

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 36 (SURREY) HELD IN THE CITY OF SURREY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 24th, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

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

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 Masi 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; Chris Baldry, Principal, Walnut Road Elementary; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Richard Edwardson, Teacher, Walnut Road Elementary; Pat Horstead, Director of Instruction; Dawn Jette, Teacher, Walnut Road Elementary; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Sheila McKinnon, Arts Manager, City of Surrey; Dan Nielsen, Project Manager, City of Surrey; Dorota Peacock, Helping Teacher; Angela Smith, Administrative Secretary; Doug Strachan, Manager, Communication Services and Angus Stuart, Helping Teacher.

Trustee Absence:

Chairperson Masi advised that Trustee Glass was not present at the meeting as she had another commitment.

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

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(b) Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting

It was requested that item 4(a) *Trustee Reports* be removed from the agenda.

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

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

CARRIED

(c) Recognition: Richard Edwardson & Dawn Jette, Teachers – Walnut Road Elementary, re: Archeological Dig

The Board recognized Richard Edwardson and Dawn Jette, teachers at Walnut Road Elementary School for innovative and creative learning opportunities they have created for students in the district.

In the early 1980's, Mr. Edwardson initiated a project dubbed "the Dig" and soon after, a former student of his who enjoyed participating in the Dig, Ms. Jette, started helping out with the project. Ms. Jette continued to assist and later partner in the Dig as she went to university and began teaching in our district.

This year, the Dig involved almost 60 students in a mock archaeological expedition over four days at a city park. Working out of tents, the students were tasked with locating and digging up buried artefacts. Artefacts that had earlier been buried by the teachers and several volunteers made up of former students. Students are enthralled by the Dig as they learn about history, science and more.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Edwardson was awarded the Hilroy Award of Outstanding Merit for the Dig, and the National Film Board shot a documentary on the project that has been shown throughout Canada, the U.S. and in Britain.

The Dig was a spark for Mr. Edwardson and Ms. Jette who developed new simulations and projects which now make up the "Odyssey Program". Through this program, students have diverse experience. They are teams of paleo-anthropologists. They run a city in Ancient Greece, learn about famous antiquities and even design rockets manned by "egg pilots" in a student "space race".

The Odyssey Program earned the teachers the Prime Minister's Award in 1998 and the next year, a Fellowship to the University of Calgary.

Together, they have thoroughly engaged and motivated hundreds, likely thousands of elementary students for more than two decades. As stated

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in their Prime Minister's Award, they've demonstrated to students that education has a practical purpose; that knowledge is not just for answering questions on test, but for meeting challenges in life.

The Board recognized Richard Edwardson and Dawn Jette for their innovative and caring commitment to student learning in the Surrey School District through the Odyssey Program.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairperson presented Richard Edwardson and Dawn Jette with certificates of recognition and pins commemorating the Board's formal recognition.

(d) Presentation: District Elementary Speech Fest

Pat Horstead, Director of Instruction, and Dorota Peacock, Literacy Helping Teacher, provided Trustees with information regarding the 7th Annual District Elementary Speech Fest that was held on 2007-12-05 at Panorama Ridge Secondary School. Approximately 13,000 students from grades 4-7 participated in public speaking events in the district.

The following three students presented their winning speeches:

Devon Coady, Grade 5 student at Fraser Wood Elementary
My Horse – 3rd place winner.

Saerun Secong, Grade 6 student at Cougar Creek Elementary
Greed and Generosity – 2nd place winner.

JC Abbott, Grade 5 student at Laronde Elementary
Super Green Vegetables – 1st place winner.

(e) Presentation: Aboriginal Education – Astronomy Resource

Angus Stuart, Aboriginal Helping Teacher provided Trustees with information on an astronomy learning resource kit by Surrey School district teachers.

The Astronomy Learning Resource kit is focused on aboriginal education and contains information and tools for applied science, aboriginal education, literacy, lesson plans developed by local teachers, powerpoint presentation for teachers to use multi-media in the classroom and a booklet outlining the same information. Much of the information is focused on the local area. Also included is a DVD with aboriginal stories that relate to the different subject areas; a series of books with projects and ideas; as well as poetry and First Nations stories.

The Astronomy Learning Resource kit is designed to encourage teachers to create their own resources with their students.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

- (a) Delegation: Dan Nielsen, Project Manager, City of Surrey, Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Dept., re: Cultural Capitals of Canada

Dan Nielsen, Project Manager, and Sheila McKinnon, Manager of Arts, Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, City of Surrey, provided Trustees with information on the Cultural Capitals of Canada project. The program objectives include:

- To promote the arts and culture in Canadian municipalities, through recognition of excellence and support for special activities that celebrate the arts and culture and integrate them into overall community planning.
- To enable communities to invest more in arts and culture, increasing and improving their cultural services and strengthening connections with other communities through shared cultural experiences.

They highlighted examples of the Board's support for the Cultural Capital of Canada 2008 project, including:

- Students to be involved in digitally documenting the project – through Sullivan Heights Secondary to fulfill the City's requirement to report back on project.
- Promotion of events through Helping Teachers and FirstClass electronic communications.
- Students are invited to attend the Inspired Ideas Speaker Series, free of charge.

Chairperson Masi noted that the Cultural Capital of Canada 2008 project is an example of the cooperation between Board of Education and City of Surrey. He noted that the delegation did not make any request of the Board, therefore a formal response is not required.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

- (a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2008-01-10

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2008-01-10 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- (b) Response to Delegation: Fleetwood Elementary Parents' Advisory Committee, re: pending closure of Fleetwood Elementary School

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

THAT the Board extend its appreciation to the Fleetwood Elementary Parents' Advisory Council for its presentation at the 2008-01-10 Regular Board meeting regarding the pending closure of Fleetwood Elementary School; and

THAT the Board recognizes the anxiety closing a school brings to the school community; and

THAT Administration be directed to continue the implementation of its transition plan to involve the school administration, staff, teachers, parents and communities in the process of closing Fleetwood Elementary School, effective 2009-06-30 and integrating the Fleetwood Elementary School community into the surrounding schools.

CARRIED (Opposed: Trustee Allen)

- (c) Statement of Operating Fund Expenditures – Six Months Ended 2007-12-31

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

THAT the Board accept the Statement of Operating Fund Expenditures for the six (6) months ended 2007-12-31 as presented.

CARRIED

- (d) Interim Financial Report – Special Purpose Funds – Six Months Ended 2007-12-31

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

THAT the Board accept the Special Purpose Fund Schedules for the six (6) months ended 2007-12-31 as presented.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

- (a) Incoming Correspondence

There were no correspondence items requiring Trustees' attention.

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[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 Stilwell, seconded by Trustee Allen:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 9:14 p.m.
CARRIED

R. Masi
Chairperson

W.D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/lm