



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

MINUTES

April 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

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

Administration: Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Andy Canty, Director, Learning for Information Technology, Julie Lutner, Director of Finance, Financial Services, Lisa McPhail, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Watters 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

Moved by Trustee Leonard
Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the April 13, 2021 agenda be approved.

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Abstain (1): Trustee McNally

Motion Carried (8 to 0)

B. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

B.1 Cheryl McKinnon, SD61 Parent

Cheryl McKinnon attended the meeting to speak to Trustees about the District music programs and how they have impacted her family. Ms. McKinnon urged Trustees to reconsider cutting programs in the 2021-2022 budget process.

B.2 Cindy Romphf, SD61 Teacher

Cindy Romphf, a music teacher at Cedar Hill Middle School, attended the meeting to speak to Trustees about the importance of music in the middle school years and implored Trustees to re-think cutting music and strings programs from the District.

B.3 Noelle Davis, Braefoot Elementary PAC Member

Noelle Davis, a Braefoot Elementary PAC member, attended the meeting to speak against cuts to music, strings and band programs in elementary and middle schools in the District.

B.4 Caitlin Davies, SD61 Parent

Caitlin Davies, a parent with students attending school in the District, attended the meeting to speak in favour of the music, strings and band programs and urged Trustees against cutting these programs.

B.5 Elin Kelsey, Island Ukuleles

Elin Kelsey attended the meeting on behalf of Island Ukuleles to speak to Trustees about the program and how it has impacted Greater Victoria students over many years. Ms. Kelsey urged Trustees to reconsider cutting music and strings programs during the budget process.

B.6 Jessie Swan, SD61 Student

Jessie Swan, a grade 8 student at Cedar Hill Middle School, attended the meeting to speak to Trustees about her experience in the music program and how it has benefited her.

C. 2021-2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

C.1 2021-2022 Budget Presentation

Chair Watters thanked all community speakers for attending and presenting to the Board.

Superintendent Green reiterated her thanks to all speakers and stated that this budget process is going to be very difficult for staff and trustees, with many tough decisions to be made in order to balance the budget.

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Draft 3 of the 2021-2022 annual budget and proceeded to explain the \$7.1 million deficit facing the District. Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided Trustees with staff recommendations and ways in which to mitigate the deficit in order to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry, as per the *School Act*. The presentation focused on the main tenent's of the budget: alignment to the learning needs of students through the strategic plan, operational plan and school growth plan, and living within district means.

Discussion ensued with questions being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris from Stakeholders and Trustees.

C.2 Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:35 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) break for a short recess.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (2): Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Motion Carried (7 to 2)

Chair Watters called the meeting back in session at 7:37 p.m.

C.3 Motions to Rescind

a. September 2016 - Learning Resources

Secretary-Treasurer Morris explained to Trustees that it was staff recommendation to rescind the following motions in an effort to use this unspent money on the 2021-2022 budget deficit. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) rescind the unspent \$242,137 of the \$500,000 commitment in the following motion that was carried at the September 26, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting:

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$500,000 of the June 30, 2016 unrestricted operating surplus of \$4,641,593 (Note E) to provide learning resources to support the new curriculum."

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

Motion Carried (7 to 2)

b. September 2017 - Library Support

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) rescind the the unspent \$31,980 of the \$100,000 commitment in the following motion that was carried at the September 25, 2017 Regular Board of Education meeting:

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve \$100,000 of the June 30, 2017 unrestricted operating surplus of \$3,774,594 (Note E) to provide district-wide library support."

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

Motion Carried (7 to 2)

C.4 2021-2022 Annual Budget

Chair Watters advised Trustees that the 2nd reading of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw will be placed on the floor until the Board of Education meeting of May 17, 2021, at which time debate and voting will take place.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) place the 2nd reading of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$252,049,842 on the floor until May 17, 2021.

D. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

D.1 New Business

None

D.2 Notice of Motions

- a. Trustee Paynter - April 26th 2021 Board of Education Agenda

Trustee Paynter provided a Notice of Motion for the April 26, 2021 Board of Education to suspend the current budget process and convert the 2021-2022 budget to a rollover budget with adjustment for enrolment.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer