

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, OCTOBER 27th, 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 7:34 p.m.

Presenters & Staff:

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

B. Bastien, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources Dept.; K. Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; V. Rygnestad, Principal, Anniedale Traditional School; A. Smith, Administrative Secretary; and D. Strachan, Manager, Communication Services.

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

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

Chairperson Wilson requested that item 1(d) *Recognition: Wendy Luschyński and Jan Townsend, Parents, Anniedale Traditional School, Re: MaraFun Support*; and item 4(c) *Notice of Motion, Trustee L. McNally, Re: New Provincial Mandate* be added to the agenda and all items be renumbered accordingly.

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

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

CARRIED

Cont'd...

- (c) Presentation: Sheila McKinnon, Manager, Surrey Arts Centre, Re: Community Partner Participation

Donalda and Barry Whaites, representing the Surrey Arts Centre and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, provided Trustees with information on the 30th Anniversary of the Surrey Arts Centre. Dressed as characters from the Pirates of Penzance, Mr. & Mrs. Whaites presented the Board with one of thirty cakes being awarded by the Surrey Arts Centre to various organizations in appreciation for their ongoing support of the Centre.

Throughout 2005, the Surrey Art Gallery will celebrate thirty years of exhibitions and education in contemporary art.

Chairperson Wilson recessed the meeting at 7:39 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

- (d) Recognition: Wendy Luschyanski and Jan Townsend, Parents, Anniedale Traditional School, Re: MaraFun Support

The Board recognized Wendy Luschyanski and Jan Townsend, parents at Anniedale Traditional School for their support of the school's participation in the McDonald's Canada "Kids' MaraFun".

Vivian, Rygnestad, Principal, Anniedale Traditional School, provided Trustees with information regarding the physical fitness project. As part of the Vancouver International Marathon, MaraFun is meant to introduce young people to the benefits of health and well-being through running.

Approximately one year ago, the Principal discussed the potential of having students participate in the MaraFun with the two parents. Wendy and Jan, both avid runners themselves, embraced the idea immediately and launched into research and planning for the school's involvement. With assistance from enthusiastic parents, within three months, over a third of Anniedale students had registered, and training began in earnest.

The pair measured out the route on the school grounds; devised a system of coloured Popsicle sticks to track laps; prepared colour-coded "passports" for students to log their runs; prepared newsletters articles and made presentations at school assemblies.

They also lobbied the community for support, garnering everything from t-shirts and weekly deliveries of fresh fruit, to sports equipment for prizes as incentives for students to keep up their runs. The two mothers even obtained a letter of support from Premier Gordon Campbell.

Anniedale Traditional School ended up winning recognition by MaraFun for having the highest percentage of its student body participating. The school received an Inuit-designed plaque and was awarded a flat screen TV and DVD player, \$750 worth of Adidas sports equipment, a healthy foods lunch for the participants, and a McDonald's presentation on active living for the whole school.

The MaraFun legacy for Anniedale was that many students and their families learned and appreciated the importance of "active living" and the benefits of fitness.

The Board recognized Wendy Luschyanski and Jan Townsend for their tireless school support and caring contributions to student health. Chairperson Wilson presented each of them with a certificate of recognition and a commemorative pin.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

No items.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

- (a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2005-09-22 and the Special (Open) Board Meeting Held 2005-10-13

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2005-09-22 and the Special (Open) Board meeting held 2005-10-13 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) Response to Delegation: Leslie (Skip) Triplett, President, Kwantlen University College, re: Special Purpose University

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

THAT the Board support Kwantlen University College's application to the Government of BC and the Ministry of Advanced Education to be officially identified as a primarily undergraduate, regionally focused university, including an updated name to "university"; and

THAT the Chairperson write a letter to Premier Campbell and Advanced Education Minister Coell advising of the Board's support for Kwantlen University College's application to be identified as a university.

CARRIED

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

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

THAT WHEREAS the issue of school fees has been raised again in the media; and

WHEREAS in accordance with the requirements of the *School Act*, BC Regulation 265/89 –*School Regulation* and Ministerial Order M321/04 - *School Board Fees Order*, the Board provides instruction and educational resource materials necessary to participate in the educational program to the district's students free of charge.

WHEREAS the Board is permitted to charge school fees to students for:

- (a) materials used in goods that are intended for the student to take home for personal use or as a gift;
- (b) the purchase of paper, writing tools, calculators, student planners, exercise books, computer diskettes and other school supplies and equipment for a student's personal use; and
- (c) the rental of a musical instrument for a student's personal use; and

WHEREAS the Board has reviewed and standardized the district's school fees as outlined in Policy #9802 – *School Fees* and Regulation #9802.1 – *School Fees*; and

WHEREAS a decision to retain or absorb school fees should be made in relation to the Operating Budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed to calculate the district-wide impact of school fees; and

THAT this information be provided to Trustees and then forwarded to the 2006/2007 Budget Committee for consideration.

CARRIED

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

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

THAT WHEREAS cell phone and MP3 player use in schools appears to be increasing exponentially; and

WHEREAS it is the school district's obligation to ensure optimum learning conditions are available to all students during instructional time; and

WHEREAS recent media reports indicate that students are using their cell phones to talk, text message and play games during instructional time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed to survey all School District No. 36 (Surrey) schools to investigate, assess and to provide a report on student cell phone and MP3 player use during instructional time, and report back to the Board by 2006-01-26.

CARRIED

(e) Schedule of Board Meeting Dates – 2006

Trustees reviewed the list of proposed Board meeting dates for 2006.

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

THAT the Board waive Policy #2400 – *School Board Meetings and Trustee In-Service Sessions* in determining the Board meeting dates for April, May, June and August 2006; approve the 2006 schedule of Board meetings as presented and the meetings scheduled for the last Thursday in August and the second Thursday in September be held only if the Chairperson determines there is a need for such meetings.

CARRIED

(f) Report Re: Class Sizes

Brian Bastien, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, provided Trustees with information on the 2005/2006 class size calculations.

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

THAT the Board receive the report on Class Sizes; and

THAT section (A) of the report comprise the report to the Minister of Education as required by section 6 of the *Class Size Regulation* established pursuant to Section 76.1 of the *School Act*; and

THAT the number of students in each Kindergarten to Grade 3 class in the district, along with the information contained in Section (A) of this report, be sent to the chair of each parent advisory committee and be made available to the public at each school as required by section 6 of the *Class Size Regulation*.

CARRIED

[4] INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

(a) Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on their recent activities.

(b) Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: Taxation On Natural Gas

Trustee Stilwell provided Trustees with information regarding taxation on natural gas and presented a Notice of Motion for information.

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

THAT the Board give formal consideration to the *Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: Taxation on Natural Gas*, at the 2005-10-27 Regular meeting.

CARRIED

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

THAT WHEREAS there have been unprecedented increases in the price of natural gas in the last year; and

WHEREAS these increases will result in an increased cost to the school district of \$660,000 over projections, bringing the total cost of natural gas to \$5,245,000; and

WHEREAS nearly \$600,000 of this total is PST and GST with \$61,000 being the taxes on the increase alone; and

WHEREAS school districts are using public funds to provide a necessary public service; and

WHEREAS school taxes are paid by our residents with money that has already been taxed.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT the Board send a letter to the provincial and federal governments to cease taxing natural gas used by school districts; and

THAT this letter be forwarded to BCSTA as a resolution for their Annual General Meeting; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all school districts in BC.

CARRIED

(c) Notice of Motion, Trustee L. McNally, Re: New Provincial Mandate

Trustee McNally provided Trustees with information regarding the new provincial government mandate for public education and presented a Notice of Motion for information.

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

THAT the Board give formal consideration to the *Notice of Motion, Trustee L. McNally, Re: New Provincial Mandate*, at the 2005-10-27 Regular meeting.

CARRIED

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

THAT WHEREAS the recently announced provincial direction for public education's mandate includes literacy, early learning, community libraries, health promoting schools, and "community – schools at the hub"; and

WHEREAS this Board supports the new Provincial Ministry of Education mandate and welcomes the opportunity to be involved as a partner; and

WHEREAS the Board strongly believes in local autonomy and partnerships at the community level which produce services that are meaningful and fairly distributed; and

WHEREAS the Board understands these new initiatives will require appropriate funding so as not to impede our ability to continue improving student achievement from Kindergarten to Grade 12; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education Liaison is in the process of meeting with educational stakeholders in some school districts, to discuss the new mandate; and

WHEREAS any changes deemed immediate would have to be introduced in the Spring session of the Legislature.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT the Chairperson write a letter to the Minister of Education, copying BCSTA and our MLA's and relevant stakeholder groups advising of the Surrey School District's desire to be involved in this new initiative, providing the changes affirm local autonomy; and

THAT the new provincial Ministry of Education mandate be fully funded.

CARRIED

(d) Utilization of Portable Classrooms

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information regarding the utilization of portable classrooms within the district.

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

THAT the Board receive the report on the Utilization of Portable Classrooms for information.

CARRIED

(e) 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 Evoy, seconded by Trustee McNally:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:48 p.m.
CARRIED

S. Wilson
Chairperson

W. D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/lm