



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
February 18, 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, Michael McEvoy, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr

Regrets: Trustee Edith Loring-Kuhanga

Administration:

John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Sherri Bell, Deputy Superintendent, Pat Duncan, Associate Superintendent, Deborah Courville, Associate Superintendent, Nita McBurney, 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 February 18, 2013 Agenda be approved with the following additions:

A6. Community Presentations

- c) Carolina Tudela
- d) Peter Milne
- e) Michelle Milne
- f) John Bird

A7. Trustee Reports

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

H. Public Disclosure of In-Camera Items

- i) One item

Motion Carried

A2. Approval of the Minutes

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the January 21, 2013 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

A3. Business arising from the Minutes

None.

A4. Student Achievement

Sarah Khosla, Vice-Principal of Colquitz Middle School, introduced teacher Ms. Heidi James and students Chris, Hunter, Mackenna, Jas and Caynan to share some of their innovative learning experiences. Students are using iPads for research, Science projects and applications such as So Crowded, Voice Threads, Sudoku, Chess, problem-solving programs and even for putting notes on the screen. The programs have a fun aspect to them which helps the students to learn. The students also displayed the programmable robots that they have built at a lunch-time Lego Mindstorm program at the school. Chair Orcherton thanked the staff and students from Colquitz Middle School for attending the meeting and speaking to the Board.

A5. District Presentations

None.

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Jim McDermott, Victor School PAC Vice-President and parent of a child attending Victor School for twelve years, stated that the parents of Victor would like to request that a motion be passed to remove Victor School from the current moratorium on Wi-Fi. He provided letters of support.
- b) Wendy Joyce, Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) spoke about VCPAC, stating that each candidate for a VCPAC election must receive more than 50% of the votes cast to be successful. She referenced surveys that VCPAC has done and the volume of responses received which have indicated whether a topic is of significant interest to parents or not. She noted that VCPAC will be drafting a survey on the current Wi-Fi issue, adding that when VCPAC takes an official position on an educational issue, it must obtain 75% approval at a general meeting.
- c) Carolina Tudela, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA) spoke against the VCPAC motions being considered by the Board at this evening's meeting. She stated that she was dismayed as she felt that some parents had not found representation with VCPAC.
- d) Peter Milne, Parent indicated that he was concerned about the two VCPAC motions on the Board meeting agenda. He felt that the first motion was not necessary as it was already entrenched in the School Act. As it relates to the second motion, he stated that he supports a trustee in a community leadership role providing support to parents.
- e) Michelle Milne, Parent expressed concern that VCPAC agendas are rarely sent in a timely manner and that many PACs do not use their PAC email addresses regularly. She expressed concern over the lack of attendance at VCPAC meetings.
- f) John Bird, President, VCPAC conveyed that it is not VCPAC's position that they are the only parent voice in the District. They actively support any PAC who wants to come to the Board and make a presentation. He invited any trustee who has a concern to attend VCPAC meetings to see things for themselves.

A7. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Ferris reported that he recently attended a meeting regarding a change taking place with the Harm Reduction Program at the Pembroke Street Health Centre. VIHA members, city councillors, community and parents were also in attendance. Another meeting is scheduled for this week and Trustee Ferris will report back next month.

Trustee McEvoy reported that he felt that everyone around the Board table would watch with concern when the Provincial budget is presented. He mentioned some of the cost pressures that the District is facing including the PST transition, teacher pension plan rate increase, and the medical services plan premium increase and that, depending on the budget that is brought down, there could be an impact on classrooms.

Trustee Horsman reported that she attended the retirement celebration for Ms. Alana Charlton, Principal at Reynolds Secondary School and acknowledged the impact that Ms. Charlton made on staff and students. Trustee Horsman added that the slogan of Reynolds is the three R's, Respect, Responsibility and Relationships and to show how much Ms. Charlton solidified that slogan, the staff gave her a silver necklace with an "R" on it.

Trustee Nohr reported that she attended Campus View Elementary School for reading week, adding that it was great to see the diversity of the students' experiences with books. Trustee Nohr also reported that she will be attending the International School Ministry Conference in April.

Trustee McNally reported that she recently attended the Macaulay and Esquimalt PAC meetings and that she is looking forward to attending "Music by the Dockyard" in Esquimalt.

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended Ms. Carey Nickerson's Grade 1/2 Class at Lake Hill Elementary and read to the students, adding that it was interactive and exciting to watch the students' faces alight with interest and engagement.

Chair Orcherton reported that she attended a meeting of the Culture and Community Sub Committee and that she also attended a meeting regarding the Oak Bay High replacement project. She added that the Oak Bay Request for Proposal process is now complete with three BC companies in the running.

Chair Orcherton reported that she and Wendy Joyce from the VCPAC Executive were on CFX radio on February 12th to discuss school security with host Terry Moore and public members who called in to the show.

Chair Orcherton reported that she, along with Trustees Horsman, Alpha and Ferris, attended a Needs Budget Advisory Committee meeting on February 13th. She noted that Trustee Ferris would report out with regard to this Committee later on the agenda at tonight's meeting.

Chair Orcherton reported that Simi Sara of CKNW conducted an interview with her on February 15th with respect to Chair Orcherton's comments in the Times Colonist regarding the District's concerns expressed regarding the Provincial Holdback funds.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) The February 4, 2013 meeting minutes were presented for information.

- b) Trustee Alpha referred to the minutes from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting and presented the following two motions.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter of endorsement to the Premier Christy Clark and the Leader of the Opposition Adrian Dix supporting the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning, otherwise known as the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan.
- Motion Carried Unanimously**

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) encourage awareness of the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan to our partner groups and request that they endorse the program as well.
- Motion Carried Unanimously**

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The February 12, 2013 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Leonard referred to the minutes from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and presented the following six motions.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the following dates for the 2013/2014 school year be approved and that the 2013/2014 school year calendar be posted on the School District's website:

2013/2014 School Year Calendar*

School Opening –	September 3, 2013
First non-instructional day –	September 23, 2013
Thanksgiving –	October 14, 2013
Second non-instructional day –	October 25, 2013 (Province wide)
Remembrance Day –	November 11, 2013
Third non-instructional day –	November 22, 2013
Schools close for Winter vacation –	December 20, 2013
Schools re-open after Winter vacation –	January 6, 2014
Family Day –	February 10, 2014
Fourth non-instructional day –	February 21, 2014
Schools close for Spring vacation –	March 7, 2014
Schools re-open after Spring vacation –	March 24, 2014
Good Friday –	April 18, 2014
Easter Monday –	April 21, 2014
Fifth non-instructional day –	May 16, 2014
Victoria Day –	May 19, 2014
Administrative Day and School Closing –	June 27, 2014
*Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school	

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of Capital Project Bylaw No. 111909, being a bylaw for the Victoria High School Main Building Seismic Project Identification Report in the amount of \$53,007.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 111909, being a bylaw for the Victoria High School Main Building Seismic Project Identification Report in the amount of \$53,007 be:

READ A FIRST TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013;
READ A SECOND TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013, and
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 18th day of February, 2013
and that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair be authorized to execute and seal this bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of Capital Project Bylaw No. 115658, being a bylaw for the Quadra Elementary School Seismic Project Identification Report in the amount of \$33,335.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 115658, being a bylaw for the Quadra Elementary School Seismic Project Identification Report in the amount of \$33,335 be:

READ A FIRST TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013;
READ A SECOND TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013, and
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 18th day of February, 2013
and that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair be authorized to execute and seal this bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) supports the National Historic Site application for Victoria High School.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

- v) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Minister of Education asking for the entire amount of School District No. 61 currently held in holdback funds, including the amount that covers BCPSEA membership (funds previously paid for by the Ministry of Education), to be immediately released to School District No. 61.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

- vi) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) develop a Board performance evaluation using BCSTA Board Self-Evaluation Package and establish goals, criteria and a specific timeline for completion guided by a facilitator agreed to by consensus.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a) 2012/2013 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw

Secretary-Treasurer Laser presented the 2012-2013 Amended Annual Budget stating that the Amended Annual Budget takes into account both the revenues and the expenditures arising from the actual September 30, 2012 enrolments, all grant amounts confirmed subsequent to the approval of the annual budget, and all amounts carried forward from the previous fiscal year. As such, the Amended Annual Budget provides a better comparison to the actual results to be reported in the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

The Amended Annual Budget has been prepared using the new Public Sector Accounting standards which requires the budget to include the operating, special purpose and capital funds. Consequently, the budget bylaw amount of \$208,580,448 includes the total budgeted expenses in the operating, special purpose and capital funds.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of the 2012/2013 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting of February 18, 2013

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2012/2013 in the amount of \$208,580,448 be:

READ A FIRST TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013;
READ A SECOND TIME THE 18th day of February, 2013;
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 18th day of February, 2013;

And that the Chairperson and the Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign, seal and execute this Bylaw on behalf of the Board.

Motion Carried Unanimously

E. REPORTS FROM TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

E1. Needs Budget – Trustee Ferris

Trustee Ferris reviewed the Needs Budget document, on behalf of the Budget Advisory Committee, and advised that the Committee has taken a different approach in developing the needs budget. Each department was asked to indicate needs based on a five percent increase to their current budget. He advised that the document is not final and that Trustees can provide additional suggestions. A brief discussion ensued. Chair Orcherton clarified that the needs budget would be submitted to the Ministry alongside a balanced budget.

E2. Saanich Healthy Advisory Committee – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally stated that she has been attending the Saanich Healthy Advisory Committee meetings although there has been no directly-related School District business thus far.

E3. Success by Six – Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally advised that she has been attending the Success by Six meetings and is looking forward to the program becoming even more vibrant in the future.

F. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS**F1. Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils – Trustees Horsman & Orcherton**

Trustee Orcherton presented the motion. Discussion ensued with comments made by some that the motion was not needed since the matter is encompassed in the School Act, while others supported the motion, praising the hard work and integrity of VCPAC. Chair Orcherton reminded Trustees that the motion is speaking to the request that was made by VCPAC representatives, seeking support and that this motion is affirmation in the face of what VCPAC considered as an attack on their integrity by a Trustee's blog posting.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) affirms its full support for the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) and its voice as the representative organization in School District No. 61 for parents.

Motion Carried

For: Trustees Ferris, Horsman, Leonard and Orcherton

Against: Trustees Alpha and Nohr

Abstained: Trustees McEvoy and McNally

F2. Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils – Trustees Horsman & Orcherton

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) express its regret that an individual Trustee made comments about the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) that attempted to undermine its work to represent the parents' voice on educational issues in our District.

Motion Withdrawn

F3. Wi-Fi at Victor School – Chair Orcherton

Chair Orcherton advised that she will bring a notice of motion to the next Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting to discuss the request from Victor Street School for Wi-Fi.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

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

- i) Superintendent Gaipman reported out that Sherri Bell who had been named as Deputy Superintendent on a temporary basis has now been named Deputy Superintendent on a continuing basis.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Secretary-Treasurer

Chair