Fund and summarized the discussions that have occurred to date at the school level. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked and clarification of the process being explained by Deputy Superintendent Bell.

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

F1. Needs Budget/District Website – Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented and explained her motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 place the Needs Budget on the District website with a link to the advocacy page and the Chair's letter to the Minister of Education and that the Board hold a news conference to explain the details of the Needs Budget. Further, that a press release be generated.

Chair Orcherton provided clarification that the Needs Budget was created based on input received from a number of sources including our Educational Partner Groups and School Planning Councils. Trustee Leonard proposed the following friendly amendment which deletes "*hold a news conference to explain the details of the Needs Budget. Further, that a press release be generated.*" Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 place the Needs Budget on the district website with a link to the advocacy page and the Chair's letter to the Minister of Education.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee McEvoy exited the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

F2. Class Size and Composition Report – Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented her motion with an amendment to change the date to October, 2012.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 generate a Class Size and Composition Report for our October, 2012 Board Meeting.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked of Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer Gaipman and clarification being given.

Trustee Horsman proposed the following amended motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees regarding the amended motion.

It was moved and seconded;

That the Board of Education of School District 61 generate a report of class sizes over thirty for our October, 2012 Board Meeting.

Motion Defeated

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

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee Loring-Kuhanga proposing the following amendment to the motion which would read "*for Trustees to review by October 30th 2012.*" Trustee Nohr accepted the amendment to her motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 generate a Class Size and Composition Report for Trustees to review by October 30th 2012.

Trustee Alpha proposed an additional amendment to the motion which would read “*at an In-Camera meeting after October 30th 2012*” which was accepted by Trustee Nohr. Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 generate a Class Size and Composition Report for Trustees to review at an In-Camera meeting after October 30th 2012.

Motion Defeated

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

Trustee Leonard moved the following motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education meeting for Greater Victoria School District No. 61 for June 18, 2012 adjourn at 11:00 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

F3. Seismic Report – Trustee Nohr

Trustee Nohr presented and explained her motion. Chair Orcherton reported that this action had already been taken by Deputy Superintendent Bell. Trustee Nohr withdrew her motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 send out to every school-based PAC a copy of the full current seismic report with the list of school designations.

Motion Withdrawn

F4. Letter to Minister of Education – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally presented and explained her motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked of Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer Gaipman.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Greater Victoria Board of Education School District 61 write to the Minister of Education asking him not to cut any funding to any graduated learner courses, and that the Minister fully fund these courses without a holdback component .

Motion Carried

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

F5. Wi-Fi Committee Recommendations – Trustee McNally

Trustee Leonard suggested that the motion be tabled until September. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the School District 61 Wi-Fi Committee present its recommendation to the Board of Education, School District 61 Greater Victoria, at the Board meeting on Monday October 15, 2012.

Motion tabled

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

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 10:58 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair