



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
June 28, 2016 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
École Marigold Elementary School, 3751 Grange Road**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Present: Trustees Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Chair, Diane McNally, Vice-Chair, Elaine Leonard, Deborah Nohr, Peg Orcherton, Ann Whiteaker

Regrets: Trustees Tom Ferris, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters

Administration: Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Katrina Ball, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent, Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent, Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent, David Loveridge, Director of Facilities Services, Vicki Hanley, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

It was moved and seconded:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) appoint Katrina Ball as Acting Secretary-Treasurer for the duration of the June 28, 2016 Special In-Camera Board meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded:

That the June 28, 2016 Agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Loring-Kuhanga welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed disposition of a portion of land located on the grounds of Marigold and Spectrum Schools to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) for the McKenzie Road/Trans-Canada Highway Interchange Project. Chair Loring-Kuhanga further explained that once the meeting concluded and adjourned that the Board would then begin a Special Board meeting to discuss and debate whether or not to seek the Ministry of Education's approval to dispose of the land.

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

C1. Introductions

Superintendent Langstraat welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated the purpose of the meeting and advised that once a full presentation was made the public would have the opportunity to ask questions. Superintendent Langstraat then introduced the Director of Facilities Services, David Loveridge.

C2. Presentation - McKenzie/Highway Interchange - David Loveridge, Director of Facilities Services

David Loveridge, Director of Facilities Services, made a presentation with regard to the McKenzie Road/Trans-Canada Highway Interchange project which included background information, public consultation process to date, impact on our schools, sale and purchase offer made by the MOTI, additional amenities and safety upgrades required during the construction period, and staff recommendations.

The meeting then entered into a Question/Comment and Answer period. Superintendent Langstraat stated that he and Mr. Loveridge would be pleased to answer any questions.

Question/Comment

With regard to the \$150,000 being offered to the District for the replacement of the vegetation and fencing, how was this amount decided?

Answer

MOTI estimated the cost to replace the vegetation and fencing and came up with a figure and then the District estimated the costs related to the additional items that were identified in the last consultation meeting with parents. Instead of the funds going specifically for vegetation and fencing, an allowance allows the school communities to decide how the funds should be spent.

Question/Comment

Was the \$150,000 a negotiated amount?

Answer

The MOTI originally estimated that the simple fence and landscape replacement would cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000. The District was able to negotiate a higher amount based on other requirements needed to restore school lands to pre-construction condition.

Question/Comment

How will the \$150,000 be spent and will there be public consultation?

Answer

The \$150,000 is a small piece of the entire project and nothing has been decided at this point. It will be open to discussion with the community once the project is underway and we can assess how the Galloping Goose Trail and surrounding area looks post-construction.

Question/Comment

Is the \$150,000 separate from the \$1.1 million being offered for the sale of the property?

Answer

That is correct. The \$150,000 is a separate allowance for landscaping. Of the \$1.1 million being offered for the sale of the property, 75% will be placed in the District's Ministry of Education Restricted Capital account (requires Ministry approval to spend) and 25% will be placed in the District's Local Capital account (requires Board approval to spend).

Question/Comment

Could the 25% come back directly to Marigold and Spectrum schools?

Answer

That would be a Board of Education decision. The funds in the Local Capital account are used by the Board to address capital items across the entire District and are not specifically tied to the properties that have been sold.

Question/Comment

Why isn't the MOTI putting up the fencing and replacing the vegetation after the construction is complete?

Answer

The District felt it more appropriate to have an allowance of \$150,000 from the MOTI which would allow the District to complete the work that serves the District and our students following a specific needs consultation with the public.

Question/Comment

When will the pedestrian overpass be built so that students that currently use it on their way to school have somewhere safe to walk during the construction period?

Answer

It is our understanding that the first phase of the project is to build a temporary pedestrian overpass and have it completed by this fall.

Question/Comment

Will the temporary pedestrian overpass remain there after construction is complete?

Answer

A permanent pedestrian overpass will be built after construction has been completed and the Galloping Goose Trail has been moved. The temporary pedestrian overpass will then be removed.

Question/Comment

Do you know how much St. Joseph's School/Church was offered for the sale of their land?

Answer

No, the District has not been made aware of this offer.

Question/Comment

Is the \$1.1 million purchase offer close to the appraised value of the land?

Answer

The appraisal was discussed in an In-Camera Board of Education meeting and has not been released to the public as of yet. A request would have to be made to the Board in order for this information to be released to the public.

Question/Comment

Could a member of the public request to know what the appraised value of the property was?

Answer

Yes, a request could be made to the Board and they in turn would vote at an In-Camera meeting to make the information public.

Question/Comment

There are a number of concerns about the current parking situation and pick-up/drop-off area at Marigold Elementary and it appears that no solutions are forthcoming.

Answer

Discussions have started on how to create both a temporary and long term solution for the parking and pick-up/drop-off area at Marigold Elementary. Discussions involve various jurisdictions and community partners, e.g. District of Saanich, Capital Regional District, and MOTI.

Question/Comment

The Spectrum parking lot and exit configuration was changed and the new setup is not ideal. Can this be looked at?

Answer

Discussions on this issue will need to begin, so that an appropriate solution can be found.

Question/Comment

Has any consideration been made to the fact that vegetation will be removed for this project and what will happen to it once it has been removed? I encourage the District to consider contacting or partnering with Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), so that they can work with you to salvage and relocate some of the vegetation.

Answer

The District will certainly keep that in mind.

Question/Comment

Could you please explain how the process will unfold with respect to the spending of the \$150,000?

Answer

Please keep in mind that tonight's meeting is for the Board to discuss and debate the sale of the land to the MOTI and seek the approval of the Minister of Education. The discussions and consultation regarding the use of the \$150,000 will come at a later time.

Question/Comment

Currently, the vegetation between the Galloping Goose Trail and the two schools is providing safety for the students. What safety measures will be put in place when the vegetation is removed for the project/construction?

Answer

The consultation process between the MOTI and the District has been extensive. MOTI has assured the District that student safety is a high priority and adequate safety measures will be put in place throughout the construction period.

Question/Comment

Shouldn't the District just allow the MOTI to go ahead and do the planting of new vegetation and fencing, so that it will be done in a timely manner?

Answer

The MOTI will set up adequate fencing during the construction period which will separate the schools from the construction zone and this will not be removed until construction has been completed. As the MOTI is not invested in our schools, it is in the District's best interest to replace the vegetation and install fencing or natural barriers in consultation with the community.

Question/Comment

Will the District accept donated vegetation/plants when the time comes to replace these items?

Answer

At this point the District does not know what vegetation will be put back, but it will certainly look at all options and work respectfully with everyone involved. Every opportunity to work with the larger community to save funds so that they can be used in other areas will be considered.

Question/Comment

If the \$150,000 is not enough to adequately replace the vegetation and fencing, will the District take money from the \$1.1 million received from the sale of the property?

Answer

As stated earlier, the \$1.1 million acquired from the sale of the property will be put into the District's Restricted Capital and Local Capital accounts. The 25% that is placed in the Local Capital account will be used to address the needs of the entire District and the Board will decide how that money is to be allocated.

Question/Comment

There is a tremendous amount of concern regarding the amount of traffic that flows along Burnside Road right now and this will increase substantially once construction begins. It is currently very dangerous for students and community members to walk across Burnside Road when coming to both schools. How will this be addressed?

Answer

The District is already aware of this issue and discussions have commenced on how student safety will be addressed both during construction and in the future.

Question/Comment

Would the MOTI consider funding additional crossing guards for Burnside Road during the construction period?

Answer

Discussions about student safety will occur prior to construction beginning and will involve both the MOTI and the District of Saanich in order to reach an adequate solution. The Burnside/McKenzie Intersection is technically outside of the planned construction zone, so likely that discussion with the District of Saanich will be the key.

Question/Comment

Will there be further negotiations for the \$1.1 million and \$150,000?

Answer

Negotiations have been extensive and these amounts are the final amounts in the MOTI offer.

Question/Comment

Can the District negotiate with the Ministry of Education on how the \$1.1 million is spent?

Answer

No.

Question/Comment

Can you request that the MOTI construct two overpasses so that one would be closer to the schools?

Answer

The District empathizes with the concerns of the parents and the community; however, after extensive consultation, this is the final design that has been decided upon by the MOTI.

Question/Comment

Will the construction workers be using the parking lots located at both schools?

Answer

No, it is our understanding that the MOTI will be constructing a worker parking lot and it will be accessed via the highway side during the construction project. The MOTI has assured the District that student safety is imperative during this project and has guaranteed that a safety zone be put in place prior to the start of construction.

Question/Comment

Could you ask the District of Saanich for one more crossing guard during the construction period?

Answer

A discussion on the safety concerns at the Burnside/McKenzie intersection will be held prior to the start of construction.

Question/Comment

If the District does not accept the purchase/sale offer being made by the MOTI what would happen?

Answer

The MOTI would then proceed to expropriate the lands from the District and there would be no negotiations on the price.

Superintendent Langstraat provided closing remarks and thanked the community for attending and providing their valued input.

Chair Loring-Kuhanga thanked the community for attending and stated that the meeting would now adjourn and a Special Board meeting would begin immediately at which time the Board would discuss, debate and vote on whether to seek the approval of the Ministry of Education on the disposition of a portion of land located on the grounds of Marigold Elementary School and Spectrum Community School.

D. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS - None

E. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned.	Motion Carried Unanimously
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The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer