

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, JUNE 25th, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

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

Staff

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

[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:

Brent Dennis, Representative, Gifted/Learning Disabled Students Advocacy – Surrey; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Simon Ayres, Associate Director, Fiscal Management Services; Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; Pat Horstead, Director of Instruction; Deborah Irvine, Vice President, United Way; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Kathy Puharich-Hodgins, Literacy Helping Teacher; 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**

Chairperson McNally requested that item 4(a) *Trustee Reports*, be removed from the agenda and all items be renumbered accordingly.

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

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

CARRIED

Cont'd...

(c) Recognition: United Way – Supporting District Students

The Board recognized the United Way of the Lower Mainland for their extraordinary work in many areas that not only directly support our students, but support our neighbourhoods and our community – to the benefit of students and student learning.

Bob Coventry, Assistant Superintendent; Dan Bothell, City of Surrey and Deborah Irvine, Vice President, United Way of the Lower Mainland, provided Trustees with information about the partnership with the United Way.

Perhaps the most visible and well-known United Way support is the Community-Schools Partnership program. This program has proven very successful at giving students and their families important support and resources leading to healthier and happier children who are better prepared to learn.

The United Way has also funded research in our schools aimed at helping not only our students, but in fact, all children, reach their fullest potential by making the most of their after-school activities.

Many of our individual school communities have benefitted from the direct support of after-school programs from the United Way. Several programs and initiatives aimed at assisting students--aboriginal, new immigrants, and others are directly supported by the United Way. One example is the ETCETERA Preteen Youth Leadership Program, which provides a range of activities, leadership development and services to foster healthy attitudes towards education and staying in school.

The Boys and Girls Club, is also a United Way program, has established its first after-school program in Surrey in a building at Old Yale Road Elementary School with a grant from the United Way.

Beyond the many district and community programs it funds, the United Way also serves as a valued district partner; sharing its considerable expertise and advice on how to give our students the best opportunity possible to succeed.

The monetary value of the United Way's assistance to our school district amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. However, the real value is in the difference that support is making in the lives of our students and their educational success.

The Surrey Board of Education recognized the United Way of the Lower Mainland for its outstanding and compassionate support of the children of the Surrey School District.

The Chairperson presented Deborah Irvine, Vice President, United Way of the Lower Mainland, with a pin and certificate commemorating the recognition.

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

(a) Delegation: Brent Dennis, Gifted/Learning Disabilities Advocacy Group - Surrey, re: Support for Gifted Students with Learning Disabilities

Brent Dennis, representing the Gifted / Learning Disabilities Advocacy Group - Surrey, provided Trustees with information regarding the educational needs of gifted children who also have learning disabilities. Highlights included:

- Gifted students with learning disabilities are in all school districts, not just Surrey.
- Parents feel very alone.
- Have started a network of parents with students who are gifted and have a learning disability. An information meeting was held earlier in the month. Approximately 70 people attended. The sign-in sheet indicated 29 Surrey students were represented.
- The current system doesn't fit their needs or learning styles.
- If student only has a learning disability, the school district does a very good job dealing with the challenges and ensuring the student receives appropriate educational support.
- The school district also provides good services to gifted students.
- The problem arises when a student is both gifted and has a learning disability.
- It is difficult to clearly identify these students. They are often able to mask the learning disability through the benefits of their gifted capabilities. The educational focus is usually on the deficient areas and the student's gifted areas are ignored or unknown.
- These students are often very frustrated and burn out. Problems are especially evident during the high school years.
- There are successful programs in the USA. The Vancouver School District has run a successful program, for many years. A couple of other lower mainland school districts are looking at these programs for possible future use.
- There is a gap in understanding between parents, teachers, administrators – all stakeholders in groups – different understanding of what the labels mean. We need to close the understanding gap and the expectation gap.

The delegation is requesting the Board to:

- Create a designation for students that are tested as gifted and learning disabled and outline a process for how to support the educational needs of these identified students.
- Disseminate this knowledge to the entire school district and all stakeholders.
- Assist parents in understanding how the testing, designation and educational process will work for their children.
- In the Fall 2009, create a pilot program for identified students so that it can be proved how to adequately meet the educational needs of gifted students with learning disabilities and that it can be done cost effectively.

