



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

MINUTES

November 25, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Jordan Watters, Board Chair, Ann Whiteaker, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter

Administration: Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Andy Canty, Director, Learning for Information Technology, Lisa McPhail, Communications Officer, Vicki Hanley, Executive Assistant

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Secretary-Treasurer Morris recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

A.2 Approval of the Agenda

Move E.2 c. Victoria High School to B.1

A.4 Trustee Elections

a. Trustee Painter - motion re results reading

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the November 25, 2019 agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3 Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the October 28, 2019 Regular Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Watters

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the October 28, 2019 Regular Board Minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4 Trustee Elections

Secretary-Treasurer Morris explained the election voting process to Trustees and that after a Chair was elected she would turn the meeting over to the new Chair.

- a. Reading of Election Result - Trustee Painter

Trustee Painter moved a motion with regards to the reading of election results.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) report results of the Trustee elections by name only, and not vote totals.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. Election of Chair

Secretary-Treasurer Morris explained the process and the format that would be followed with respect to the annual elections for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and representatives to BCPSEA and BCSTA.

Secretary-Treasurer Morris called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board of Education for the term to November 2020.

Nominations were received for Trustees Duncan, Painter, Paynter and Watters.

Trustees Duncan and Painter declined the nomination and Trustees Paynter and Watters accepted. A ballot vote was taken and Trustee Watters was declared the Chair of the Board of Education.

Chair Watters thanked Trustees for once again trusting her to lead the Board as its Chair.

c. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Watters called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board of Education for the term to November 2020.

Nominations were received for Trustees Ferris, Duncan, Paynter and Whiteaker.

Trustees Duncan and Paynter declined the nomination and Trustees Ferris and Whiteaker accepted. A ballot vote was taken and Trustee Whiteaker was declared the Vice-Chair of the Board of Education.

d. Election of British Columbia Public School Employers' Association Representative

Chair Watters called for nominations for the position of British Columbia School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Representative for the period to November 2020. Nominations were received for Trustees Painter and Paynter.

Trustee Painter declined the nomination and Trustee Paynter accepted.

Chair Watters declared Trustee Paynter the representative to BCPSEA by acclamation.

e. Election of British Columbia School Trustees' Association Provincial Councilor

Chair Watters called for nominations for the position of British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) representative for the period to November 2020. Nominations were received for Trustees Duncan and Painter.

Trustees Duncan and Painter both accepted the nomination. A ballot vote was taken and Chair Watters declared Trustee Painter to be the BCSTA representative.

- f. Motion to Destroy Election Ballots

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the election ballots be destroyed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.5 Business arising from the Minutes

None

A.6 Student Achievement

None

A.7 District Presentations

None

A.8 Community Presentations

- a. Carolyn Howe, GVTA, Education Funding

Carolyn Howe, GVTA Vice-President, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees with regards to the lack of funding for education in British Columbia.

- b. Winona Waldron, GVTA, Education Funding

Winona Waldron, President of the GVTA, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees with regards to the lack of funding for public education in the province of B.C.

- c. Cara Gibson, Class Dojo Concerns

Dr. Cara Gibson, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about her concerns with regards to an application being used by teachers called DoJo.

- d. Chris Grieve, Vic High Land Disposal

Chris Grieve, attended the Board meeting on behalf of the Vic High Neighborhood Action Group to speak to Trustees with regards to the proposed Vic High Land disposal.

- e. Carmen Spagnola, Vic High Land Disposal

Carmen Spagnola, a Vic High parent, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees with regards to the proposed Vic High land disposal.

- f. Vic High Students, Vic High Land Disposal

A grade twelve student from Vic High attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees with regards to the proposed land disposal.

- g. Aquiles Garro, Vic High Land Disposal

Aquiles Garro, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees with regards to the proposed Vic High land disposal.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

B.1 Victoria High School

- a. Consultation Report

The Victoria High School Land Exchange and Lease Engagement Summary Report was received for information.

- b. Land Exchange/Land Disposal

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided Trustees with an overview of the Vic High land exchange/disposal project to date. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

Whereas the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) has identified 2.34 acres of land surplus to future educational needs at, and around Victoria High School, the Board of Education's intention to dispose of 2.34 acres of land for the purpose of the Caledonia Project by way of land exchange with the City of Victoria and BC Housing Corporation, and a 60 year lease in favour of Capital Regional Housing Corporation (CRHC), BE APPROVED;

AND FURTHER

That the disposal be subject to Ministry approval, City of Victoria zoning approval for the Caledonia Project, and negotiation of the terms of the land exchange and the lease;

AND FURTHER

That the lease proceeds be directed to the Victoria High School seismic upgrade shortfall of \$2.6 million, and the remainder to amenities enhancement at Victoria High School.

For (6): Trustee Watters, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter

Against (3): Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, and Trustee Paynter

Motion Carried (6 to 3)

B.2 Letter from M. Sran re Policy 7122 Review

A letter from M. Sran was received for information.

B.3 Letter from C. Plant re CRD 2018 Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw 4017 Amendment (Proposed Bylaw 4328) - Referral

A letter from C. Plant was received.

C. Recess/Break

Recess/break from 9:22 p.m. to 9:27 p.m.

D. TRUSTEE REPORTS

D.1 Chair's Report

a. Poll Vote Results - Strategic Plan - Consultation Process

The Poll Vote results from the motion to move into the consultation process for renewal of the Strategic Plan was received for information.

D.2 Trustees' Reports

a. Trustee McNally - October Board Report

Trustee McNally's October Board report was received for information.

- b. Trustee Duncan - BCSTA Trustee Representative Update
Trustee Duncan's BCSTA Trustee Representative report was received for information.

E. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

E.1 Education Policy and Directions Committee

- a. Minutes from the November 4, 2019 meeting

The draft minutes from the November 4, 2019 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting were received for information.

- b. Motion from the November 4, 2019 meeting

- a. Boundary Review Process

Trustee Duncan referred to the meeting minutes and presented the following recommended motion.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to develop a survey to acquire community feedback on the boundary review process.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the motion.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to develop a survey to acquire community feedback on the boundary review process*" be amended to "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to compile community feedback on the boundary review process and possible recommendations for improvement.*"

For (3): Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, and Trustee Paynter

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, and Trustee Painter

Abstain (1): Trustee McNally

Motion Defeated (3 to 5)

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the motion.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Duncan

That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to develop a survey to acquire community feedback on the boundary review process" be amended to "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to compile a lessons learned report on past engagement processes since the inauguration of the new Board."

For (5): Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Against (4): Trustee Watters, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Leonard

Motion Carried (5 to 4)

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a suggestion being made to amend the amended motion.

Amendment:

Moved by Trustee Watters

Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the amended motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to compile a lessons learned report on past

engagement processes since the inauguration of the new Board" be amended to strike the words "since the inauguration of the new Board" replace the words "lessons learned report" with "public engagement report."

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair Watters called for the vote on the main motion as amended.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to compile a public engagement report.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Against (2): Trustee Ferris, and Trustee Leonard

Motion Carried (7 to 2)

E.2 Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting

The draft minutes from the November 18, 2019 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting were received for information.

- b. Motion from the November 18, 2019 meeting

Trustee Paynter referred to the meeting minutes and the following recommended motion.

- a. Policy Sub-Committee Report

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the new Policy 5141.1 Provision of Menstrual Products to Students.

Motion Carried Unanimously

F. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

F.1 Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Green referred Trustees to her written report in their agendas, highlighting a few of the meetings and agenda items.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Superintendent's report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. Trustee Questions

Superintendent Green responded to questions from Trustees with regards to meetings with partner groups to discuss the Strategic Plan renewal process.

F.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Morris referred Trustees to her written report in their agenda packages and answering questions of clarification from Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Secretary-Treasurer's report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. 2020-2021 Budget Process

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Trustees with the proposed 2020-2021 budget process for their consideration. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris. It was noted that one date conflicted with Family Day in February. Staff to insert a new date.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2020/2021 Budget Process as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

G. QUESTION PERIOD

The following are questions that were received at the October 28, 2019 Board meeting, along with the answers.

1. What data did the District use to support the shutdown of the Behavioural Program at Braefoot, and the Low Incident Program at Lansdowne, Shoreline and Arbutus? If none was used, what was the basis for closing these two programs?

Answer: The Ministry of Education and society in general has recognized the importance and strength of inclusive communities and as a result the Ministry has a mandate towards inclusive learning. The programs referenced in the question did not provide opportunities for certain students to learn with their age appropriate peers in the least restrictive environment and most enabling environment. Given this information the district began the work of examining the various programs and how they were meeting the needs of the students.

We examined data and saw that our students in the Behaviour Programs were not transitioning successfully into middle school (particularly the boys) and again in grade 9. We also had anecdotal information that told us that many of our parents wanted their children to attend their neighbourhood school and stay with their social cohorts. Our structures at that time didn't support these requests. The Behaviour Program didn't allow for students in the program to experience learning amongst their age appropriate peers – in the behaviour program, their classmates and therefore their role models, were students with similar complex challenges.

We also examined the achievement levels of students with a high or low incident designation and found that some students were automatically placed on a path towards an Evergreen (school completion certificate) even though they may have had the ability to achieve a Dogwood. Ministry mandates have changed and the ability to pursue an Evergreen certificate is justifiably strict.

Through our conversations, file reviews, and data work we found that the Low Incidence programs were not necessarily meeting the explicit and strategic learning goals for each student based on their IEP. The Low incidence programs tended to focus on life skills that were not always age appropriate. These were activity based and the program didn't necessarily scaffold learning as the student developed. We recognized a need to continue teaching life skills as well as embed literacy and numeracy skills. This led us to look at appropriate programming for each student based on the goals of their IEP rather than having the potential for the student to be automatically placed in a program without voice or choice. The low incident programs also didn't facilitate student integration and inclusion in a neuro-typical classroom with their age appropriate peers. We studied the research and it clear demonstrates that all students benefit and achieve higher academic results when learning in an inclusive environment.

We also had information that students in the low incidence program, who aged out of school didn't always have a community connections that supported their transition to life after high school.

From our Pathways and partnerships data, we were very aware that we didn't have students in our low incidence programs participating in real pay for real work placements during their high school experience. In this area research is clear that students who have real work for real pay achieve higher levels of success later in life.

Lastly when we met with staff in some of the programs, we heard that some staff who were supporting these programs struggled to see how the programs were inclusive and meeting the needs of each student. WE heard that programming based on each student's IEP was important. That age appropriate learning opportunities were important and that inclusion did not mean 100% of the time.

Therefore, we did not remove the funding or staffing from any of these schools but we provided the opportunity to work within student's individual learning needs to provide learning opportunities that allowed for students to work in classrooms, small groups and individually when appropriate.

2. Please clarify the process for publishing correspondence in the Board meeting minutes.

Answer: Correspondence written to the Board and is not of a confidential nature is included in the Board meeting agenda and attached in the package which is also published on the District website under Meetings of the Board.

3. Did the 2018 review of French Immersion consider access of students with special needs, vulnerable students and aboriginal students to French Immersion programming? If yes, what were your findings?

Answer: The committee focused on French Immersion in regards to K entry, Grade 1 entry, late entry, secondary programming and dual or single track. French Immersion is a district program, that has grown over the years, that provides both access and opportunity for all students. As the review concluded the board was able to make a decision to continue to provide French Immersion that is dual track, with access for all students that provides entry at K, Grade 1, Grade 6 and secondary accessible to all students. To provide greater, equitable access to French Immersion there is a recommendation to expand the opportunity on the east side of the school district.

H. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None

I. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

I.1 New Business

a. BCSTA AGM Motion Reminder

Chair Watters reminded Trustees of the cutoff day for submitting motions to the BCSTA AGM is approaching if they plan on submitting a motion.

b. BCSTA Academy Reminder

Chair Watters reminded Trustees that the BCSTA Trustee Academy is taking place November 28-30, 2019 in Vancouver and that she and Trustees Hentze and Ferris would be attending.

c. Student Exclusion Reporting - Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally requested that her motion be postponed and moved forward to the December 16, 2019 Board of Education meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to report by category, monthly in the public Board meeting, aggregate numbers of exclusions of students with special needs outside the students' [plural] IEP and / or daily plan, including: 1. being asked to stay home 2. being sent home 3. being dropped off late and / or picked up early busing

service 4. being excluded from field trips(s) 5. being sent out of the regular classroom to the resource room, sensory / isolation room, or other space.

d. Bylaw 9360 Amendment - Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally requested that her motion be postponed and moved to the December 16, 2019 Board of Education meeting.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the following change to a) Bylaw 9360 Article 5 General Meeting of the Board, b) Bylaw 9360.2 Article B.3.4. regarding the agenda of the Operations Policy and Planning Standing Committee, and c) Bylaw 9360.2 Article B.4.4. regarding the agenda of the Education Policy and Planning Standing Committee, by adding, "The Community Presentations period is limited to a maximum of six speakers, each speaking a maximum of five minutes. In the event the named speaker on the list does not wish to speak, the speaking opportunity will be forfeited."

I.2 Notice of Motions

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer