

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, JANUARY 25th, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

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

Staff

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

Absent

P. Glass

[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:

Simon Ayres, Associate Director, Fiscal Management Services; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Yrsa Jensen, Director of Instruction; Doug Ratzlaff, Teacher, Semiahmoo Secondary; Doug Strachan, Manager, Communication Services; and Adele Wood, Principal, Semiahmoo Secondary

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

Trustee Absence

The Chairperson advised that Trustee Glass was not able to attend the meeting.

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

Chairperson Wilson requested that item 4(f) *Report on Changes to Classes Pursuant to Section 76.4 of the School Act*, be added to the agenda.

Cont'd...

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

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

CARRIED

(c) Recognition: Doug Ratzlaff, Teacher, Semiahmoo Secondary School, re: Support of Special Needs Students

The Board recognized Doug Ratzlaff, a teacher at Semiahmoo Secondary School for his compassion and leadership in advocating for the inclusion of students with special needs, to the benefit of the entire community.

Adele Wood, Principal, Semiahmoo Secondary provided Trustees with information regarding Mr. Ratzlaff's work in special education and especially in his extraordinary commitment to helping students with greater challenges than most to not only succeed, but to see that they are valued and they contribute to the school community. Just as importantly, he helps mainstream students and staffs see this too.

Since starting his career at North Surrey Secondary in September 2000, Mr. Ratzlaff has been passionate not only about the education of special needs students, but also about the transformation of schools into inclusive, equitable communities in which students with developmental disabilities are independent, confident, vital and contributing members.

At Semiahmoo Secondary, Mr. Ratzlaff established one of the largest and most successful special education programs in our district. He works tirelessly to ensure his students are given every opportunity to reach their maximum potential in all areas of their lives; at school and in their community. He often continues to work with families and individuals long after graduation day.

Mr. Ratzlaff has influenced teachers, staff and countless students to think differently about individuals with special needs. His involvement and leadership on Grad Council, Commencement and other committees ensures students with special needs are fully involved in extra-curricular and formal school events.

Mr. Ratzlaff is also active on the academic front. He is a recent graduate of Surrey's Leadership Academy and his school-based Action Research on inclusion was selected for publication in the district's *Leadership for Learning* professional journal.

The Board recognized Doug Ratzlaff for his compassion and leadership in advocating for the inclusion of students with special needs. On behalf of the Board, the Chairperson presented Doug Ratzlaff with a certificate of recognition and a pin commemorating the Board's formal recognition.

(d) Presentation: District Elementary Speech Fest

Yrsa Jensen, Director of Instruction, provided Trustees with information regarding the 6th Annual District Elementary Speech Fest that was held on 2006-12-07 at North Surrey Secondary School. Approximately 13,000 students from grades 3-7 participated in public speaking events in the district.

Shamira Dharamshi, Humanities Helping Teacher and Dorota Peacock, Literacy Helping Teacher, provided Trustees with information regarding the 6th Annual District Elementary Speech Fest and introduced three students who presented their speeches to the Board.

The following three students presented their winning speeches:

Nikki Mateo, Grade 7 student at White Rock Elementary
Slang – 3rd place winner

McKeowen Watts, Grade 7 student at Bothwell Elementary
Famine – 2nd place winner

Brooklyn Wray, Grade 4 student at Fraserwood Elementary
What I Want to Be When I Grow Up – 1st place winner.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

(a) Delegation: Clifford Grant, re: Support Our Troops Program

Clifford Grant provided Trustees with information regarding the Support Our Troops Program he recently initiated in the community.

The delegation is requesting the general support and endorsement from the Board for the Support Our Troops Program and that schools be encouraged to participate in the program in whatever way the Board and the schools deem appropriate. Suggestions for student, school and community participation included:

- wear red on Fridays
- purchase 3,500 Tim Horton's gift certificates
- write 3,500 postcards to our troops
- donations of items from list of things that are not available in Afghanistan, to be included in boxes being sent to troops.

Cont'd...

- Purchase of official Support Our Troops items (pins, bracelets, t-shirts, ball hats, magnets & decals).

The Chairperson advised that a formal response would be provided to the delegation at the next Regular Board meeting.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

(a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2007-01-11

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2007-01-11 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) Report re: School Uniforms

In response to a request for additional information, Mike McKay, Superintendent, provided Trustees with a briefing paper on School Uniforms.

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

THAT the Board receive the Superintendent's briefing paper on School Uniforms for information.

CARRIED

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

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

THAT WHEREAS the Board of School Trustees has passed policy which allows parents to vote to change their neighbourhood school to a uniform school; and

WHEREAS this policy calls for a high percentage (80%) of the parents to vote in favour of the uniform policy; and

WHEREAS a small minority of parents are refusing to accept this large majority vote; and

WHEREAS the *School Act* does not allow the Board to enforce the uniform vote as students must be accommodated in their neighbourhood school.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 36 (Surrey) requests the Minister of Education to make the necessary changes so that the democratic wishes of the parents can be honoured.

DEFEATED (In Favour: Trustee Stilwell)

(d) Statement of Operating Fund Expenditures – Six Months Ended 2006-12-31

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information on the Statement of Operating Fund Expenditures for the six months ended 2006-12-31.

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

THAT the Board accept the Statement of Operating Fund Expenditures for the six (6) months ended 2006-12-31, as presented.

CARRIED

(e) Interim Financial Report – Special Purpose Funds – Six Months Ended 2006-12-31

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information on the Interim Financial Report for Special Purpose Funds for the six months ended 2006-12-31.

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

THAT the Board accept the Special Purpose Fund Schedules for the six (6) months ended 2006-12-31, as presented.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on their activities since the last Board meeting.

(b) Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: Daily Pledge

Trustee Stilwell presented the *Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, Re: Daily Pledge*, to Trustees for information. The motion will be presented to the Board at the next Regular meeting for formal consideration.

(c) Board Committees / Trustee Representation Appointments - 2007

Trustees received a list of the 2007 Board Committees / Trustee Representation Appointments for information. Several minor changes were noted.

(d) Report re: Course Fees

Peter Drescher, Deputy Superintendent, provided Trustees with updated information on course fees.

Information was distributed to parents via school newsletters, presenting the Surrey School District's position regarding course fees. The matter will be closely monitored over the coming months.

(e) Incoming Correspondence

There were no correspondence items requiring Trustees' attention.

(f) Report on Changes to Classes Pursuant to Section 76.4 of the *School Act*

Mike McKay, Superintendent, provided Trustees with a report outlining the changes to classes that have taken place since the last reporting. The organization of classes is in compliance with the provisions of the *School Act* and is appropriate for student learning.

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

THAT the Board accept the report on changes to classes pursuant to Section 76.4 of the *School Act*.

CARRIED

[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 Allen, seconded by Trustee Jefferson:

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

S. Wilson
Chairperson

W. D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/lm