

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 36 (SURREY) HELD IN THE CITY OF SURREY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 2006 AT 7:30 P.M.**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Trustees**

S. Wilson, Chairperson  
P. Glass, Vice Chairperson  
T. Allen  
W. Jefferson  
R. Masi  
L. McNally  
H. Stilwell

**Staff**

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

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[1] **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Presenters & Staff:**

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

Theresa Campbell, Manager, Safe Schools; Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Gary Holtz, Manager, Security & Infrastructure Maintenance; Lynn Kennedy, Principal, Bothwell Elementary; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Jack Mitchell, Principal, Lena Shaw Elementary School; Lance Nordling, Director, Physical Plant & Transportation Services; and John Ormond, Assistant Superintendent.

**Moment of Silence**

Chairperson Wilson advised that the Board was deeply saddened by the tragic death of Ms. Manjit Panghali which was confirmed this afternoon. Ms. Panghali was reported missing late last week. She was a grade one teacher at Northridge Elementary School, much loved by her students and highly respected by her colleagues. Ms. Panghali leaves behind a husband, Mukhtiar, and a three and half year old daughter.

The Board's thoughts and prayers are with her family, colleagues and students in this time of great sorrow. Everyone presented participated in a moment of silence for Ms. Panghali.

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(a) "O Canada"

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

(b) Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting

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

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

CARRIED

(c) Recognition: Jack Mitchell, Principal, Lena Shaw Elementary School, re: Extraordinary Dedication and Leadership

The Board recognized Jack Mitchell, Principal, Lena Shaw Elementary School for his outstanding devotion, leadership and generosity to his students, staff and colleagues in the Surrey School District.

Lynn Kennedy, Principal, Bothwell Elementary, provided Trustees with information regarding the "Principal Extraordinaire". Jack has been an administrator in our district for more than 25 years, leading the learning in several schools before landing at Lena Shaw Elementary nine years ago. Over those years, Jack has made an extraordinary contribution to supporting students and developing leaders in our district.

With students, he has been an advocate for special needs children, ensuring they get the support they require to be an integral part of a school community. He consistently connects with, and supports his students and their families. In the last two years alone, for example, Jack's compassion and caring shone through as he supported two students facing great personal challenges. One student had been struck by a car and remained in a coma for months. Jack visited him in hospital and kept in close touch with the boy's parents during the family's ordeal. Another student had been diagnosed with inoperable brain tumours. Jack recently treated the boy to a Whitecaps soccer game.

Jack made it possible for both of these students to return to school and be able to enjoy the peer interaction essential to improve their quality of life.

Jack's support and leadership extends to his staff and peers. He empowers both new and experienced teachers, and identifies and encourages leadership abilities within his teaching staff. He has directly inspired and continues to mentor many new administrators. His positive outlook and sense of humour, even under the most difficult circumstances, are inspirational.

The Board recognized Jack Mitchell for his exceptional leadership. The Chairperson presented Jack with a certificate of recognition and pin commemorating his formal Board recognition.

(d) Presentation: Anti-vandalism Measures for Halloween 2006

Theresa Campbell, Manager, Safe Schools and Gary Holtz, Manager, Security & Infrastructure Maintenance, provided Trustees with information regarding the anti-vandalism measures that will be taken for Halloween this year.

Other school districts in the lower mainland are having very similar experiences to SD36 (Surrey) on Halloween night. There have been an extraordinary number of additional patrols in recent years, including patrols with management staff and Trustee participation. There is significant amount of neighbourhood support. Static guards from our security firm will be assigned to some sites. Many Principals and Vice Principals turn out for Halloween and remain in their schools to provide another level of security. Added numbers of RCMP, including helicopter support. Physical Plant & Transportation Services and Business Management Services departments will have patrols of about 10 vehicles going from site to site, reporting on activities and concerns to a central monitoring company. They do not intervene. Exterior lights are on throughout the night as well as inside buildings. At least 50 sites will be covered by someone at the site.

Approximately 25 Safe School Liaison Officers will be assisting this Halloween. They know the youth and will be a great asset in dealing with them. These officers from the RCMP Youth Section will look after all of our secondary school sites and the elementary school hot spots. District staff have sought innovative ways to be more proactive in preventing vandalism. They will be operating a separate communication command centre which will enable district staff to relay information to the RCMP quickly and should receive a priority response should large groups of youth congregate on school district property.

All neighbours within sight of a school, had information distributed to them door-to-door in the last week.

The Chairperson expressed the Board's appreciation for all of staff's efforts and projects for the anti-vandalism preparations and patrols on Halloween night.

**[2] DELEGATIONS**

- (a) Brian Roodnick, Chairman, Concerned Parents of BC, re: Recent Agreement Between Government and the Correns

Brian Roodnick, Chairman, Concerned Parents of BC, provided Trustees with information regarding their concerns about the recent agreement between government and the Correns.

The delegation is requesting the Board:

- Affirm the rights of parents to opt for Alternative Delivery of curriculum especially with regard to subject matter that is of a sexually sensitive nature;
- Articulate a policy and practice for Alternative Delivery that empowers parents to exercise their rights without undue interference;
- Empower parents to act in the best interests of their children by allowing parents to remove children from situations that the parents deem potentially harmful or in serious conflict with legally held parental beliefs and values;
- Adopt a policy requiring teachers to send out written notice to parents well in advance of the teaching of sexually sensitive material and that parents be informed about their rights to Alternative Delivery of curriculum in that written notice.

Chairperson Wilson advised that a formal response would be provided to the delegation at the next Regular Board meeting, scheduled for 2006-11-09.

**[3] ACTION ITEMS**

- (a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2006-10-12

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2006-10-12 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) Response to Delegation: George Singh & Ted Hewlett, Co-chairpersons, Society to Save the Kensington Prairie Site, re: Preservation of Kensington Prairie Elementary School

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

THAT the Board acknowledges the points raised in the delegation's presentation and within the K-12 education mandate, supports the endeavours and efforts of parents and community groups in providing educational and recreational opportunities for the youth in Surrey and White Rock; and

THAT the Board understands and values the preservation of heritage buildings, architecture and artefacts for historical and education purposes; and

THAT Administration be directed to offer the Kensington Prairie Elementary School site for sale to the City of Surrey at a price of \$5,000 below the appraised value of the site, in support of the Save the Kensington Prairie Elementary Site delegation's presentation.

CARRIED

Trustees made note that the Ministry of Education's current procedures includes school districts putting funds realized from sale of surplus properties, towards new capital projects in the districts.

- (c) Report on Business Development Financial Activity for the Six Months Ended 2006-06-30

Patti Dundas, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with a summary of the information contained in the Report on Business Development Financial Activity for the Six Months Ended 2006-06-30.

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

THAT the Board receive the Report on Business Development Financial Activity for the six months ended 2006-06-30, for information.

CARRIED

(d) Schedule of Board Meeting Dates - 2007

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

THAT the Board waive Policy #2400 – *School Board Meetings and Trustee In-Service Sessions* in determining the Board meeting dates for March, May and August 2007; approve the 2007 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

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on their recent activities.

(b) 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 Jefferson, seconded by Trustee McNally:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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S. Wilson  
Chairperson

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W. D. Noye  
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/lm