

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, JUNE 14th, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

S. Wilson, Chairperson
R. Masi, Vice Chairperson
T. Allen
P. Glass
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

[1] **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Presenters & Staff:

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

Shamira Dharamshi, Humanities Helping Teacher; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Marc Garneau, Numeracy & Science Helping Teacher; Yrsa Jensen, Director of Instruction; Kasha Kikkert, Teacher, Tamanawis Secondary; Alasdair MacKinnon, Director of Instruction; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Doug Strachan, Manager, Communication Services; and Rick Warner, Managing Director, Mitchell Odyssey Foundation.

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

Trustee Attendance

Chairperson Wilson advised that Trustee Allen was not present at the meeting as he was representing the Board at a commencement ceremony. Trustee Allen will join the meeting in progress.

Chairperson Wilson welcomed Trustee Glass back to the Board table. Trustee Glass had been absent for several meetings recovering from an injury.

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(b) Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting

Chairperson Wilson requested that item 1(c) *Recognition: Mitchell Odyssey Foundation, Re: Support of District Sciences Programs*; be added to the agenda; item 4(a) *Trustee Reports* be deferred to the next meeting; and all items be renumbered accordingly.

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

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

CARRIED

(c) Recognition: Mitchell Odyssey Foundation, Re: Support of District Science Programs

The Board recognized the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation for its support of science education in the public school system, and the importance of promoting science in schools and as a career.

Marc Garneau, Numeracy & Science Helping Teacher, and Rick Warner, Managing Director, Mitchell Odyssey Foundation, provided Trustees with information about the Foundation and the Odyssey Schools Program.

The Mitchell Odyssey Foundation was established in 2004 by Ross Mitchell, a high-tech entrepreneur who, after a school science field trip at age 13, was inspired to pursue a career in science and technology, specifically, communication technologies.

The Odyssey Schools Program is a key initiative of the foundation. It enables educators within public schools to enrich the learning experience for students aged 12 to 14 by funding innovative and imaginative enhancements to school Science, Technology and Mathematics programs.

Last year, the Odyssey Foundation provided a \$25,000 grant to L.A. Matheson Secondary and another \$25,000 grant to Queen Elizabeth Secondary. The grants are spent over five years. L.A. Matheson Secondary is using the funds to cover several science-related field trips for Grade 8 students, as well as equipment to enhance Science courses. Queen Elizabeth Secondary is using the donation to develop many "Science focus days" throughout the school year to provide students a special opportunity to engage in hands-on, science-related activities.

The Mitchell Odyssey Foundation hopes to support 5 schools in the 2007/2008 school year.

The Board recognized the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation for its outstanding and generous support and promotion of science in public education.

The Chairperson presented Rick Warner, Managing Director, Mitchell Odyssey Foundation with a certificate of recognition and a pin commemorating the formal Board recognition.

(d) Presentation: Secondary Speech Meet

Yrsa Jensen, Director of Instruction; and Kasha Kikkert, Teacher, Tamanawis Secondary, provided Trustees with information regarding the annual Secondary Speech Meet.

Trustee Allen arrived to the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The Secondary Speech Meet took place on 2007-05-09 at Earl Marriott Secondary with almost 200 students participating from all over the Lower Mainland and as far away as Nanaimo. Students prepared 1 speech and also did an impromptu reading of literature from 3 choices.

There are 3 categories in the meet:

- Grade 8
- Junior – Grades 9 & 10
- Senior – Grades 11 & 12

The following students presented their winning speeches:

Ruthdol Ywaya, Grade 8 student, Tamanawis Secondary
Her first year in Canada – 1st place Grade 8 Category

Taylor Basso, Grade 12 student, Tamanawis Secondary
Ducks – 2nd place Senior Category

(e) Presentation: Regional Heritage Fair

Yrsa Jensen, Director of Instruction; and Shamira Dharamshi, Helping Teacher, provided Trustees with information regarding the Regional Heritage Fair.

The Fair took place on 2007-05-04 and 2007-05-05 in Cloverdale with 12 schools participating. The Regional Heritage Fair is open to students from grade 4-9. Approximately 42 projects were presented. Students used different mediums and approaches in preparing their projects.

The following students presented their winning Regional Heritage Fair projects:

- Colin Job, Grade 4, Ray Shepherd Elementary – *Colin's 1930s Logging Camp*
- Anita Cremer, Grade 4, Ray Shepherd Elementary – *Jumbo*
- James Knutson, Grade 6, East Kensington Elementary – *The Klondike Gold Rush*
- Pardeep Sanghera & Roohy Thandi, Grade 7, T.E. Scott Elementary – *Cariboo Gold Rush*

(f) Presentation: Simon Fraser University / SD36 (Surrey) Joint Initiatives

Alasdair MacKinnon, Director of Instruction; provided Trustees with information regarding the joint initiatives between Simon Fraser University (SFU) and SD36 (Surrey).

Joanne Curry, Executive Director, SFU Surrey Campus; David Patterson, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Faculty of Education and Amanda Hall, School Liaison presented additional information highlighting some of the many joint projects that took place this year.

High School Transition Initiatives were created to provide students from elementary to secondary school, an opportunity to experience university life, perhaps removing misconceptions or fears about attending a post-secondary institution. This year over 2,000 students attended the events at SFU.

Other events included: Math Meet & Greet; Shadow Days; Faculty of Applied Science Day; Gifted Students Challenges; International Students' Day and Parents & Students Information Evening.

SFU hosted several community / SD36 (Surrey) events including:

- Ideas Leadership Conference, a district-wide event with 400 students attending.
- South Fraser Regional Science Fair, many Surrey and Delta schools participated which involved over 70 students.
- Provincial (French) Public Speaking Finals, Grades 6-12 throughout BC, with over 130 students participating.

SFU has presented several specialty workshops for Surrey schools, including:

- Computer Games for Kwantlen Park Secondary
- Animation Workshop for David Brankin Elementary
- Science Physics workshops for JT Brown Elementary.

SFU has listened to the Board when designing education programs for student teachers. In the 2006/2007 school year, 162 SFU student teachers did their practicum in 51 Surrey schools. This is more than double the number of SFU student teachers that were in Surrey schools in the previous year.

SD36 (Surrey) and SFU have collaborated on several service projects, including:

- Surrey Counselling and Education Centre
- Introduction of Health curriculum
- eLearning and online professional development
- International Teacher Education.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

No items.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

(a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2007-05-31

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2007-05-31 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) District Education & Conference Centre

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information regarding the proposed capital project for a new education centre which will house a number of programs as well as educational, business and administrative services to support students and to engage the community.

As a growing district, SD36 (Surrey) requires more space as soon as possible. Such space is available through lease, purchase or building. The district's most responsible long-term choice is to build its own facility.

The current Board Office is 43 years old and the infrastructure throughout the school district is fragmented. It is anticipated that 7 current sites could be expanded to meet growth and combined in a new District Education & Conference Centre. These sites include: Curriculum & Instructional

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Services Centre; Business Management Services; Business Development & Corporate Services; Student Services; Surrey Connect; the main Administration building (Board Office) and parts of the Conference Centre.

The Board has been working for many years towards centralizing the various service centres and offices spread throughout the district, to improve communications, access and efficiency.

From a financial perspective, the cost of the new building is offset by the savings the district will incur in building maintenance, building upgrades, leasing costs, staff time efficiency the disposal of some existing assets, and other factors.

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

THAT Administration be directed to prepare and tender for the services of a qualified architect to develop a detailed design and costing proposal for a District Education and Conference Centre and bring their recommended selection to the Board by 2007-09-30; and

THAT the Board direct the Chairperson to formally advise the Minister of Education of the Board's initiation of the process for constructing a District Education and Conference Centre; and

THAT the Board direct the Chairperson to formally request funding from the Minister of Education for the construction of a District Education and Conference Centre.

CARRIED

(c) Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information regarding the Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program.

Three school districts, including SD36 (Surrey) have been working with Ministry of Education staff and other partner groups to develop a common strategy in addressing issues and concerns regarding the Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program. This group has been assessing issues such as the feasibility project agreement process, construction cost increases and the lack of qualified trades. A common resolution to these issues is being developed.

The Ministry of Education has requested formal approval from each Board for their staff to participate in the development of the Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program strategy.

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

THAT the Board direct the Chairperson to write a letter to the Minister of Education that supports the participation of School District No. 36 (Surrey) in the development of the Provincial Seismic Mitigation Program strategy.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) Trustee Reports

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

(b) Progress Report – Active Capital Projects

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

(c) Policy Development & Review Project – Completed Segments

Trustees received the draft policies provided in the Policy Development & Review Project for information. The policies will be presented at the next meeting for formal consideration.

(d) Superintendent's Annual Report

Mike McKay, Superintendent of Schools, provided Trustees with a verbal report on his observations of the achievements and successes throughout the school district. He particularly noted three key themes that have guided his work over the past two years: alignment, sustainability and coherence.

The Superintendent advised that the Community Schools Partnership is a remarkable story of commitment by the school district and many partners and agencies with whom we work. The Community Schools Partnership effort is already demonstrating how ready and willing the service providers and the area residents are to work together.

Mr. McKay advised that the province has recently completed the District Review Report, based on a Review Team visiting the Surrey School District in April 2007. The Report, which will be available soon on the district's website, highlights a number of strengths and provides thoughtful recommendations for our attention. Two of the key messages that came through were:

- acknowledged the range and quality of services provided to students throughout the district by highly skilled and dedicated staff; and
- recognized that our work on behalf of our most vulnerable students must continue to be a key priority and our success in that area must be measured one student at a time.

The Superintendent assured the Board that teachers, administrators, support staff and other professionals, on both the education and business sides of the operation, have demonstrated the skill and resolve that make the Surrey School District a positive and productive place to work and to make the best possible difference in children's lives.

(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 McNally, seconded by Trustee Jefferson:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:53 p.m.
CARRIED

S. Wilson
Chairperson

W.D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer