



**Combined Education Policy Development Committee
and
Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
March 2, 2015 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

REGULAR MINUTES

Present:

Deborah Nohr, Chair, Education Policy Development Committee, Elaine Leonard, Chair, Operations Policy and Planning Committee, Tom Ferris, (left 9:45), Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Diane McNally, Peg Orcherton (left 9:45), 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, Kim Munro, Director of Human Resource Services, Doreen Hegan, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Nohr 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 March 2, 2015 regular agenda be approved with the following changes: add under Item 3 Business Arising from Minutes – BCSTA Request; withdraw 5.A.1 Cindy Graf Presentation, and add Item B.3 BCSTA 2015/2016 Budget.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved:

That the February 2, 2015 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

It was moved:

That the February 10, 2015 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A. BCSTA Request

Trustee Whiteaker presented the BCSTA motion and requested feedback from Trustees. Trustees provided their comments.

It was moved:

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 school districts; (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.*

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Trustee Nohr, Chair

A. Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Bell introduced Lydia Biegun, Student Representative from Lambrick Park Secondary School and informed the Trustees that Lydia is a Grade 11 student.

B. Anti-Bullying Day Activities

Superintendent Bell provided an overview of the various activities that took place in the District including the following: Staff and students participated by wearing pink shirts; some elementary schools issued stickers for random acts of kindness; in middle and secondary schools there were guest speakers, assemblies, and skits; Shoreline students went to the legislative building and opened with drumming; a student from Reynolds Secondary School recited a poem at the legislative building; and the Tolmie building had a door decorating competition.

C. Special Education

Debra Mackie, District Principal, Special Education provided an overview of special education services in the school district. The following are considered as elements of successful inclusion in our school district. This means we strive for:

- A sense of community and social acceptance for every student
- An appreciation of student diversity
- Attention to curricular needs of every student
- Effective management and quality instruction for every student, and
- Access to adequate personnel supports for every student.

The classroom teacher is best supported by a school based team, where services and supports may be brought to the classroom level from the team and from district and provincial specialists. The School Based Team determines the need of the student through various assessments which then leads to an individual education plan and a variety of support

services to meet the individual student needs including for example, support from special education and learning support teachers, therapy services, augmentative equipment, and educational assistant support.

Services for students are available in an integrated setting or in district special education programs.

Trustees thanked Debra Mackie for her presentation.

The Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

5. OPERATIONS, POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – Trustee Leonard, Chair

The Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting was called to order at 8:26 p.m.

A. PRESENTATIONS - None

B. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

1. Budget Discussion - Special Education

Debra Mackie, District Principal, Special Education stated that the special education budget is just under \$29 Million which represents 15% of the total operating budget.

Of the \$29M, \$13.3M is allocated from the general operating budget which provides support for elementary and middle school counsellors, contact teachers for gifted students, speech and language pathologists, augmentative and adaptive communication assistants, occupational therapists, physio therapists, reading recovery teachers, and learning support teachers.

The Ministry of Education allocates \$15.7M in supplementary funding for unique student needs as follows:

Level 1 - Physically Dependent or Deafblind - 21 students @ \$36,600

Level 2 - Low Incidence - 667 students @ \$18,300

Level 3 - Intensive Behaviour Intervention - 292 students @ \$9,200

The supplementary funding provides support for special education teachers, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, teachers of the visually impaired, district learning support teachers, a behaviour consultant and educational assistants.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and thanked Debra Mackie for her presentation.

2. WorkSafe BC Premiums

Secretary-Treasurer Laser presented the WorkSafe BC Premiums for the past 3 years explaining that the base rate is determined by WorkSafe BC and that the surcharge or discount is based on the school district claims experience over the past 3 years. The forecasted amount for 2015 is a discount of \$.01 which will result in a cost savings of approximately \$35,400.

Trustees asked questions of clarification of Secretary-Treasurer Laser.

3. BCSTA 2015/2016 Budget

Trustee Whiteaker explained that the BCSTA is requesting feedback from Boards of Education with respect to the draft 2015/2016 BCSTA budget by March 16, 2015 so that any changes can be incorporated into the budget draft that will be presented to the April 2015 Provincial Council for adoption. Trustees did not recommend any changes.

C. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

D. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Trustee Paynter - Evaluate Current District Funding Levels

Trustee Paynter presented his motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with concerns being expressed regarding the wording. Trustee Paynter withdrew his motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Needs Budget Committee to evaluate current district funding levels and allocations in consultation with the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer and report to the Board with recommendations and rationale for funding levels necessary to meet its operational requirements and to discharge its responsibility for the improvement of student achievement in the school district.

Motion Withdrawn

Trustees stated that they would like to see a needs budget submitted to the Ministry of Education in addition to the compliance budget. Secretary-Treasurer Laser suggested that the information collected from schools indicating their needs in response to allocating the Teacher Education Fund would provide the basis for a needs budget.

It was moved:

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 Funds.

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Trustee Whiteaker - Trustee Reports

Trustee Whiteaker presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee Whiteaker accepting the suggestion to add the word “representative” in front of the word “reports”.

It was moved:

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

3. Trustee Nohr - 2014-2015 Class Size and Composition Report

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale. Superintendent Bell asked for clarification with respect to the information being requested. Trustee Nohr agreed to delete the words “the number of international students” and to change the word “challenge” to “gifted”. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved:

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.

Motion Carried

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

Against: Trustees Orcherton, Whiteaker, Ferris, Leonard

Trustees Orcherton and Ferris left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

4. Trustee Nohr - Overview of MyEducation BC

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees. Superintendent Bell reminded the Trustees that it is her job to work with the unions to address expressed concerns and that she had responded to the letter sent in by the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association.

Trustee Nohr withdrew her motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that senior administration provide an overview of MyEducation BC implementation process including the privacy requirements and the IEP data transfer by hand by teachers.

Motion Withdrawn

5. Trustee Watters - Letter to the Minister of Finance

Trustee Watters presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education 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.

Motion Carried Unanimously

6. Trustee Nohr - Technology Stewardship Committee

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with Trustee Nohr being asked to clarify the intent of her motion. Trustees suggested that the motion be referred to the April 13, 2015 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) establish a Technology Stewardship Committee for the following purposes: review of the current status of technology in our schools, review of the EMF research findings (2011-2015) based on peer reviewed independent scientific studies, review of cost implications for the operating budget based on the goals of the I.T. Department, review of health and safety procedures/directives for all of our schools and consideration for establishing one elementary school that provides technology using hard wired internet connections for student learning; this committee shall meet starting in March, 2015.

Motion Referred

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.