



Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) was held at the Saanich School Board Office, 2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, B.C., on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Chair:	Helen Parker	Superintendent of Schools:	Keven Elder
Vice Chair:	MaryLynne Rimer	Secretary-Treasurer:	Monica Schulte
Trustee:	Allan Collier	Assistant Superintendent:.....	Nancy Macdonald
Trustee:	Jane Husband	Assistant Superintendent:.....	Marlene Dergousoff
Trustee:	Edith Loring-Kuhanga	Representative, COPACS:	Cathy Fountas
Trustee:	Elsie McMurphy	Representative, CUPE	Dean Coates
Trustee:	Jim Standen	Representative, STA	Sean Hayes
		Representative, SAA	Grant Franceschini

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Parker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Introduction

Chair Parker welcomed members of the management team and partner group representatives to the regular board meeting and acknowledged the territory of the WSANEC people. Representing COPACS – Cathy Fountas; representing CUPE – Dean Coates; representing STA – Sean Hayes and representing School Administration – Grant Franceschini, Principal, KELSET Elementary School.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(i) Consideration of Late Items

- #5(i) – removal of Presentation by Audrey Waugh and Dianne Cross

(ii) Adoption of Agenda

Moved by TRUSTEE RIMER

Seconded by TRUSTEE COLLIER

That the agenda be adopted with the removal of Item #5(i) – Presentation by Audrey Waugh and Dianne Cross on behalf of the Community Arts Council.

CARRIED.

(iii) Report on In-Camera Meeting

Chair Parker reported that prior to the Regular Meeting; the Board held an “In Camera” Meeting and discussed personnel, business affairs, facilities and student issues.

3. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(i) Adoption of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2011

Chair Parker asked if there were any errors and omissions to the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2011. Hearing none, the Chair declared the minutes be adopted as circulated.

(ii) Adoption of Special Committee of the Whole Minutes of November 7, 2011

Chair Parker asked if there were any errors and omissions to the minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Minutes of November 7, 2011. Hearing none, the Chair declared the minutes be adopted as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Trustee McMurphy requested an update on the Claremont Rowing Program. Trustee McMurphy was advised an update would be provided in the Superintendent's Report.

5. PRESENTATIONS, DELEGATIONS & QUESTIONS

(i) Presentation of Bursaries by Ken Pinder representing Marilyn Pinder

Ken Pinder representing his sister Marilyn Pinder spoke to the Board in regard to her wishes for a bursary. Ken presented a cheque to the Board for \$20,000 to provide for a pair of \$500 bursaries every year for as long as the money lasts for graduating Saanich students who have overcome challenges, learned the French language and plan to use their language abilities to make a difference in the world.

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

(i) Annual Report

Chair Parker gave the following annual report:

Usually the Chair gives an annual report at December's annual general meeting, but this is the last public meeting of the Saanich Board for the 2008-11 term of office.

It's impossible to list all the activities and accomplishments of the past year, so I will focus on a few areas.

Student achievement/student engagement

As of September, all of our elementary schools offer full-day kindergarten programs and the three StrongStart Centres are thriving. Supporting young children's curiosity and creativity and their readiness to learn will be key to their continued engagement in our schools and success in their learning. From early learning through to post secondary options, all Saanich students benefit from the district's expanding list of community and educational partnerships. While the government has recently announced the BC Education Plan, Saanich School District has been exploring aspects of personalized learning since early in the year under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Keven Elder and in partnership with the University of Victoria.

As government implements the plan, Saanich is well-positioned with the progress to date on our Technology Plan to move forward to support student learning. An added bonus, we were able to reinvest in technology support with the \$32,000 in energy savings resulting from the plan.

The district's Strategic Directions is on the agenda tonight. It represents the collaboration of 20 members of our education partner groups who met in the spring, as well as a review by the board, the public and most recently, those who participated in the annual Parent Involvement meeting. This document reflects the board's vision, values, beliefs and goals and most of all, the commitment of everyone in the district to success for all students.

Funding and the 2011/12 Budget

Sixty-one people representing our partner groups offered their expertise through Working Groups in the examination of the district's operating budget. The working group report identified \$3.5 million in services that needed to be reinstated to support students and the effective operation of the district.

On April 27, the board passed a motion directing the chair to submit a budget that was not in compliance with the *School Act* and which included \$2.828 million more in additional revenue from the provincial government than the district would be funded. The Board also passed a motion demanding that government address immediately the inequities of the funding formula in time to provide relief for the 2011/12 school district budgets.

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED

(ii) Annual Report Continued

The Board upheld its decision until June 28, when after much work, the board submitted a balanced budget. The Board believes that our many years of advocacy, public credibility in the financial management of the district, support of our partner groups and many, many letters of support from individuals—and the fact that funding issues are faced by all districts in the province—motivated the minister to provide an opportunity for trustee input to the Ministry's Technical Review Committee.

The minister also:

- Acknowledged the cost pressures facing all districts
- Confirmed full funding protection grants for 2011/12
- Confirmed that the Technical Review Committee will meet this fall to review how the current level of funding protection, as well as other supplements that protect against declining enrolment, can be both sustainable and provide stability in a declining enrolment environment.
- Distributed the holdback funds on a more equitable basis.

This Board provided a submission on education funding to the Ministry of Education's Technical Review Committee, and I had the privilege of participating with eight trustees representing BC school districts on the BCSTA Funding Formula Representative Committee. Thank you to Secretary-Treasurer Joan Axford who prepared the submission on the board's behalf. Mrs. Axford, as you know, has extensive knowledge and experience regarding public education funding. The submission was one of Mrs. Axford's last tasks before retiring at the end of October after serving the district and Saanich students since 1996.

The Board welcomes Monica Schulte from Kootenay Lake School District No. 8 to Saanich school district as the new secretary-treasurer and looks forward to working with her.

Trustee Elections

At least four trustees are not returning to the Board next month. Thank you to trustees Elsie McMurphy (2002-11), MaryLynne Rimer (2004-11) Edith Loring-Kuhanga (2008-11) and Allan Collier (2009-11). Best wishes for your future endeavours. The students in Saanich have greatly benefited from your contributions to the district and public education. Congratulations to Sidney Trustee Jane Husband (2005) on her acclamation to the board for the 2011-14 term. Jim Standen (2005) and I (1999) face elections in North Saanich and Saanich respectively.

Job Action

Phase one of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) strike continues province-wide with no indication at this time that issues will be resolved before the end of this term. While we all work together to ensure that Saanich schools are great places to learn, safe places to be and there are many student activities underway, we need to acknowledge the additional workload on our school and district excluded staff and extend our appreciation to them during this period.

One of our board goals is to demonstrate and foster strong, positive relationships among adults and with learners and to ensure that their voices are heard and respected. To our education partner groups, thank you. It is our continuing focus on supporting strong relationships that enables us to work through difficult times.

Appreciation

I know that the next board will be as well-supported by our senior staff as we are. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Keven Elder, retired Secretary-Treasurer Joan Axford, Secretary-Treasurer Monica Schulte and Assistant Superintendents Marlene Dergousoff and Nancy Macdonald for your commitment to students and this board. Your leadership ensures that Saanich Schools remain focused on students' education and well-being. On behalf of the board, I wish you success in the next term and beyond.

7. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Keven Elder reported:

Thanks to the Outgoing Board

It is my pleasure to offer thanks and congratulations, on behalf of the entire school district, to our outgoing board. As a community we have been the beneficiaries of three years of collaborative and collegial energy from seven trustees whose interests have clearly been the welfare of children and the quality of the public education system. Our heartfelt thanks go to our four "retiring" trustees as they move on to other adventures: Allan Collier, Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Elsie McMurphy and MaryLynne Rimer. As well, our best wishes go to incumbents Helen Parker and Jim Standen and new candidates Wayne Hunter, Kerry Steinemann, Monica Copeland and Barb Menzies as they seek election for a three year term. Finally, congratulations go to incumbent Jane Husband and new trustees Nick Claxton and Tim Dunford for their acclamations to the board.

We look forward to having all trustees attend the BCSTA academy in Vancouver in December, and will plan to organize a day-long orientation/planning session for the new board in December, tentatively December 13, 2011. As described in the Finance and Facilities report of November 16 we also look forward to having the board provide leadership and guidance as early as January in regard to the 2012/13 budget.

A Focus on Strategic Directions

I am pleased to bring to the board a final draft of the document that we have been working on in the community throughout 2011: *School District 63 Strategic Directions 2012-2016: Commitments to a Five-Year Vision in Twelve Key Areas of District Programs and Services*. This document is the culmination of work done by a committee of twenty district and community partners.

Final vetting was done at the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board on November 7, 2011 and the Policy 1100 Parent Involvement meeting of parents and administrators from all schools on November 9, 2011. I am providing the report at the November public board meeting in order to provide the current board with the opportunity to receive and endorse the report for publication or alternatively to refer the matter to the next board.

BC Education Plan

As discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 7, the provincial government has released its new BC Education Plan that provides a framework and action steps for five key areas going forward:

1. Personalized learning for every student
2. Quality teaching and learning
3. Flexibility and choice
4. High standards
5. Learning empowered by technology

The commitments made in the BC Ed Plan are consistent with directions that have been espoused by government and the Ministry of Education for a few years, and much of what is in the plan is also consistent with directions we are pursuing in Saanich (for example personalized learning and learning empowered by technology). I would encourage trustees and anyone reading this report to take the time to review the BC Ed Plan on the Ministry website at www.bcedplan.ca/ and submit responses to the online forum found behind the "engage" button.

(ii) Strategic Directions

Moved by TRUSTEE RIMER

Seconded by TRUSTEE MCMURPHY

That the Board endorse the Strategic Directions documents with amendments as directed.

CARRIED.

8. SCHOOL SUCCESSES

Superintendent Elder outlined the following school successes:

(i) Keating

- On November 7th at the Fairmont Empress in a celebration recognizing National Philanthropy Day, Keating was recognized for its contributions. The Youth in Philanthropy Award (for ages 5-10) presented by the United Way of Victoria was presented to Keating School and specifically Madame Pike's students who organized a number of unique and successful fundraisers throughout last year. This energetic group of students has been responsible for teaching younger students the value of giving and supporting people in need.

(ii) KELSET

- Raised over \$5200 in the Terry Fox campaign. A grade four student raised over \$600 and a grade three student raised over \$8500, having his head shaved to support "Locks for Love" and the Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer campaign!

(iii) Brentwood

- Held a very successful Elder's luncheon at the school on October 24th with a great turnout and excellent food!

(iv) Bayside

- The administrative staff put on a staff breakfast and invited everyone to break bread and gobble bacon together. It was a fun way to start a Friday and it put everyone into a good mood.
- With help from the info tech staff from the Board Office, Bayside grade 8 students were able to enjoy a live webcast featuring David Suzuki with many middle and secondary school classes from across the country. This was exciting for students and staff alike as Dr. Suzuki urged our students to be "bio centric" persons. He answered live questions from students across the country and let our students know how and why he is very connected to BC and the First Nations culture here.
- SENCOTEN students will travel to North Saanich School for the second time to share their knowledge and teach other students phrases and words that they have learned. This is a proud occasion for our students and they take it very seriously.

(v) Sidney

- Sidney participated in the Great BC Shakeout on Oct. 20th. We walked through our emergency roles and responsibilities once the students had evacuated the school to the field. This was a great exercise to help us be more prepared in case of an earthquake.
- Sidney has started a Friday lunch time choir. This choir is led by Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Braithwaite and Ms. Mackay. It is great to hear the sound of music coming from the multi-purpose room. We currently have approximately 30 students participating in choir in grades 3-5.

Chair Parker added the success of the publication The Claremont Review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

(i) International Program

Moved by TRUSTEE COLLIER **Seconded by TRUSTEE LORING-KUHANGA**
That the Board approve an increase (through policy variance) in the International cap number at Parkland Secondary from the current cap of 80 students, to 100 which would represent approximately 17% of the student population.

Amendment

Moved by TRUSTEE COLLIER **Seconded by TRUSTEE RIMER**
That the words "for the 2012/13 school year" be added to the end of the motion.

CARRIED.

... continued

8. EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

(i) International Program

Amended Motion

That the Board approve an increase (through policy variance) in the International cap number at Parkland Secondary from the current cap of 80 students, to 100 which would represent approximately 17% of the student population for the 2012/13 school year.

Question was called on the motion as amended and declared

CARRIED.

OPPOSED: Trustee McMurphy

10. FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(i) 2012/13 Budget Timelines

Moved by TRUSTEE STANDEN

Seconded by TRUSTEE HUSBAND

That the Board approve the timelines for the 2012/13 budget deliberations as presented at this meeting.

CARRIED.

(ii) Capital Project Bylaw 126345 (North Saanich Playground Equipment)

1. First Reading of Capital Project Bylaw 126345

Moved by TRUSTEE STANDEN **Seconded by TRUSTEE HUSBAND**

That the Board approve the first reading of Capital Project Bylaw 126345 in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

CARRIED.

2. Second Reading of Capital Project Bylaw 126345

Moved by TRUSTEE STANDEN **Seconded by TRUSTEE HUSBAND**

That the Board approve the second reading of Capital Project Bylaw 126345 in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

CARRIED.

3. Motion to Read for a Third Time

Moved by TRUSTEE STANDEN **Seconded by TRUSTEE HUSBAND**

That the Board approve the third reading of the Capital Project Bylaw 126345 in the total amount of \$50,000.00 at this Board Meeting for a third time.

CARRIED.

4. Third and Final Reading of Capital Project Bylaw 126345

Moved by TRUSTEE STANDEN **Seconded by TRUSTEE HUSBAND**

That the Board approve the third reading, pass and adopt Capital Project Bylaw 126345 in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

CARRIED.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES

No report.

12. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

No report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

14. QUESTION PERIOD

- Wayne Hunter asked if the Board was pleased with liaison/relationship with Saanich Municipality and expressed thanks for the working relationship.
- Sean Hayes thanked the Board for their work on behalf of teachers and students over the years.
- Dean Coates thanked all trustees for their leadership in public education.
- COPACS thanked trustees for the professional and respectful working relationship.

15. OTHER BUSINESS AS SUBMITTED

No items.

16. FOR INFORMATION

No items.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by TRUSTEE MCMURPHY Seconded by TRUSTEE LORING-KUHANGA
That the Regular Meeting be adjourned – 8:29 p.m.

CARRIED.

Wayne Hunter

Chair of the Board

Monica Schulte

Secretary-Treasurer