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 2009-06-11

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

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2009-06-11 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) Policy Development & Review Project – Completed Segments

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

THAT the Board approve the following new and revised policies:

- (a) Policy #6512 Management of Unused Properties
- (b) Policy #6801 Closing Schools
- (c) Policy #6802 Alternate Use of Surplus School Space
- (d) Policy #7110 Whistle Blower Protection
- (e) Policy #7213 Conflict of Interest
- (f) Policy #9601 For Treatment of Students with a Known Risk of Anaphylaxis/Life-Threatening Allergies

CARRIED

(c) District / Community Literacy Plan 2009/2010

Pat Horstead, Director of Instruction and Kathy Puharich-Hodgins, Literacy Helping Teacher, provided Trustees with information on the District / Community Literacy Plan 2009/2010. They provided brief highlights on some of the many literacy programs in place in the district, including:

- StrongStart
- Early Learning Framework Project
- Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS)
- Ready Set Learn
- Welcome to Kindergarten, Kindergarten Connections
- Little Learners
- Developing Readers
- LLL – Language, Literacy, Learning; LLL – Summer Project 2009
- Grade 7/8 Write.

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

THAT the 2009/10 District / Community Literacy Plan be approved.
CARRIED

(d) Achievement Contract for 2009/2010

Peter Drescher, Deputy Superintendent, provided Trustees the Achievement Contract for 2009/2010. The contract addresses three main goals: improvement in literacy, numeracy and the six year completion rate.

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

THAT the Board approves the Achievement Contract for 2009/2010.
CARRIED

(e) SD36 Business Company – Election for Directors

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information, re: the SD36 Business Company.

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

THAT the Board of Education in preparation for the SD36BC AGM to be held before September 30, 2009 and as the sole shareholder of School District No. 36 Business Company (SD36BC) elect the following individuals to serve as Directors for the SD36BC for the 2009/2010 business year:

- Joseph Leigh Anderson
- Wendall Laurence Chute
- Peter Benedikt Drescher
- David Jisun Kim
- Wayne Daunton Noye (Board representative)

Cont'd...

- Gary Daniel Tymoschuk
- Michael Cassels Woodward.

CARRIED

- (f) Establishment of an Advanced Hockey Academy at Earl Marriott Secondary – Site #105

Peter Drescher, Deputy Superintendent provided the Trustees with the information on the Advanced Hockey Academy at Earl Marriott Secondary.

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

THAT the proposal to offer an Advanced Hockey Academy at Earl Marriott Secondary beginning in September 2009 be approved; and

THAT the fee for participation in the Advanced Hockey Academy be set at \$3,600.00 for the 2009/2010 school year.

CARRIED

- (g) Capital Project Bylaw No. 115336 – (Surrey Traditional School – Site #080 – Structural Seismic Upgrade Phase 2 – Classrooms)

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information on the proposed seismic upgrade at Surrey Traditional School.

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115336 be given three (3) readings at this meeting (vote must be unanimous).

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115336 be approved as read a first time.

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115336 be approved as read a second time.

CARRIED

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

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 115336 be approved as read a third time and finally adopted.

CARRIED

(h) Trustees' Honorarium

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided Trustees with information on the process for determining a recommendation for the annual review of Trustee honorariums.

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

THAT the Board set the Trustee honorarium base rate at \$28,700, effective 2009-07-01 and the Chairperson and Trustee honorariums be applied in accordance with Policy #2920 – *Trustees' Honorarium* and its Regulation.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

(a) Report on Business Development Financial Activity for the Six Months Ended 2008-12-31

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

THAT the Board received the Report on Business Development Financial Activity for the six months ended 2008-12-31, for information.

CARRIED

(b) Superintendent's Annual Report

Mike McKay, Superintendent provided Trustees with an annual report on the school district. He provided highlights in the areas of:

- Intellectual Development
- Social Development
- Career Development; and
- Professional Capacity Building.

(c) Incoming Correspondence

There were no correspondence items requiring Trustees' attention.

Pecuniary Interest

Under article 58 of the *School Act*, the following information about a Special (In-Camera) meeting is recorded:

A pecuniary interest was disclosed by Trustee Larsen and Trustee Masi at the 2009-06-25 Special (In-Camera) meeting. Trustees Larsen and Masi, subsequent to the disclosure, left the meeting.

[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 Allen:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
CARRIED

L. McNally
Chairperson

W. D. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer