

**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, MAY 31st, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Trustees**

S. Wilson, Chairperson  
R. Masi, Vice Chairperson  
T. Allen  
W. Jefferson (part)  
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

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[1] **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Trustee Absence:**

Chairperson Wilson advised that Trustee Glass was not present at the meeting due to illness. Trustee Jefferson is representing the Board at a graduation ceremony and will join the meeting later.

**Presenters & Staff:**

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

Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Mary Gibbons, Principal, Holly Elementary School; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Doug Strachan, Manager, Communication Services; Antonio Vendramin, Vice Principal, Holly Elementary School; and Lisa White, Manager, Community & Leisure Services, City of Surrey.

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

(b) Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting

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

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

CARRIED

(c) Recognition: Antonio Vendramin, Vice Principal, Holly Elementary; re: Exceptional Educator

The Board recognized Antonio Vendramin, Vice Principal at Holly Elementary, for his exceptional contribution to education.

Mary Gibbons, Principal, Holly Elementary School, provided Trustees with information about Antonio Vendramin, an educator whose record and reputation of excellence is known literally at the highest levels of the country.

Antonio Vendramin is now Vice Principal at Holly Elementary School. Last year, he was a teacher at Frost Road Elementary, and it was while at Frost Road Elementary that Antonio was recognized by Canada's Prime Minister with a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence; Certificate of Achievement.

Trustee Jefferson arrived to the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Among other examples, the award cited Mr. Vendramin for his communication with parents and students, particularly through his class website, and for his use of real-life experiences in lessons. The award also noted that Mr. Vendramin promotes a strong sense of community and positive social responsibility among his students.

Recently, he was also recognized by the B.C. Minister of Education for teaching excellence.

Mr. Vendramin has consistently taken on many varied roles and responsibilities in his school as a teacher and Vice Principal – all in support of student learning.

Perhaps the most meaningful assessment came from one of Mr. Vendramin's former students who said, "*Mr. Vendramin taught me so much about life and being a good citizen that a lot of what he taught me is a part of who I am today. He inspired my classmates and me to go beyond what we thought we could do.*"

The Board recognized Antonio Vendramin for his commitment, innovation and collaborative approach in support of student learning in the Surrey School District.

The Chairperson presented Mr. Vendramin with a certificate of recognition and a pin commemorating his formal Board recognition.

(d) Presentation: United Way/Community-School Partnership Initiative

Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; and Lisa White, Manager, Community & Leisure Service, City of Surrey, provided Trustees with information regarding the new United Way / Community-School Partnership Initiative.

Although the district has a number of successful community education and outreach programs and resources in place, it has become increasingly clear that a new and more comprehensive approach to supporting and strengthening Surrey's inner-city schools is required to meet the increasing educational and social needs of their students.

In June 2006 the school district and the City of Surrey explored a joint strategy for inner-city schools and neighbourhoods, looking at a school-based partnership model. The Community-Schools Partnership Initiative is the result of the collaboration with the school district, the City of Surrey the United Way and many community agency partners.

The Community-Schools Partnership Initiative draws together the expertise and resources of key public and community agencies serving children, youth and families in Surrey. Using schools as neighbourhood focal points, the program seeks to:

- Weave together an array of local services and resources for children, youth and families.
- Provide connections to the broader network of city-wide services.
- Build a sense of neighbourhood identity.
- Promote lifelong learning and overall community livability.

Currently, the Community-Schools Partnership Initiative will focus on three clusters of inner-city schools in Guildford, Whalley and Newton in recognition that families living in these areas often face particular

difficulties accessing the services or supports they need. In the long term, it is hoped that the Community-Schools Partnership Initiative will become a city-wide initiative.

In March 2007 a team of Community-Schools Partnership Initiative coordinators began work with the selected schools and neighbourhood representatives to develop specific partnership projects that fit with the overall vision and that reflect the uniqueness and diversity of the local neighbourhood.

Several partner representatives were introduced to the Board, including:

- Murray Dinwoodie, City Manager, City of Surrey
- Jeff Calbeck, Community-Schools Partnership Initiative Advisory Board on behalf of the United Way
- Steve Boyd, Community School Coordinator, Holly/Hjorth Hub
- Shannon Bennie – Community School Coordinator, Whalley Hub
- Merlin Chatwin, Community School Coordinator, Guildford Hub
- Mike Lally, Community School Coordinator, Newton Hub
- Michael McKnight, President & Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Michael McKnight, President & Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Lower Mainland, highlighted the United Way's desire to make a positive, measurable change through a few, specific initiatives. Mr. McKnight recognized the Board's vision in making this partnership come together and presented the Board with a cheque in the amount of \$90,000 in support of the Community-Schools Partnership Initiative.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

No items.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

(a) **Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2007-04-26**

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2007-04-26 be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

- (b) Notice of Motion, Trustee H. Stilwell, re: Student Use of the Film "An Inconvenient Truth"

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

THAT WHEREAS it has been reported in the media that all secondary schools in the Province will be provided with a copy of the movie "*An Inconvenient Truth*"; and

WHEREAS this movie is advancing one particular view of the world's climate change based on ice, etc.; and

WHEREAS many scientists world-wide have expressed scepticism about this scientific accuracy; and

WHEREAS it is our role as Trustees to ensure that students are provided with accurate information and a balanced perspective when there is credible information presented on two sides of an issue.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the school district's Instructional Resources staff ensure that the resource "*The Great Global Warming Swindle*" or a similar resource is made available to schools as a companion resource to "*An Inconvenient Truth*" so that students can be provided with the range of perspectives associated with the issue of global warming.

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

THAT Student Use of the Film "*An Inconvenient Truth*" motion be amended in the last paragraph, immediately after the words "*The Great Global Warming Swindle*", to replace the balance of the motion with the following wording:

"... if approved by the district's Learning Resource Committee, and/or any other resource the committee identifies that provides a balanced view of global warming, be made available to our schools."

CARRIED

The amended motion reads:

THAT WHEREAS it has been reported in the media that all secondary schools in the Province will be provided with a copy of the movie "*An Inconvenient Truth*"; and

WHEREAS this movie is advancing one particular view of the world's climate change based on ice, etc.; and

WHEREAS many scientists world-wide have expressed scepticism about this scientific accuracy; and

WHEREAS it is our role as Trustees to ensure that students are provided with accurate information and a balanced perspective when there is credible information presented on two sides of an issue.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the school district's Instructional Resources staff ensure that the resource "*The Great Global Warming Swindle*" if approved by the district's Learning Resource Committee, and/or any other resource the committee identifies that provides a balanced view of global warming, be made available to our schools.

Chairperson Wilson called the question on the amended motion and it was CARRIED unanimously.

(c) School Community Connections Grant

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

THAT the Board receive the report on School Community Connections Grant for information; and

THAT the Board endorse a joint grant application with the City of Surrey for \$40,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for Step 2 of the School Community Connections Program Grant.

CARRIED

- (d) Capital Project Bylaw No. 115354 [Ellendale Elementary – Site #084 – Structural Seismic Upgrade of Entire School – Except 1993 Addition (Block -3)]

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115354 be given three (3) readings at this meeting.

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115354 be approved as read a first time.

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115354 be approved a read a second time.

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115354 be approved as read a third time and finally adopted.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

- (a) Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on their activities since the last Board meeting.

Booster Seats

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

THAT the Chairperson write to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transportation advising of the impact to school districts and the Board's concerns regarding the new requirements for booster seats when transporting young children for field trips and with the use of volunteer drivers; and

THAT the Board offer to assist government in discussions and preparation of the official directions and/or regulations regarding procedures for the use of booster seats in school districts.

CARRIED

(b) Progress Report – Active Capital Projects

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with a progress report regarding active capital projects.

(c) 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 McNally, seconded by Trustee Stilwell:

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

CARRIED

(d) 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 Stilwell:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:51 p.m.  
**CARRIED**

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S. Wilson  
Chairperson

WDN/lm

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W.D. Noye  
Secretary-Treasurer