



The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

MINUTES

May 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Jordan Watters, Board Chair, Ann Whiteaker, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter

Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Andy Canty, Director, Learning for Information Technology, Harold Caldwell, Director of Learning, Jeff Davis, Director, International Student Program, Shelly Niemi, District Administrator, Aboriginal Nations Education, Lisa McPhail, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Vicki Hanley, Executive Assistant

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 p.m.

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Watters recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

A.2 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the May 25, 2020 agenda be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3 Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the April 27, 2020 regular board minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

Trustee Duncan requested answers also be provided in minutes for questions raised by the public during board meetings.

A.5 Student Achievement

None

A.6 District Presentations

None

A.7 Community Presentations

None

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None

C. TRUSTEE REPORTS

C.1 Chair's Report

Chair Watters reported out that the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) has been conducting weekly meetings with Board Chairs to provide information on COVID-19 as it relates to education in school districts in British Columbia.

C.2 Trustees' Reports

None

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

D.1 Operations Policy and Planning Committee

- a. Draft minutes from the May 11, 2020 meeting

Trustee Leonard presented the draft minutes from the May 11, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting for information.

E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

E.1 Superintendent's Report

- a. Monthly Report

Superintendent Green presented the report and thanked the Pandemic Response Team and Partner Groups for their work over the past few months. Superintendent Green responded to questions of clarification from Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Superintendent's report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- b. Sundance School

Superintendent Green provided Trustees with an update with respect to students set to start at Sundance School in September 2020. In light of the fact that the space will be shared between SD93 and SD61, staffing and scheduling would not be under the same district direction, and with the high possibility that rotational learning will continue, it was important to seek an alternate site. Willows Elementary has the space to accommodate all of the SD61 students and their parents have been contacted. No SD61 students will attend at Sundance/Bank St in the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Green answered questions of clarification from Trustees.

- c. George Jay Elementary Renaming

Superintendent Green advised Trustees that the committee to discuss the renaming of the school has been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will commence once it is safe to do so.

d. 2020/2021 Board of Education and Standing Committee Meeting Dates

Superintendent Green presented the proposed 2020/2021 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates for Trustees consideration.

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2020/2021 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to change the May Board meeting date.

Moved by Trustee Hentze

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2020/2021 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates with an amendment to the May Board meeting date from Tuesday, May 25, 2021 to Monday, May 17, 2021.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair Watters called for the vote on the main motion as amended.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the 2020/2021 Board of Education and Standing Committee meeting dates as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

e. 2020/2021 Specialty Academy Fees

Associate Superintendent Roberts presented the 2020/2021 Specialty Academy Fees and answered questions of clarification from Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) makes available to the public via the District website, the schedule of fees that have been approved by the parents' advisory council for the school where the board proposes to offer specialty academy.

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Abstain (1): Trustee McNally

Motion Carried (8 to 0)

f. Trustee Questions

Superintendent Green responded to questions from Trustees with respect to COVID-19 and assisting vulnerable students, staff accommodations on return to work and water testing results.

E.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

a. Monthly Report

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented the report and highlighted the placement of 1200+ students of Essential Service Workers for all tiers. Secretary-Treasurer Morris responded to questions from Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) receive the Secretary- Treasurer's report as presented.

Motion Carried Unanimously

b. 2020-2021 Annual Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Draft 4 of the budget to the Board. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

Moved by Trustee Leonard

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the appropriation of surplus to balance the 2020-2021 preliminary annual budget in the amount of \$7,046,806 as follows:

June 30, 2020 projected unrestricted operating surplus \$4,327,010

June 30, 2019 appropriated surplus approved September 2019 \$2,037,796

June 30, 2019 appropriated surplus approved April 2019 \$ 682,000

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (1): Trustee Paynter

Motion Carried (8 to 1)

Moved by Trustee Leonard
Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) agree to give all three readings of the 2020-2021 Annual Budget Bylaw at the meeting of May 25, 2020.

Motion to be Carried Unanimously

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (1): Trustee Paynter

Motion Defeated (8 to 1)

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker
Seconded by Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 2020-2021 Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$253,606,307 be:

READ A FIRST TIME THE 25th day of May, 2020;

READ A SECOND TIME THE 25th day of May, 2020;

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Leonard, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (1): Trustee Paynter

Motion Carried (8 to 1)

c. Francophone Games 2020 Postponement

Secretary-Treasurer Morris advised Trustees that the 2020 Francophone Games have been postponed to July 2021 and thus the use of Oak Bay Secondary and Willows Elementary will not be required at this time.

d. School Closure Process: Craigflower/Shoreline Seismic

Secretary-Treasurer Morris updated the Board on options for seismic mitigation at Craigflower and Shoreline. One of the options involves closing Craigflower Elementary and relocating it to Shoreline Middle School during. Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Whiteaker

Seconded by Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) invoke Policy 3711: *Principles, Criteria and Public Consultation Process for School Closure* to commence public consultation to consider the closure of Craigflower Elementary School in order to relocate the school to Shoreline Middle School.

AND FURTHER

That the Board direct Staff to provide a public consultation plan for the Board's approval.

For (8): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Against (1): Trustee Leonard

Motion Carried (8 to 1)

F. QUESTION PERIOD

1. The Ministry recommended "secondary students dedicate 3 hours/class/week or "slightly more"." Many of us know that some teachers have not changed/decreased their required content since COVID. Some students are being assigned SIGNIFICANTLY more hours 10-15 hrs/week - including their assessments, projects etc. How can schools make sure equity is occurring across schools/the subjects/teachers so some students are not being penalized based on the class or teacher they have. Students are talking but are not saying anything because they do not want to be penalized. So, they are just staying up and getting it done. Parents are talking but not saying anything because they don't want this to fall on their kid. If they tell their students to stop after 4-5 hours of work, they will be penalized. Principals have been clear but can't force the issue. Many teachers have been great and made adjustments so we know it can be done.

Will you do a poll by subject to see what is going on?

What are parents avenue to deal with this for this last month?

What is the plan for this in the fall if we are back on-line again.?

Answer: The Ministry of Education provided Districts with an outline for teachers to follow for the delivery of education to students during the Pandemic. If families are not experiencing what the guidelines are or feel that their students teacher is not following the criteria, they should contact the school principal to share their concerns and seek assistance going forward.

G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

G.1 Record of Special In-Camera Board Meeting - April 20, 2020

A Section 72 Report from the April 20, 2020 Special In-Camera Board of Education meeting was provided for information.

G.2 Record of In-Camera Board Meeting - April 27, 2020

A Section 72 Report from the April 27, 2020 In-Camera Board of Education meeting was provided for information.

H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

H.1 New Business

a. Trustee McNally - Student Assessments

Trustee McNally presented the motion and provided a rationale.

Moved by Trustee McNally

Seconded by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the call from the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association regarding student assessments, during this period of pandemic, to the end of this school year at the end of June 2020, via a letter of advocacy from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board, asking that the Ministry of Education require only that teachers' assessments of students to be limited to pass/fail or Standing Granted.

Discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to refer the motion to the Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee for review and discussion.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the call from the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association regarding student assessments, during this period of pandemic, to the end of this school year at the end of June 2020, via a letter of advocacy from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board, asking that the Ministry of Education require only that teachers' assessments of students to be limited to pass/fail or Standing Granted" be referred to the Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee for review and discussion.

Further discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to amend the referral by adding that the meeting should take place the 1st week of June 2020.

Moved by Trustee Duncan

Seconded by Trustee Whiteaker

That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the call from the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association regarding student assessments, during this period of pandemic, to the end of this school year at the end of June 2020, via a letter of advocacy from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board, asking that the Ministry of Education require only that teachers' assessments of students to be limited to pass/fail or Standing Granted" be amended to refer it to the Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee for discussion at a meeting the week of June 1, 2020.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Paynter

Abstain (2): Trustee Leonard, and Trustee McNally

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

Chair Watters called for the vote on the amended referral of the motion.

That the motion "That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) support the call from the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association regarding student assessments, during this period of pandemic, to the end of this school year at the end of June 2020, via a letter of advocacy from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board, asking that the Ministry of Education require only that teachers' assessments of students to be limited to pass/fail or Standing Granted" be referred to the Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee for discussion in a meeting the week of June 1, 2020.

For (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Whiteaker, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

Against (3): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

Abstain (1): Trustee Leonard

Motion Carried (5 to 3)

H.2 Notice of Motions

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Painter

Seconded by Trustee Ferris

That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer