



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
March 23, 2015 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Chair, Diane McNally, Vice-Chair, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Deborah Nohr, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

Regrets:

Trustee Peg Orcheron

Administration:

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent, Cam Pinkerton, Associate Superintendent, Mark Walsh, Manager, Labour Relations, Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services, Janine Roy, District Principal Learning Initiatives, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 p.m.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga 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 March 23, 2015 Agenda be approved with the following additions/changes:

A6. Community Presentations

- f) Danielle Coleman, SD61 Teacher, Learning Initiatives
- g) Joy Nugent, SD61 Teacher, Learning Initiatives
- h) Petra Eggert, SD61 Teacher, Learning Initiatives

B2. Trustees' Reports

- c) Trustee Watters

Motion Carried Unanimously

A2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved and seconded:

That the February 16, 2015 Regular Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None

A4. Student Achievement

Superintendent Bell introduced Lori Burley, Principal of Tillicum Elementary School. Principal Burley introduced music teacher, Stacey Awalt and a few of her grade four students that she had brought along to the meeting. The students drummed the "Travelling Song" for the Board.

Principal Burley then went on to describe a recent addition to Tillicum Elementary School by way of a mural entitled "Legend of Cammosung" by Clarence Dick. Grade six Colquitz students Brin and Lily provided a narrative along with a power point presentation put together by teacher, Mr. Doug Wilson, which explained the background of the mural and how it came to be.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga thanked Principal Burley, Ms. Awalt, Mr. Wilson and students for attending the Board meeting.

A5. District Presentations

Victoria High School Principal, Randi Falls, attended the Board meeting to provide an update with respect to the Track Revitalization Project. Ms. Falls stated that the project will occur in five phases and that fundraising is ongoing for the first phase. Staff, students and the community are extremely excited about this project and currently have raised approximately \$160,000. The City of Victoria will match fundraising of \$250,000 once this amount has been reached. Ms. Falls provided information about upcoming meetings and fundraising events and went on to thank Trustees, the Facilities Services Department and the Vic High Alumni group for their efforts to make this project happen.

A6. Community Presentations

- a) Dr. Kerry Crofton, Doctors for Safer Schools, attended the Board meeting to provide Trustees with information pertaining to Wi-Fi and current wireless usage among children. Dr. Crofton urged Trustees to support the motion coming forward to the April board meeting.
- b) Cindy Graf attended the Board meeting to speak on behalf of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association, to advocate for increased funding for teachers' professional development. Ms. Graf provided information regarding the current funding model and proposed some changes to the formula in order to increase the funding.
- c) Debra Swain attended the Board meeting to speak on behalf of the GVTA regarding teacher professional development funding and the need for it to be increased. Ms. Swain urged Trustees to consider increasing the funding.
- d) Tami Tate, PAC Chair for Oak Bay High School, attended the Board meeting to speak about the naming recognition motion that was defeated at the February 16, 2015 Board meeting. Ms. Tate urged Trustees to bring the naming recognition motion back to a future board meeting to reconsider their vote.
- e) Gerald Smeltzer, Oak Bay Community Association, attended the Board meeting to speak about the Sno'uyuth welcome Pole project for the new Oak Bay High School. Mr. Smeltzer provided background information with respect to ongoing fundraising for this project.
- f) Danielle Coleman, SD61 Teacher, attended the Board meeting to speak about the Learning Initiatives department. Ms. Coleman expressed her disappointment with the motion on the agenda to close Learning Initiatives and urged Trustees to vote against it.
- g) Joy Nugent, SD61 Teacher, attended the Board meeting to speak against the motion to close the Learning Initiatives department and urged Trustees to vote against the motion.

- h) Petra Eggert, SD61 Teacher, attended the Board meeting to express her shock with the motion on the agenda to close the Learning Initiatives department. Ms. Eggert stated that the motion came forward prior to any consultation which contravenes Policy 1163 *Consultation* and urged Trustees to vote against the motion.

B. TRUSTEE REPORTS

B1. Chair's Report

Chair Loring-Kuhanga shared the Burnside Gorge Community Association Annual Report with Trustees.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga shared a letter of response from the Ministry of Education regarding the current excluded and exempt staff compensation freeze and advised that the letter would be posted on the District website.

B2. Trustees' Report

- a) Trustee Whiteaker advised Trustees that she would be attending the British Columbia School Trustees' Association AGM on April 16-19, 2015 and that she was seeking approval to vote on motions that would be on the floor on behalf of the Board.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) give approval for Trustee Whiteaker to vote on motions on behalf of the Board at the April 2015 British Columbia School Trustees' Association AGM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b) Trustee McNally reported that she attended Lambrick Park and Esquimalt Secondary Schools and thanked the Principals of both schools for the tour. Trustee McNally further reported that she attended a performance of Victoria Sings at UVIC along with Associate Superintendent Cam Pinkerton and attended Oak Bay High School for a drama performance of Beauty and the Beast.
- c) Trustee Watters reported that she attended a meeting of the District Gay/Straight Alliance Council and that she was able to participate in Pink Shirt Day activities.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Joint Education Policy Development and Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The March 2, 2015 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee Nohr presented the following recommended motion from the Education Policy and Development Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the BCSTA request: *(a) that each Board of Education develop a rationale for an immediate increase in funding for support for educational programs in their schools; (b) that Boards ask to meet with their local MLAs prior to the end of March 2015; and, (c) that each Board and/or Branch Association present their requests for increased funding to their local MLAs and the Ministry of Education during these meetings.*

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the motion to change the timeline to April 2015.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the BCSTA request: (a) that each Board of Education develop a rationale for an immediate increase in funding for support for educational programs in their schools; (b) that Boards ask to meet with their local MLAs prior to the end of March 2015; and, (c) that each Board and/or Branch Association present their requests for increased funding to their local MLAs and the Ministry of Education during these meetings*" be amended to change the timeline to April 2015.

Motion Carried

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

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Loring-Kuhanga calling the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the BCSTA request: *(a) that each Board of Education develop a rationale for an immediate increase in funding for support for educational programs in their schools; (b) that Boards ask to meet with their local MLAs prior to the end of April 2015; and, (c) that each Board and/or Branch Association present their requests for increased funding to their local MLAs and the Ministry of Education during these meetings.*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee Leonard presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Bell.

It was moved and seconded:

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Needs Budget Committee to work with the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer to develop a needs budget based on the information collected from schools for the allocation of the Teacher Education Fund-

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee Leonard presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Trustee representative reports be submitted in writing in time to be included as attachments with the board agenda package.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Trustee Leonard presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that senior administration provide a summary of the 2014-2015 Class Size and Composition Report including the number of classes over the class size limit per grade, the number of classes with 4 or more special education designated students, the number of ELL students, and the number of gifted students for each elementary, middle and high school to be reported out at the March, 2015 Board meeting.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to add “at each grade level” after the word “school” and “April” in place of “March”.

It was moved and seconded:

- iv) That the motion “*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that senior administration provide a summary of the 2014-2015 Class Size and Composition Report including the number of classes over the class size limit per grade, the number of classes with 4 or more special education designated students, the number of ELL students, and the number of gifted students for each elementary, middle and high school to be reported out at the March, 2015 Board meeting*” be amended to add “at each grade level” after the word “school” and “April” in place of “March”.
- Motion Carried**

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

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Loring-Kuhanga calling for the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved and seconded:

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that senior administration provide a summary of the 2014-2015 Class Size and Composition Report including the number of classes over the class size limit per grade, the number of classes with 4 or more special education designated students, the number of ELL students, and the number of gifted students for each elementary, middle and high school at each grade level to be reported out at the April, 2015 Board meeting.
- Motion Defeated**

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

Trustee Leonard presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

- v) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Finance, copying the Minister of Education and the Opposition’s Education Critic, expressing alarm at the 2015 Budget’s decree that School Districts cut administrative expenses by \$54 million over the next two years, a move that will cost our district approximately \$1 million in the first year and result in increased hardships across our District.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to withdraw the original motion.

It was moved and seconded:

- v) That the motion “*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Finance, copying the Minister of Education and the Opposition’s Education Critic, expressing alarm at the 2015 Budget’s decree that School Districts cut administrative expenses by \$54 million over the next two years, a move that will cost our district approximately \$1 million in the first year and result in increased hardships across our District*” be withdrawn.

Motion to Withdraw Carried Unanimously

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent’s Report

- a) Superintendent Bell presented the 2015/2016 School Calendar for approval.

It was moved and seconded:

That the following dates be approved:

2015/2016 School Year Calendar*

School Opening –	September 8, 2015
First non-instructional day –	September 21, 2015
Thanksgiving –	October 12, 2015
Second non-instructional day – (Province wide)	October 23, 2015
Remembrance Day –	November 11, 2015
Third non-instructional day –	November 20, 2015
Schools close for Winter vacation –	December 18, 2015
Schools re-open after Winter vacation –	January 4, 2016
Family Day –	February 8, 2016
Fourth non-instructional day –	February 19, 2016
Schools close for Spring vacation –	March 11, 2016
Schools re-open after Spring vacation –	March 29, 2016
Good Friday –	March 25, 2016
Easter Monday –	March 28, 2016
Fifth non-instructional day –	May 20, 2016
Victoria Day –	May 23, 2016
Administrative Day and School Closing –	June 24, 2016

*Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school

Motion Carried Unanimously

D2. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

- a) Secretary-Treasurer Laser reminded Trustees that the first two readings of Bylaw 9368 *Procedure* occurred at the February 20, 2015 Board meeting and this would be the third and final reading.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give the third and final reading to the revised Bylaw 9368 *Procedure* at the March 23, 2015 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the revised Bylaw 9368 *Procedure* be:

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 23rd day of March 2015.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b) Secretary-Treasurer Laser advised that the Ministry of Education had approved funding for the replacement of the boiler at Rockheights Middle School and that approval of the capital project bylaw is required to receive the funding.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings of Capital Project Bylaw No. 126845, being a bylaw for the Carbon Neutral Capital Program Rockheights Middle School Boiler Replacement in the amount of \$237,500.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 126845, being a bylaw for the Carbon Neutral Capital Program Rockheights Middle School Boiler Replacement in the amount of \$237,500 be:

READ A FIRST TIME THE 23rd day of March, 2015;
 READ A SECOND TIME THE 23rd day of March, 2015, and
 READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 23rd day of March, 2015 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

E. QUESTION PERIOD

- E1. Chair Loring-Kuhanga read the following question which was received via the District website:

What data, evidence and/or research do you have to support closing SD61's professional development department in the name of student learning? Based on what data, evidence and/or research will reallocating this funding positively impact student and teacher learning?

Superintendent Bell advised that she would follow up with a response to the individual who emailed this question.

F. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

G. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

G1. New Business

- a) Trustee McNally presented her motion and rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9140 *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board*, Article 3, to delete the sentence "*Committees may function as consultative committees, working committees, steering committees or special committees.*"

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to refer this motion to the April 13, 2015 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

That the motion "That the Board of Education of School No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9140 *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board*, Article 3, to delete the sentence "*Committees may function as consultative committees, working committees, steering committees or special committees*" be referred to the April 13, 2015 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustees Leonard, Whiteaker, Ferris

Against: Trustees Loring-Kuhanga, Nohr, McNally, Paynter, Watters

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Loring-Kuhanga calling for the question on the main motion.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9140 *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board*, Article 3, to delete the sentence "*Committees may function as consultative committees, working committees, steering committees or special committees.*"

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Ferris, Leonard, Whiteaker

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agrees to give all three readings to the revised Bylaw 9140 *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board* at the March 23, 2015 Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Leonard, Whiteaker, Ferris

It was moved and seconded:

That the revised Bylaw 9140 *Ad Hoc Committee of the Board* be:

Read a first time the 23rd day of March, 2015;
Read a second time the 23rd day of March, 2015;

Motion Carried

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

- b) Trustee Whiteaker presented her motion and rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) in collaboration with our Education Partners write a letter to the Minister of Education, Premier, and MLA's expressing concerns and effects of the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 administrative budget cuts and highlight budget savings previously undertaken and send a copy of this letter to the local media.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- c) Trustee Watters presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Trustees Watters.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write a letter to the community addressing the impacts of underfunding on our school district through the lens of our Needs Budget, and to consult with and seek sign off from partner groups as well as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations so that the letter may be a statement on behalf of the entire SD61 community to be published in local media.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- d) Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to meet with representatives of the GVTA to negotiate a Letter of Understanding to calculate the September pay based on an additional day reflecting 1/195 of the salary for all teachers with assignments in the district.

Motion Defeated

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

- e) Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) close the Learning Initiatives department as of June 30, 2015 and redeploy all staff to existing positions in the district that come available due to retirements and attrition.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to refer this motion to the April 22, 2015 Special Board Budget meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

<p>That the motion “<i>That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) close the Learning Initiatives department as of June 30, 2015 and redeploy all staff to existing positions in the district that come available due to retirements and attrition</i>” be referred to the April 22, 2015 Special Board Budget meeting.</p>
Motion Defeated

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

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Chair Loring-Kuhanga calling for the question on the main motion.

It was moved and seconded:

<p>That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) close the Learning Initiatives department as of June 30, 2015 and redeploy all staff to existing positions in the district that come available due to retirements and attrition.</p>
Motion Defeated

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

G2. Notice of Motions - None

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

<p>That the meeting be adjourned.</p>
Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer