



**Operations, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting  
April 13, 2015 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

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**REGULAR MINUTES**

**Present:**

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

**Regrets:**

Peg Orcherton

**Administration:**

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer, Ted Pennell, Director, Information Technology, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Doreen Hegan, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

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

Superintendent Bell introduced Kaitlyn Gantt-Mann, Student Representative from Esquimalt High School.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved:

That the April 13, 2015 regular agenda be approved with the addition of Dr. Blank and Dr. Crofton under Item 4: Presentations.

**Motion Carried**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved:

That the March 2, 2015 combined Education Policy Development Committee and Operations, Policy and Planning Meeting regular minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

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

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. Camille Victoire - Accountability and Responsibility (Wi-Fi)**

Ms. Victoire, parent from Margaret Jenkins, presented her concerns regarding the proper use of technology in schools, particularly given that Health Canada's Safety Code 6 - Radiofrequency Exposure Guidelines is now under review. Ms. Victoire expressed her support of the motion to create a Technology Stewardship Committee.

##### **B. Dr. Blank and Dr. Crofton – EMF**

Dr. Martin Blank and Dr. Kerry Crofton shared concerns regarding EMF safety standards not being protective. Due to recent research on the impact of EMF on cellular and DNA structure, Dr. Blank recommended that Wi-Fi and cell phones be turned off when not in use. Dr. Blank and Dr. Crofton both expressed their support for the motion to create a Technology Stewardship Committee.

#### **5. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

##### **A. Budget Discussion**

###### **1. Open Letter to the Community**

Trustees reviewed the draft letter. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with concerns raised that the needs budget was not incorporated. Trustees agreed to table the letter to the May Operations, Policy and Planning (OPPs) Committee meeting that follows the Needs Budget Committee meeting later this month.

##### **B. Delete Policy and Regulation 2123.047 Personnel Assistant**

Secretary-Treasurer Laser informed the Committee that Policy and Regulation 2123.047 Personnel Assistant should be deleted as the position no longer exists.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with questions raised around the duties listed in the regulation.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) delete Policy and Regulation 2123.047 Personnel Assistant.
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**Motion Carried Unanimously**

##### **C. BCSTA AGM Motions**

Trustee Whiteaker provided information regarding the BCSTA motions being presented at the upcoming BCSTA AGM. She advised the Committee that amendments to the motions are not permitted and that members must vote on the existing motions as worded. Trustee Whiteaker shared her concerns about the wording of one of the motions and suggested that members attending the AGM vote against the motion. The Committee provided direction to Trustee Whiteaker and those holding voting cards to vote against the motion.

## D. Naming Recognition

Chair Leonard provided background information regarding Policies 1325 *Partnership* and 1421 *Naming School Sites*. Trustees agreed that the policies should be brought forward for discussion at the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting starting in June 2015.

It was moved:

That Policy 1325 *Partnership*, Policy 1325A *Partnership (attachment)* and 1421 *Naming School Sites* be forwarded for review at the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting starting in June 2015.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

## 7. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTION

### A. Trustee Nohr - Technology Stewardship Committee

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.

Chair Leonard advised the Committee that a replacement motion was submitted and circulated by Trustee Nohr. The Committee agreed to put forward the new motion.

Trustee Nohr presented her motion and rationale.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) establish an Ad Hoc committee as per Bylaw 9140, 'Technology Stewardship' for the purpose of developing guidelines for the safer use of technology for our students and staff.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with an amendment being suggested to remove the word "safer".

It was moved:

To amend the main motion to remove the word "safer" before the words "use of technology..."

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Chair Leonard called for a vote on the amended main motion.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) establish an Ad Hoc committee as per Bylaw 9140, 'Technology Stewardship' for the purpose of developing guidelines for the use of technology for our students and staff.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.