

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 36 (SURREY) HELD IN ROOM #2 OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE CENTRE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 2005 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

S. Wilson, Chairperson
K. Evoy, Vice Chairperson
T. Allen
P. Glass
L. McNally
H. Stilwell

Staff

M.A. McKay, Superintendent
W.D. Noye, Secretary-Treasurer
P.D. Drescher, Deputy Superintendent
L. McCuaig, Administrative Assistant

[1] **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Presenters & Staff:

In addition to the Table Officers named above, the following presenters and staff were in attendance at the meeting:

Susan Clough, Principal, Henry Bose Elementary, Jane Baldwin, Teacher, Henry Bose Elementary; John Ormond, Director of Instruction; Ginny Hasselfield, President Cross Cultural Communications; Skip Triplett, President, Kwantlen University College; Kelly Thomson, Director, Fiscal Management Services; Phil Snobelen, Partner, Grant Thornton; Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; Lance Nordling, Director, Physical Plant & Transportation Services; Gary Holtz, Manager, Security; and Pat Haslop, Assistant Superintendent.

(a) **"O Canada"**

Trustees, Administration and the audience sang "O Canada".

(b) **Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting**

Vice Chairperson Evoy requested that item 4(h) *Briefing Re: Elgin Park Secondary School Play*, be added to the agenda and all items be renumbered accordingly.

It was moved by Trustee McNally, seconded by Trustee Allen:

THAT the agenda of the Regular Board meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson Wilson welcomed the new Superintendent of Schools, Mike McKay and the new Secretary-Treasurer, Wayne Noye, to their first Regular Board meeting in their new capacities. Mr. McKay and Mr. Noye commented briefly on the focus of their work in their new roles and future plans.

(c) Recognition: Jane Baldwin, Teacher, Henry Bose Elementary School

Susan Clough, Principal, Henry Bose Elementary, provided Trustees with information regarding Jane Baldwin, a teacher at the school, and her extraordinary contributions in supporting student learning and development.

Jane has worked tirelessly in promoting student leadership – a critical component of student social responsibility. Her involvement covers a wide range of activities. She has supported the Henry Bose Student Council for three years, working to raise funds for charitable causes within the school community, our city, and internationally. Most recently, Jane and the Student Council worked with the Wheelchair Foundation of Canada to buy six wheelchairs for orphaned children in Sri Lanka. Besides the assistance this fundraising generates for the various causes, by championing such activities, Jane is teaching students the importance of social responsibility. Students are learning how they can contribute and make a positive difference to their community.

Jane has coached and supported a group of children who call themselves “Pennies for Pals”. These students raised money to buy teddy bears for sick children at Surrey Memorial Hospital for the last two years. She also developed the Restorative Justice Facilitators program for the school. These facilitators are the students themselves who work together with other students to resolve problems and differences that arise on the playground during recess and lunch.

Jane organized the school mascots, called the “Bose Bears”, and worked with a parent in producing the mascot bear costumes. She also organized and coached the Grade 7 students to deliver the daily school announcements. On top of this, Jane is a Learner Support Team teacher.

The Board recognized Jane Baldwin, a teacher at Henry Bose Elementary, for her exemplary support of student leadership and her many community contributions. Chairperson Wilson presented Ms. Baldwin with a pin and certificate commemorating the Board's formal recognition and appreciation.

(d) Presentation: Ginny Hasselfield, President, Cross Cultural Communications

John Ormond, Director of Instruction, and Ginny Hasselfield, President Cross Cultural Communications, provided Trustees with information regarding a new website which highlights a comprehensive database of services that support children and parents, including new immigrants and ethnic families. The website is an initiative of the Surrey, Delta and Langley school districts in collaboration with several community agencies to facilitate cross cultural communications.

The district received a \$55,000 federal government grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to pursue the initiative and work began on the project in early 2004. Students assisted in the design and creation of the website. The website provides a wide variety of valuable information and links for students, teachers, parents and community members about all of the services, facilities and programs available in the communities of Surrey, Langley and Delta.

The web site is accessible at:

www.sd36.bc.ca/international

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

(a) Delegation: Leslie (Skip) Triplett, President, Kwantlen University College

Skip Triplett, President, Kwantlen University College, provided Trustees with information regarding a proposal for the post-secondary educational facility be officially identified as a primarily undergraduate, regionally focused university including a name change to "university".

The "Special Purpose" university designation includes a requirement that the educational facility cannot spend more than 10% of its budget on research. Kwantlen University College uses a primarily teacher-led format whereas most conventional universities tend to be research-led.

In 1989 government initiated a “university college” pilot project to provide more opportunities for a degree-based education in the province without requiring students to move to Vancouver or Victoria in order to attend one of the three BC universities (SFU, UBC, UVic). In the initial stages of this project, the university colleges were required to work through SFU, UBC and UVic to provide joint degrees. In 1995 the government decided the experiment had been successful and gave unassisted degree granting authority to the university colleges.

Currently the university colleges are experiencing challenges with people not understanding what a “university college” is or that full degree programs are offered at these facilities.

Kwantlen University College has an enrolment of 17,000 students and 600 international students from 50 different countries.

The delegation is requesting the Board to support its application to the Government of BC to be officially identified as a primarily undergraduate, regionally focused university including an updated name to “university”.

Chairperson Wilson thanked the delegation for its presentation and advised that a response would be provided at the next meeting.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

- (a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2005-06-30 and Special (Open) Board Meetings Held 2005-07-08 and 2005-07-18

It was moved by Trustee McNally, seconded by Trustee Evoy:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2005-06-30 and Special (Open) Board meetings held 2005-07-08 and 2005-07-18 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) Declaration of October 5, 2005 as “World Teachers’ Day”

It was moved by Trustee McNally, seconded by Trustee Glass:

THAT the Board declare October 5th, 2005 as “World Teachers’ Day” and acknowledge the significant contribution our teachers make in keeping our learners at the centre.

CARRIED

(c) Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the Year Ended 2005-06-30

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, Kelly Thomson, Director, Fiscal Management Services and the Board's auditor, Phil Snobelen, Partner, Grant Thornton, provided Trustees with information regarding the Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the Year Ended 2005-06-30.

It was moved by Trustee Evoy, seconded by Trustee Glass:

THAT the Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the fiscal year ended 2005-06-30 be accepted and submitted to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on their recent activities.

(b) Notice of Motion, Trustee K. Evoy, Re: Declaration of November 2, 2005 – "Take Our Kids to Work" Day

Trustee Evoy provided Trustees with information regarding the 2005-11-02 "Take Our Kids to Work" Day and presented a Notice of Motion for information.

It was moved by Trustee Stilwell, seconded by Trustee Glass:

THAT the Board give formal consideration to the *Notice of Motion, Trustee K. Evoy, Re: Declaration of November 2, 2005 – "Take Our Kids to Work" Day*, at the 2005-09-22 Regular meeting.

CARRIED

It was moved by Trustee Evoy, seconded by Trustee Glass:

THAT WHEREAS the "Take Our Kids to Work" program brings together business people, education and community leaders who are committed to creating challenging learning and career opportunities for young people in Grade 9; and

WHEREAS this project will show students through direct experiences, just how important skills, training and education are to their success; and

WHEREAS substantive curriculum materials have been written for in-class projects and assignments to support the day and make the experience more meaningful for the students, including the Workplace Guide which is also available to assist participating workplaces in preparing a positive experience for employees and their guests; and

WHEREAS the success of the day is contingent on the level of participation by the students, parents, teachers and employers in bringing to reality the experience of an average work day.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT the Board declare November 2, 2005 as "Take Our Kids to Work" day and publicize the event throughout the school district by reminding staff, parents, students and the business community of the benefit to our Grade 9 students afforded by supporting the various activities during this special day.

CARRIED

(c) Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: School Fees

Trustee Stilwell provided Trustees with information regarding the district-wide impact of school fees and presented a Notice of Motion for information. This item will be presented to Trustees at the next Regular Board meeting for consideration.

(d) Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: Student Cell Phone Use

Trustee Stilwell provided Trustees with information regarding student cell phone use and presented a Notice of Motion for information. This item will be presented to Trustees at the next Regular Board meeting for consideration.

(e) Progress Report – Active Capital Projects

Trustees received a progress report regarding active capital projects.

(f) Report Re: Crystal Methamphetamine Prevention Student Awareness Program

Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent, provided Trustees with a report regarding the Crystal Methamphetamine Prevention Student Awareness Program.

It was moved by Trustee Evoy, seconded by Trustee McNally:

THAT the Board receive the Crystal Methamphetamine Prevention Student Awareness Program Report for information.

CARRIED

(g) Semi-annual Vandalism Costs Report – 2005-06-30

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, Lance Nordling, Director, Physical Plant and Transportation Services and Gary Holtz, Manager, Security, provided Trustees with information summarizing the vandalism costs for the 2004/2005 school year.

It was moved by Trustee Allen, seconded by Trustee McNally:

THAT the Board receive the Semi-annual Vandalism Costs Report – 2005-06-30 for information.

CARRIED

(h) Briefing Re: Elgin Park Secondary School Play

Pat Haslop, Assistant Superintendent, provided Trustees with a briefing regarding the production of the play “*The Laramie Project*” at Elgin Park Secondary School.

Administration read the play in response to the Principal’s enquiry whether or not “*The Laramie Project*” was appropriate as a high school production. “*The Laramie Project*” is based on the real life story of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student who was brutally beaten, tied up and left for dead on a fence in rural Laramie, Wyoming in October 1998. Matthew died five days later. Two Laramie residents were apprehended for the crime.

The play is based on interviews conducted by members of the New York based Tectonic Theatre Project who traveled to Laramie to interview the community. In addition to portraying the facts of the Matthew Shepard story, the play deals with intolerance, an important and relevant issue.

Board Policy #8620 – *Student Creative Works and Performances*, outlines the criteria to apply when deciding if something is appropriate as a student production. This criterion was developed several years ago in consultation with drama teachers in the district and takes into account the age of the students themselves and the age of the intended audience.

“*The Laramie Project*” deals with issues of sexuality, religion, prison rape, hatred and murder. The language is explicit including descriptions of sexual behaviour as well as persistent profanity.

High school productions are intended for general audiences that usually consist of the families of the student actors; moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings, both older and younger. High school students range in age from 12 – 18 years.

Although “The Laramie Project” script as written would not meet the requirements outlined for student performances in the Board’s policy, the Principal was encouraged to look at options including convening a meeting of the school-based committee that reviews school-specific curricular issues in order to consider alternate resources that meet the criteria of the Board’s policy and tackles the fundamental issues of tolerance and respect. This school-based committee includes parent, teacher, student and administrative representatives.

It was moved by Trustee Evoy, seconded by Trustee McNally:

THAT the Board uphold Policy #8620 – *Student Creative Works and Performances*, with respect to age appropriateness, gratuitous violence, sex or profanity and support Administration’s decision to seek alternative resources for “*The Laramie Project*” play to be used as a student drama production in the district.

CARRIED

(i) Incoming Correspondence

There were no correspondence items requiring Trustees’ attention.

[5] **FUTURE BUSINESS**

(a) Items for Future Discussion

Trustees made note of topics requiring discussion by the Board in the future on the agenda administrative memorandum schedule.

(b) Future Meetings

Trustees made note of future meetings outlined on the agenda administrative memorandum schedule.

[6] **QUESTION PERIOD**

An informal question period of up to 30 minutes will be provided immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

[7] **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee McNally, seconded by Trustee Stilwell:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 9:22 p.m.
CARRIED

S. Wilson
Chairperson

W. D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/lm