



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
January 21, 2013 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, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives, Nella Nelson, Coordinator, Aboriginal Nations Education, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 January 21, 2013 Agenda be approved with the following changes/additions:

A3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) Trustee Nohr

A7. Trustee Reports

- i) Trustee Ferris
- ii) Trustee Nohr
- iii) Trustee McNally
- iv) Trustee McEvoy
- v) Trustee Loring-Kuhanga

E. Reports from Trustee Representatives

- i) Trustee McNally

F. New Business/Notice of Motions

- F1.** Post Board Meeting Audio Recordings to the Website – Trustee McEvoy

H. Public Disclosure of In-Camera Items

- i) Three items

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the December 10, 2012 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

Trustee Nohr requested an update on the status of the funds held back by the Ministry of Education. Secretary-Treasurer Laser advised that the Ministry holds back funding pending the actual September 30, 2012 enrollment results. The recalculated grant funding provided in December 2012 included the release of a portion of the Provincial holdback funds. The Greater Victoria School District received \$1.8 million and this funding will be included in the final budget information that will be presented in February. It is expected that additional holdback funding will be released in March 2013 but the amount is unknown at this time.

A4. Student Achievement

Rob House, Principal, Spectrum Community School introduced teacher, Tony Fogelklou, along with coach, Cayle Ratcliff, and several students from the lacrosse academy program. Tony spoke about the specifics of the lacrosse program and how well received it has been at the school. Coach Ratcliff spoke about being a former student of Spectrum and having to move to the United States to get the same opportunities that this program is now offering local students. Students, Lucas and Vishnu, both reiterated how important this academy is to students and thanked Trustees for their continued support.

Chair Orcherton thanked the staff and students from Spectrum for attending the meeting and speaking to the Board.

A5. District Presentations

Trustee Ferris introduced and welcomed Mitchel du Plessi, Lansdowne Middle School, Youth and Family Counselor. Ms. du Plessi was presented with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of being the recipient of the 2012 Representative's Award for Excellence. Trustee Ferris thanked Ms. Du Plessi for the many services that she provides to the community and Lansdowne Middle School.

Ms. du Plessi accepted the certificate and thanked the Board for acknowledging her at the meeting.

A6. Community Presentations

None.

A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Ferris reported that he attended the first **Needs** Budget Advisory Committee meeting for this year and was appointed the Chair of the Committee. Updates on the work of the Committee will be provided at future board meetings.

Trustee Nohr reported that being on the Community and Culture Committee has been a great experience with the sharing of information and ideas and she is pleased to advise that the ERASE program is now up and running at all school districts in the province.

Trustee McNally reported that she attended a Roots of Empathy meeting at Rockheights Middle School and Craigflower Elementary School and will be attending a social justice presentation at Rockheights Middle School.

Trustee McEvoy reported that he recently met with the Deputy Minister of Education to discuss the Cooperative Gains Mandate and the many letters received from school districts around the province. Trustee McEvoy reported that he was advised by the Deputy Minister that a response is forthcoming in answer to the questions posed by school districts. Trustee McEvoy added that he and Chair Orcherton will be attending an upcoming meeting of the Oak Bay High Replacement Project Committee.

Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that she attended a concert at Reynolds High School in December, Aboriginal Nations Education meetings in December and January and thanked Nella Nelson and her team for all of their efforts. Lastly, Trustee Loring-Kuhanga reported that she was involved in the Principal interviews held recently.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that two letters have been written on behalf of the Board to the Minister of Education regarding the Cooperative Gains Mandate and Provincial holdback funding. These letters are attached to this evening's meeting agenda or can be viewed on the District website.

Chair Orcherton reported that she was involved in two interviews, one with Times Colonist reporter, Lindsey Kines and the other with Terry Moore of CFAX radio.

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended two meetings in January, one for the Budget Advisory Committee and the other with the Minister of Education, Don McRae. The meeting with Minister McRae was to express the Greater Victoria Board of Education's concern about the decreased holdback funding allocation received in December and the need to have the Ministry provide additional funding to cover the cost of the teachers' pension plan rate increase.

Lastly, Chair Orcherton advised Trustees and the public that she has requested a meeting with MLA and Education Critic, Robin Austin, and will report out further when a meeting date has been set.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) Trustee Alpha presented the minutes from the January 7, 2013 Education Policy Development Committee meeting for information.

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) Trustee Leonard presented the minutes from the January 14, 2013 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting for information.

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**D1. Superintendent's Report****a) Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2012-2013**

Superintendent Gaipman provided an overview of the report that the Trustees received on December 15, 2012. Superintendent Gaipman noted the changes that were made to the Reading Recovery portion of the report as suggested by Trustee McNally.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions being asked and answered by Superintendent Gaipman and Associate-Superintendent Courville.

It was moved and seconded:

To approve the "Superintendent's Report on Achievement 2012-2013" in accordance with Section 79.3 of the *School Act*.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Nohr and Alpha

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Trustee McNally reported that she attended a Saanich Healthy Advisory Committee meeting and has made enquiries as to when the next Success by Six Committee meeting will be held.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**F1. Audio Recordings of Board Meetings – Trustee McEvoy**

Trustee McEvoy presented the following motion. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with suggestions being made to Trustee McEvoy.

It was moved and seconded:

Whereas the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) wishes to consider making audio recordings of our Board meetings accessible via our District website. And whereas, the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) and other participants at the January 14, 2013 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting expressed the desire to be consulted about this matter. Therefore, be it resolved that the Board task the Ad Hoc Committee for Public Engagement with discussing the posting of audio recordings of our Board meetings.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Leonard, Alpha, Horsman, Orcheron, McEvoy and Ferris

Against: Trustees McNally, Loring-Kuhanga and Nohr

G. COMMUNICATIONS

- G1.** Chair Orcherton referred to a letter sent on December 17, 2012 to the Minister of Education, Don McRae, in response to his December 3, 2012 letter regarding the proposed Cooperative Gains Mandate savings plan.
- G2.** Chair Orcherton referred to a letter sent on January 17, 2013 to the Minister of Education, Don McRae, regarding the meeting he had with the Chair on January 10, 2013 in which they spoke of Board concerns such as the Teachers' Pension Plan rate increase and Provincial holdback funds.

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

The following three items came out of the In-Camera portion of this evening's meeting:

- i) The Board of Education voted unanimously to send a letter to the BCTF requesting their assistance in encouraging the GVTA to sign the District Aboriginal Equity Agreement.
- ii) The Board of Education voted unanimously to immediately begin recruiting for a new Secretary-Treasurer.
- iii) The Board of Education voted unanimously to send a letter to the Catholic Diocese of Victoria advising that the Greater Victoria School District is not interested in selling or leasing the former Richmond Elementary School.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair