



**Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting  
January 12, 2015 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

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**REGULAR MINUTES**

**Present:**

Elaine Leonard, Chair, Tom Ferris, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr, Peg Orcherton (left 9:30 p.m.), Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

**Administration:**

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent, Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Seamus Howley, Director of Facilities Services, Mark Walsh, Manager, Labour Relations, Kim Munro, Director of Human Resource Services, Doreen Hegan, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m.

Superintendent Bell introduced Monica Watkins, Student Representative from Victoria High School.

Chair Leonard recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved

That the January 12, 2015 regular agenda be approved with the addition of a Notice of Motion from Trustee Nohr and Trustee Watters.

**Motion Carried**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved

That the November 10, 2014 Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – None**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Peter Milne - Policy, Practice and Responsibility**

Mr. Milne presented information regarding Wi-Fi in schools and provided a handout that included a Wi-Fi reference and resource list. Superintendent Bell informed the Committee that Rogers Elementary School is the only school that at the end of last year had not started the parent consultation process related to implementing Wi-Fi in the school.

## 5. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

### A. 2014-2015 Funding Update

Secretary-Treasurer Laser provided the Committee with an overview of the final 2014/2015 funding announcement received from the Ministry of Education in December 2014.

Secretary-Treasurer Laser stated that the final grant funding shows a net increase of \$2,723,742 as compared to the 2014/2015 preliminary grant and includes the release of provincial holdback funds in the amount of \$1,419,072. The structural deficit for the 2015-2016 school year is estimated to be \$8.3 million; however, after applying the unrestricted operating surplus of \$4.3 million from the 2013-2014 school year and the provincial holdback funds of \$1.4 million, the budget shortfall is estimated to be \$2.6 million. The final grant funding will be reflected in the 2014/2015 Amended Annual Budget which will be presented at the February Board of Education meeting. Trustees asked questions of clarification of Secretary-Treasurer Laser.

### B. Yearly Budget Plan and Summary of Partner Group Budget Input 2015-2016

Secretary-Treasurer Laser reviewed the 2015-2016 Budget Plan and explained that the Summary of Partner Group Budget Input reflects the responses received from the input request made to School Planning Councils and Education Partner Groups in October 2014. Included with the summary of responses was a scattergram summary of the priority areas. The documents will be posted to the District website under the Financial section.

## 6. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

## 7. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Chair Leonard suggested that, beginning in February, the Operations Policy and Planning agenda include a section called "*Budget Discussions*" to provide for dedicated time for trustees and stakeholders to engage in discussion about the budget and what "fully funded" public education is. Trustees agreed with Chair Leonard's suggestion.

### A. Trustee McNally - Budget Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee McNally withdrew her motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) immediately convene and advertise publicly an ad hoc committee with three tables:

- a) to meet at minimum monthly (more, or less, often by agreement of attendees) until the final budget vote to examine the current budget and any financial information as needed, including the line item budget, in order to propose this year's one time only savings to address the budget's \$8.5 million structural deficit;
- b) one table to be composed of any interested SD61 community members including VCPAC and any interested trustees; one table to be composed of interested SD61 employee groups and any interested trustees; one table to consist of interested members of the

SD61 PVPA and any interested trustees; tables to meet on the same evening, same venue; format of evening as open question period or other format to be decided by the tables;

- c) the Secretary-Treasurer or designate and Superintendent to be present at the meetings;
- d) to report to the Board monthly, method and meeting to be determined by the committee members at each table;
- e) and that the meetings be held at 6:30 pm in school libraries.

**Motion Withdrawn**

## **B. Trustee Nohr - IT Directions, Priorities and Goals**

Trustee Nohr advised that she wanted to amend her motion to add the words “earliest possible” before Operations, remove the word “and” following the word “priorities”, and add the words “and project costs to the District for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015” after the word “goals”.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior administration to provide a report at the Operations, Policy and Planning meeting outlining the current and long-term IT directions, priorities and departmental goals.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with clarification provided on the types of costs to be included. Chair Leonard called for the vote on the amended motion.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior administration to provide a report at the earliest possible Operations, Policy and Planning meeting outlining the current and long-term IT directions, priorities, departmental goals and project costs to the District for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **C. Trustee Nohr - Initiatives of the Health and Safety Advisor**

Trustee Nohr advised that she wanted to amend her motion to replace the words “health and safety” with “Wellness and Attendance Support” and add the words “as well as cost recovery from the attendance awareness program.” after the word “associated”.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior management to provide an update on the initiatives of the health and safety advisor to date and going forward including an explanation of Homewood Health and the costs associated.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with concerns raised about the limited amount of information collected at this time due to job action and the fact that the program only started in April 2014. Chair Leonard called for the vote on the amended motion.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request senior management to provide an update on the initiatives of the Wellness and Attendance Support Advisor to date and going forward including an explanation of Homewood Health and the costs associated as well as cost recovery from the attendance awareness program.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Nohr, Watters, Paynter, Loring-Kuhanga, and McNally

Against: Trustees Orcherton, Whiteaker, Ferris, and Leonard

#### **D. Trustee Nohr - Funding Proposal for Teachers**

Trustee Nohr presented her motion.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees. Superintendent Bell and Secretary-Treasurer Laser informed Trustees that legal advice had been sought regarding the application of our local collective agreement language with respect to processing the September teachers' payroll. The school district has followed the local collective agreement language. The School District subsequently requested funding from the Ministry of Education to pay an additional day, but the request was denied as the Ministry will not provide funding beyond the local collective agreement language. Secretary-Treasurer Laser advised that the cost of paying an additional day is approximately \$424,000 and would result in increasing the budget shortfall for the next school year.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer provide three possible funding proposals for the teachers' \$400,000 salary / benefits to pay for the eighth day of work in September upon teachers' return to the classroom after the strike settlement.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Nohr, Watters, Paynter, Loring-Kuhanga, and McNally

Against: Trustees Orcherton, Whiteaker, Leonard, and Ferris

#### **E. Trustee Orcherton - "Fully Funded" Public Education**

Trustee Orcherton withdrew her motion based on the agreement to include a section called "*Budget Discussions*" on the Operations, Policy and Planning Agenda.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) set aside an hour on the Operations Policy and Planning Committee Agenda(s) to engage in ongoing discussions with Trustees, stakeholder groups and the Public on defining what "Fully Funded" Public Education is.

**Motion Withdrawn**

Trustee Orcherton left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

#### **F. Trustee Watters - BCSTA Motion**

Trustee Watters stated that she wanted to amend her motion to replace the words "Provincial Council" with "Annual General Meeting (April 2015)" and add the words "on their territory" after the word "welcome".

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) send a motion to BCSTA to be considered for addition to their upcoming Provincial Council agenda requesting that the BCSTA resolve to invite a local First Nations representative to conduct a traditional welcome at all provincial BCSTA conferences and academies.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees. Chair Leonard called for a vote on the amended motion.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) send a motion to BCSTA to be considered for addition to their upcoming Annual General Meeting (April 2015) agenda requesting that the BCSTA resolve to invite a local First Nations representative to conduct a traditional welcome on their territory at all provincial BCSTA conferences and academies.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **G. Trustee Watters - BCSTA Costs and Benefits**

Trustee Watters presented her motion. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees. Secretary-Treasurer Laser advised that she would be able to provide the cost of membership and conference attendance but that she would not be able to quantify the value of services received from the BCSTA.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Secretary-Treasurer prepare a report, to be included as an information item for discussion at the February 10, 2015 OPPs meeting, on the financial costs and benefits of BCSTA membership to the district over the last 3 years including all association fees and conferences and the value of any services received.

**Motion Carried**

For: Trustees Nohr, Watters, Whiteaker, Paynter, Loring-Kuhanga, McNally, and Leonard  
Against: Trustee Ferris

#### **H. Trustee Watters - Letter to Minister re: Graduated Adult Funding**

Trustee Watters presented her motion. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education calling upon him to reverse his December 4, 2014 decision to stop funding graduated adult upgrading courses offered through the province's K-12 public school system.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **I. Trustee McNally - Strategic Plan**

Trustee McNally presented her motion. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent of Schools to conduct research on examples, costs and process for establishing a Strategic Plan, and report back to the Board with preliminary information at the earliest possible OPPs meeting.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**J. Trustee McNally - Monthly Progress Report on Board Motions**

Chair Leonard called for a vote as no discussion was required.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide a printed Monthly Progress Report on all motions at Board Meetings attached to the agenda pickup so that Trustees and stakeholders can follow the progress of motions that have come to Standing Committees or the Board agendas, record to go back four months in hard copy.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**K. Trustee McNally - Web Page for Disposed Motions**

Chair Leonard called for a vote as no discussion was required.

It was moved

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent of Schools to construct a web page on the SD61 website to be a running record of disposal of motions at the Board table on an annual basis, organized by month, to be archived on the page in a form easily accessible to all stakeholders, annually in December of each year.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**L. Trustee McNally - Amendment to Bylaw 9368 - Procedure of Board Meetings**

Trustee McNally requested that her motion be deferred to the February OPPs meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9368 Procedure of Board Meetings thus (following process in Bylaw 9010 Bylaws of the Board): 1. To agree to all three readings of this proposed amendment at the Board meeting January 19, 2014; 2. In Article 107.00, to replace "challenge" with "appeal."; 3. To insert before the last sentence "The Chair will call for debate on the merit of the appeal in reference to SD61 Bylaws and Robert's rules of Order, with comment before the vote from the Secretary-Treasurer functioning as the meeting parliamentarian."; and 4. To amend the last sentence to read "A vote to sustain the Chair or the appeal will follow debate and comment from the Secretary-Treasurer".

**Motion Deferred to February OPPs**

**M. Trustees Nohr and Watters provided Notice of Motion for the January 19, 2015 Board of Education meeting regarding Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).**

**8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.