



**Combined Education Policy and Directions Committee
and
Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting
March 7, 2016 – GVSD Board Office, Boardroom**

REGULAR MINUTES

Present:

Deborah Nohr, Chair, Education Policy and Directions Committee, Elaine Leonard, Chair, Operations Policy and Planning Committee, Tom Ferris, Diane McNally, Peg Orcherton, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

Administration:

Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer, Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent, Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent, Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Ball, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Ted Pennell, Director of Information Technology, Marvella Preston-Bain, District Principal of Special Education, Simon Burgers, District Principal of Languages and Multiculturalism, Connie Schmidt, 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.

Introductions were made around the Board table and the Administration table.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Paynter added a motion under item G. New Business and Trustee Ferris added a notice of motion under item H. Notice of Motion of the Operations Policy and Planning Committee portion of the agenda.

It was moved:

That the March 7, 2016 regular agenda for the Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be approved with the following additions:

G. New Business

1. Trustee Paynter - Minimum Hours of Instruction

H. Notice of Motion

1. Trustee Ferris - Federal Infrastructure Money

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved:

That the February 1, 2016 Education Policy Development Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

It was moved:

That the February 9, 2016 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Meeting regular minutes be approved.

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - None

4. EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Trustee Nohr, Chair

A. PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Oak Bay Students – Gender Identity and Gender Expression

Two students from Oak Bay High School, representing the District Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), presented Trustees with information about the Gender Identity and Gender Expression Policy Proposal. The students spoke to the rationale of the proposal and provided a brief summary of the development process.

Chair Nohr thanked the students for their presentation.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction of Student Representative – Jenna Jiang, Mount Douglas Secondary School

Superintendent Langstraat introduced and welcomed Jenna Jiang, Student Representative from Mount Douglas Secondary School. Jenna will be attending the March 2016 meetings of the Board.

2. Measuring Outcomes of Students with Diverse Learning Needs

Marvella Preston-Bain, District Principal of Special Education, provided trustees with information about measuring outcomes of students with diverse learning needs. Ms. Preston-Bain's presentation covered a variety of topics, including successful inclusion, educational provisions, on-going assessment of and for learning, methods of assessment and reporting, and big data.

Questions of clarification were asked of Ms. Preston-Bain and Superintendent Langstraat. Trustees thanked Ms. Preston-Bain for her informative presentation.

C. NOTICE OF MOTION

1. Trustee Watters – Gender Identity and Gender Expression

Trustee Watters thanked the Oak Bay High School students for their earlier presentation. She then presented her motion on Gender Identity and Gender Expression:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the policy proposal on Gender Identity and Gender Expression presented by the District Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and refer it to the Policy Sub-Committee for further development and consultation with partner groups as per Bylaw 9210 (The Development of Policy) and Policy 1163 (Consultation).

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees.

Trustee Ferris recommended the motion be amended to include the words “and regulation” after the first instance of the word “policy.”

It was moved:

That the main motion “*The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the policy proposal on Gender Identity and Gender Expression presented by the District Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and refer it to the Policy Sub-Committee for further development and consultation with partner groups as per Bylaw 9210 (The Development of Policy) and Policy 1163 (Consultation)*” be amended to include the words ‘and regulation’ after the first instance of the word ‘policy’.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair Nohr called the question on the main motion as amended.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the policy and regulation proposal on Gender Identity and Gender Expression presented by the District Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and refer it to the Policy Sub-Committee for further development and consultation with partner groups as per Bylaw 9210 (The Development of Policy) and Policy 1163 (Consultation).

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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

The Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting was called to order at 8:17 p.m.

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. Rod Sim, Oak Bay Rotary Foundation

Rod Sim, Director and Secretary of the Oak Bay Rotary Foundation, thanked Trustees and District administration for their support and the invitation to share the Foundation’s plan to

award the Sno'uyutth Legacy Scholarship to a graduating student of First Nations, Inuit or Métis descent who pursues post-secondary training upon graduation from Oak Bay High School, starting in September 2016. Mr. Sim explained that the annual cash amount of the scholarship will be \$500 for 2016 and that the Foundation intends to grow the endowment account to \$25,000 and increase the annual cash payment to \$1,000 as soon as possible. He also informed Trustees that the Foundation hopes to expand the scope of the Sno'uyutth Legacy Scholarship to include all secondary schools in Greater Victoria.

Trustees expressed their appreciation and thanked Mr. Sim for his presentation.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

C. PERSONNEL ITEMS

1. Director of Facilities Services

Secretary Treasurer Walsh announced that Mr. David Loveridge was hired as the new Director of Facilities Services. Mr. Loveridge will join the District on March 21, 2016.

D. FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

1. 2016-2017 Budget Planning

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh spoke to the 2016-2017 Operating Budget Forecast that was presented to Trustees at the January 11, 2016 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting. He explained that the Financial Services department is currently in the process of building the 2016-2017 Annual Operating Budget and will focus on identifying revenue and expense variances in an effort to reduce the projected budget deficit. Secretary-Treasurer Walsh and Superintendent Langstraat also discussed centralizing contingencies and reviewing appropriate levels of carryforward funds across the District.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees.

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh requested feedback and received support from Trustees to eliminate the separate Public Budget Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on March 29, 2016 and rather include the budget presentation and discussion within the Secretary Treasurer's Report section of the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for the same day at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh also requested and received feedback on the most cost-effective methods of advertising the upcoming budget meetings. Trustees directed Secretary-Treasurer Walsh to explore the options following confirmation of the District's statutory requirements.

2. Technology for Learning Strategy

Superintendent Langstraat presented Trustees with the funding specifics of the Technology for Learning Strategy. Superintendent Langstraat and Secretary-Treasurer Walsh outlined the expected costs and sources of funding for the main areas of the strategy: infrastructure (wireless access, fixed projection devices, and educator devices), support for educators, and student access to technology. It was explained that sources of funding would include

the Annual Facility Grant (AFG), increased investment income, the reallocation of existing expense budgets, and the use of one-time carryforward budgets.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Superintendent Langstraat and Secretary-Treasurer Walsh.

Regarding the source of funds for fixed projection devices, Secretary-Treasurer Walsh recommended the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve up to \$1,900,000 spending for fixed projection devices as identified in the Technology for Learning Strategy from the Local Capital Reserve.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees.

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve up to \$1,900,000 spending for fixed projection devices as identified in the Technology for Learning Strategy from the Local Capital Reserve.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Superintendent Langstraat and Secretary-Treasurer invited further feedback from Trustees and stakeholder groups and advised that the funding plan would be presented to the Board at the March 29, 2016 Regular Board meeting.

E. FACILITIES PLANNING

1. Water Safety Planning

Secretary-Treasurer Walsh informed Trustees that the Ministry of Education has requested that school districts work with their local health authority to develop a plan for ongoing water safety evaluation. He explained that the District has been proactive in testing facilities to determine lead levels in the water. While waiting for direction from Island Health, Secretary-Treasurer Walsh advised that the Facilities Services department and District Health and Safety will prepare an overview of District facilities with regard to this matter and tentatively plan testing.

F. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Trustee Paynter – Minimum Hours of Instruction

Trustee Paynter presented his motion and rationale.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent take such actions as are necessary to ensure that all students are provided with the minimum hours of instruction in future school years.

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

It was moved:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent take such actions as are necessary to ensure that all students are provided with the minimum hours of instruction in future school years.

Motion Defeated

For: Trustee Paynter

Against: Trustees Leonard, McNally, Nohr, Whiteaker

H. NOTICE OF MOTION

1. Trustee Ferris – Federal Infrastructure Money

Trustee Ferris provided a notice of motion for the March 29, 2016 Board of Education meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Secretary-Treasurer to investigate the process by which the Board, in conjunction with the Vic High Alumni Association, might apply for Federal infrastructure money for the development of the new field at Vic High.

I. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried

The Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.