



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
May 19, 2015 Regular Board Meeting - Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road**

MINUTES

Present:

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

Regrets:

Trustee Elaine Leonard

Administration:

Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Ball, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Duncan, Deputy Superintendent, Shelley Green, Associate Superintendent, Tom Smith, Director of Facilities Services, Deb Whitten, District Principal, Student Services, Janine Roy, District Principal, Learning Initiatives
Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint Katrina Ball Acting Secretary-Treasurer for the duration of the May 19, 2015 Regular Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A1. Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Watters suggested that the two motions C2. b) ii) and iii) be removed from the agenda as the Terms of Reference for the Technology Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee are still being discussed at the committee level. Motions should be presented to the Board for approval once the Terms of Reference are complete.

It was moved and seconded:

That the May 19, 2015 Agenda be amended to delete the motions C2. b) ii) and iii) until the Terms of Reference for the Technology Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee are completed at the committee level.

Motion Carried Unanimously

It was moved and seconded:

That the amended May 19, 2015 Agenda be approved with the following additions:

A6. Community Presentations

- d) Amy Bronee, Victoria West Elementary School, Parent Education Fund
- f) Carolina Tudela, Parent, Parent Education Fund

B2. Trustee Reports

- b) Trustee Watters
- c) Trustee Nohr

Motion Carried Unanimously

A2. Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Watters asked why her written report for the Gay Straight Alliance Committee was not included with the April 20, 2015 Board minutes. Chair Loring-Kuhanga advised that in the past Trustee Representative written reports have not been included with the Board minutes but have been included with the Board agenda package.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) include Trustee Representative written reports with the Regular Board meeting minutes.

Motion Carried Unanimously

a) It was moved and seconded:

That the April 20, 2015 Regular Board Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b) It was moved and seconded:

That the April 22, 2015 Special Board Budget Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A3. Business arising from the Minutes - None

A4. Student Achievement

- a) Kevin Luchies, Principal, Lambrick Park Secondary School, attended the Board meeting to speak about a conference that was held at Lambrick Park on April 27, 2015. The student led conference was hosted by the Gay Straight Alliance Committee and was called "Love is Love". Mr. Luchies thanked all participants and attendees at the conference and then introduced Ms. Linda Tate, teacher sponsor and grade twelve students Caitlin and Matthew.

Caitlin and Matthew, co-founders of the Gay Straight Alliance Committee at Lambrick Park, shared with the Board the conference planning process and the various workshops that were offered throughout the day. Both students stated that they were pleased with the attendance of many students from School District 61 along with students from School District's 62 and 63 and area private schools.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga thanked Mr. Luchies, Ms. Tate, Caitlin and Matthew for attending the board meeting and presenting to Trustees.

A5. District Presentations - None**A6. Community Presentations**

- a) Brae Carnes attended the Board meeting to share with Trustees her journey in School District 61 as a male student and since graduating with honours in 2010 from Reynolds her transition to a female. Ms. Carnes wanted to educate the Board about transgendered children and the need for more education in the schools. Ms. Carnes urged Trustees to vote in favour of the motion with respect to gender expression and gender identity.
- b) Grant attended the Board meeting to advocate for the need for a District policy to address the needs of transgender and gender variant students and their families. Grant urged the Board to vote in favour of the motion with respect to gender expression and gender identity.
- c) Amy Dorais, grade 4/5 teacher and Alyx MacAdams, support worker for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre attended the Board meeting to advocate and educate Trustees about transgender children and the need for a district policy to address the needs of these students and their families. Amy and Alyx urged Trustees to vote in favour of the motion on the agenda with regard to gender expression and gender identity.
- d) Amy Bronee attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Victoria West Elementary School PAC. Ms. Bronee stated that the Victoria West Elementary School PAC uses all monies granted to them by the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) and urged the Trustees to vote against the motion regarding the Parent Education Fund as it will reduce the funding to VCPAC.
- e) Vincenza Gruppuso attended the Board meeting on behalf of VCPAC and commented on the importance of parents being able to provide their opinions and to advocate for the needs of their students. Ms. Gruppuso spoke against the proposed motion regarding a Parent Education Fund as it will put the VCPAC in a deficit position and urged Trustees to vote against this motion.
- f) Carolina Tudela attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees as a parent of a student in Victoria High School. Ms. Tudela spoke in favour of the motion regarding the Parent Education Fund as it would give PAC's a chance to pool their funding together and to create more educational opportunities for parents. Ms. Tudela urged Trustees to vote in favour of the proposed Parent Education Fund motion.

A. TRUSTEE REPORTS**B1. Chair's Report**

Chair Loring-Kuhanga thanked the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association (GVTA), on behalf of the Board, for signing off on the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, which now completes the agreement.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga reported that she met with the grade twelve grads at Esquimalt High School and Victoria High School and that she will be meeting with MLA and NDP Education Critic, Mr. Rob Fleming along with some of the Board members on May 21, 2015 to discuss the on-going needs within our school district.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga advised that the Board has contracted with an executive search firm, Davies Park, to assist with hiring a new Superintendent of Schools.

B2. Trustees' Report

- a) Trustee McNally reported that she attended the Love is Love Conference at Lambrick Park Secondary School and that she will be speaking at the Reynolds grade twelve graduation ceremony in June. Trustee McNally further reported that she attended PAC meetings at Shoreline Middle School and Rockheights Middle School and also the unveiling ceremony of murals designed by teacher and student artists at Rockheights Middle School.
- b) Trustee Watters reported on behalf of the Aboriginal Nations Education Council that the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement had been signed by the GVTA and was now complete. Trustee Watters showcased new Aboriginal Award Certificates that have been developed and will be given out in our schools in June.
- c) Trustee Nohr reported that she attended the BC Legislature to observe the debate on Bill 11, the Education Statutes Amendment Act, and provided a brief synopsis of the debate including the presentation made by MLA and NDP Education Critic, Rob Fleming. Trustee Nohr further reported that she attended Willows Elementary School to help celebrate bike to school week.

C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

C1. Education Policy Development Committee

- a) Trustee Nohr presented the May 4, 2015 meeting minutes and highlighted some of the evening's presentations.
- b) Trustee Nohr presented the following recommended motion from the Education Policy Development Committee meeting. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to task the District Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee with developing a draft policy on Gender Identity and Gender Expression (in accordance with Bylaw 9210 The development of Policy; and Policy 1163 Consultation) to ensure the safety and support of transgender and gender variant students and their families, and present it to the Education Policy Development Committee with recommendations for implementation.
Motion Carried Unanimously

C2. Operations, Policy and Planning Committee

- a) The May 11, 2015 meeting minutes were presented for information.
- b) Trustee McNally presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

It was moved and seconded:

- i) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) send the Needs Budget letter including the additional bullet with all of the signatures.
Motion Carried

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

The following motions were referred back to the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee until the Terms of Reference for the Technology Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee are completed.

- ii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) defines the purpose of the Technology Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee to be to develop guidelines for the use of technology for our students and staff.
- iii) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint one trustee as a voting member on the Technology Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee.

Trustee Whiteaker presented the following recommended motion from the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and provided Trustees with an overview of the proposed Parent Education Fund. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with comments being provided by Mr. John Bird, VCPAC President.

It was moved and seconded:

- iv) That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) create a Parent Education Fund as part of the 2015-2016 budget item - Parent Advisory Council Grant in the amount of \$7,000.00. And further, that the Board of Education create guidelines and a process to access this Parent Education Fund.
Motion Carried

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

D. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

D1. Superintendent's Report

- a) Superintendent Bell presented the Board of Education and Standing Committee dates for 2015-2016.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2015/2016 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the September 2015 date to separate the meetings to September 14, 2015 for the Education Policy Development Committee meeting, September 21, 2015 for the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and September 28, 2015 for the Board of Education meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2015/2016 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates amending September's meeting dates to September 14, 2015 for the Education Policy Development Committee meeting, September 21, 2015 for the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and September 28, 2015 for the Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried

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

Chair Loring-Kuhanga called for the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2015/2016 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates as amended to include September 14, 2015 for the Education Policy Development Committee meeting, September 21, 2015 for the Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting and September 28, 2015 for the Board of Education meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b) Superintendent Bell indicated that during the Student Achievement portion of Board meeting students would now be videotaped and the appropriate permission would be obtained prior to Board meetings.

D2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report - None

E. QUESTION PERIOD

- a) Chair Loring-Kuhanga read the following question:

What is the application process that the District PAC has to undertake to access District funding?

Superintendent Bell advised that as no guidelines have been put in place this will be referred to an Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting for further discussion on what the process and guidelines will be.

F. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

G. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

G1. New Business - None

G2. Notice of Motions

- a) **Trustee Nohr - Write a Letter to the Minister of Education**

Trustee Nohr advised that she will be providing a motion for the June 8, 2015 Operations, Policy and Planning Committee meeting with respect to writing a letter to the Minister of Education regarding Bill 11 and the lack of consultation with B.C. School Boards.

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer