

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, MARCH 26th, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

L. McNally, Chairperson
S. Wilson, Vice Chairperson
T. Allen
I. Chatha
L. Larsen
R. Masi

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 McNally called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Presenters & Staff:

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

David A'Bear, Teacher, Latimer Road Elementary; Sher Baerg, Vice Principal, Hillcrest Elementary; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Rick Fabbro, Assistant Superintendent; Marc England, Teacher, Clayton Heights Secondary; Alasdair MacKinnon, Director of Instruction; Selina Millar, Helping Teacher; Susan Pate, Special Education Assistant; Vivian Rygnestad, Principal, Latimer Road Elementary and Doug Strachan, Manager, Communication Services.

(a) **"O Canada"**

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

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

The Chairperson requested that action item 3(b) *Grant Application Support re: Community Schools Program*, be revised; item 4(a) *Trustee Reports*, be removed from the agenda and all items be renumbered accordingly.

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

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

CARRIED

- (c) Recognition: Mr. David A'Bear, Teacher, Latimer Road Elementary, re: Extraordinary Student Support.

The Board recognized David A'Bear, a teacher at Latimer Road Elementary for his exceptional commitment and contribution to supporting students in the Surrey School District.

Vivian Rygnestad, Principal, Latimer Road Elementary, provided Trustees with information highlighting the accomplishments of this newer teacher whose extraordinary commitment to teaching and assisting a special student was very much intertwined with that student's own commitment to overcome his challenges to learn and participate in his school.

In the Spring of 2008, David A'Bear learned Quinn Dunbar, a student who had been battling cancer since he was six years old, would be a student in Mr. A'Bear's Grade 7 class in September. He knew Quinn loved school and loved learning, but it was difficult for Quinn to attend regularly.

Mr. A'Bear immediately began exploring ways he could accommodate Quinn's learning needs. Through the spring and summer, he worked with Quinn's Special Education Assistant Susan Pate to investigate technological tools that could literally, keep Quinn connected as much as possible to his school, his classroom and his classmates.

By the time school started in the fall, Mr. A'Bear had in place a plan and several tools to assist Quinn: lessons were recorded in video and audio; snapshots were taken of whiteboard lessons; a variety of software programs were used to assist in Art classes; and a device that connected with Quinn's iPod helped provide lessons audibly and visually. When Quinn could attend school, Mr. A'Bear arranged adaptations so Quinn could participate in PE classes.

Quinn worked exceptionally hard and, with the tools Mr. A'Bear provided, despite many challenges, Quinn fulfilled all learning outcomes except one, getting all A's and B's in the process.

Towards the end of Quinn's first school term, he lost his ability to speak or see well, so Mr. A'Bear developed more solutions to assist the student, such as word-recognition software, enlarged fonts, colour-coding and more. Beyond this, Mr. A'Bear would visit Quinn at home to read and

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discuss lessons with him, as well as simply provide an update on Quinn's school and classmates. Susan also made such visits.

Sadly, Quinn passed away on December 31st last year. Among the many memories and legacies Quinn has left at the school, there is a more widespread understanding, support and use of technology and other tools in supporting and accommodating students that Mr. A'Bear continues to champion. All students and staff continue to benefit from Quinn's enthusiasm for learning, and Mr. A'Bear's innovative work to support it.

The Board recognized David A'Bear, a teacher at Latimer Road Elementary for his exceptional commitment and contribution to supporting students in the Surrey School District.

(d) Presentation: iDEAS36 Students, re: Me to We Initiative

Alasdair MacKinnon, Director of Instruction, provided Trustees with information regarding the Me to We Initiative in progress with the iDEAS36 students.

The Me to We Initiative is part of the Free the Children network, the world's largest network of children helping children through education and development program. Their primary goals are to free children from poverty and exploitation.

Hillcrest Elementary students are participating in the Me to We Initiative through fundraising projects to provide support for children in Sierra Leone. Their goal is to raise \$2,000. The students are helping to break the poverty circle and make this world a better home for everyone.

Clayton Elementary students are participating in the Me to We Initiative through fundraising projects for the Adopt a Village program, Community Outreach; a clothing drive, lunches for the homeless, Halloween for Hunger, and Coats for Kids.

The National Me to We Day will be held in Vancouver for the first time on September 29, 2009. This event celebrates the power of young people and demonstrates to students that change can come from anyone including children. The school district will be sending approximately 1,200 to this event.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

No items.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

(a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2009-03-12

It was moved by Trustee Allen seconded by Trustee Wilson:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2009-03-12 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) Grant Application Support re: Community Schools Program

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

THAT the Board support the submission of a funding proposal in the amount of \$24,000 to Strengthening the Connection to support the following projects:

- Doorbell, electronic FOB, and locks on interior hallway doors at Old Yale Road Elementary; and
- Install a new interior connecting door between two early childhood/community rooms at Cougar Creek Elementary and install a new electronic FOB system at Cougar Creek Elementary; and
- The retrofit of old change rooms into an early childhood room at Mary Jane Shannon Elementary.

CARRIED

(c) Climate Action Charter

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

THAT the Board adopt the Climate Action Charter; and

THAT the carbon tax funds received from government for the adoption of the Climate Action Charter be directed towards climate action reduction initiatives.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) 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 Masi, seconded by Trustee Wilson:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:02 p.m.
CARRIED

L. McNally
Chairperson

W. D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer