



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

Held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: S. White (Chair), B. Baxter (Vice-Chair), L. Dixon,
G. Russell, D. Mewhort, L. Pratt, C. Younghusband

STAFF: P. Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
G. Kitchen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
N. Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Reimer, Administrative Assistant

#1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Chair White opened the meeting by acknowledging that it was taking place on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation.

#2. Presentations

a. Celebrating Education: Summer StrongStart – K. Deasy and M. Downey

Kirsten Deasey, Early Learning Coordinator, shared with trustees the great success of SD46's first summer run WonderWheels BookMobile program. The mobile book lending resource aims to improve literacy for children entering kindergarten by promoting family literacy and increasing accessibility to early learning materials. Over the summer, the BookMobile visited at least three locations a day, three times a week, in locations from Langdale to Madeira Park. A total of 258 children borrowed more than 500 books from the WonderWheels Bookmobile this summer.

Marilyn Downey, facilitator for the Sechelt StrongStart program, provided an update on another summer early learning initiative, the Summer StrongStart that ran on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Early Years Hub. This successful initiative offered families with small children a free drop-in program with circle time, crafts, and indoor and outdoor play. The program saw a total of 394 visits by children throughout the summer months.

Chair White offered thanks on behalf of the board.

b. West Sechelt Elementary School Playground Enhancement Committee – S. Shinn

Susan Shinn, Chair of the West Sechelt Elementary School Playground Enhancement Committee, provided trustees with an update on her committee's work in raising funds with the intent to replace the ground cover and add inclusive playground equipment and natural play structures to the existing West Sechelt Elementary playground. She reported that the committee has been fundraising for three years with a goal of raising \$100,000. The committee was recently awarded a \$30,000 matching grant from Tire Stewardship BC which has brought their total funds raised to \$65,000. In order to retain these funds, the

project must be completed by January 31, 2015. The committee continues to raise funds and seeks board support for the project.

Trustee Younghusband offered thanks to Ms. Shinn for the hard work of the committee members.

#3. Public Question Period

There were no questions.

#4. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Baxter/Younghusband

“THAT the agenda of September 10, 2013 be adopted.”

Carried.

#5. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2013 and the Record of the Closed Meeting of June 11, 2013 be adopted as circulated.”

Carried.

#6. Reports

a. Executive Report

i. Strategic Plan Update:

1. Learning Environments – Safe and Welcoming Schools

Superintendent Bocking spoke to his written report noting that safe and welcoming schools are the foundation of the learning environment for both students and staff.

Additional information was requested regarding the district’s use of the McCreary Report and the Satisfaction Survey. Assistant Superintendent Kitchen provided a response regarding the use of the McCreary Report indicating that it is prepared every five years and that our district does use the data when it comes out.

Superintendent Bocking responded that the Satisfaction Survey for district summaries is quite delayed for practical, immediate use.

Trustee Dixon requested clarification on funding for the Roots of Empathy program. Superintendent Bocking responded that the school district provides CommunityLink funding to community schools. The Community School Board decides how much to fund to run the program depending on interest and availability of babies for the program. He noted that the program is quite expensive and that community schools may look to other sources for funding at times. There are many equally valid strategies to teach social/emotional learning.

ii. Other Reports

1. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bocking reported that he and Assistant Superintendent Kitchen had visited schools during the first week of school and found the excitement from staff

and students to be energizing. He submitted his report as written and highlighted that as a result of the district's partnership with Capilano University an Elder College lecture on climate change has been set for November 20th at 11:00 a.m. at Chatelech Secondary School.

A correction was noted to the written report, in item a) the summer StrongStart program took place at the Sechelt Learning Centre and not Roberts Creek Elementary.

Trustee Dixon requested that a presentation and report on Aboriginal Education be made to the board, which would include the percentage of graduation of aboriginal students, areas of strong suit of aboriginal graduates, as well as the effects of any discontinued programs, if known. Superintendent Bocking indicated that a presentation has been scheduled for June and that Aboriginal Education will also be discussed as part of the Superintendent's Report on Achievement at the December Regular Meeting.

Trustee Dixon further requested a breakdown of Aboriginal Education targeted funds on a routine basis. It was noted that a report had been made at a previous Committee of the Whole meeting.

2. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to his written report and provided clarification regarding the decline in enrollment at Roberts Creek Elementary in relation to the increase of students at Davis Bay Elementary. He clarified that there was not a direct correlation between the decrease in one and the increase in the other. It was also noted that while there was not a significant increase in students at West Sechelt Elementary that the district continues to expect enrolment to rise at that location. He further reported that a portable has been relocated to that school site and that a division has been added.

a. Audited Financial Statements

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick reported that under Ministry direction all school districts have changed to public sector accounting standards. The new format is similar to other government accounting practices and as a result of these changes all funds are being reported on a consolidated basis. He also reported that information on specific funds could still be found in the schedules that accompany the financial statements. It was further clarified that these new standards would not affect the monthly report ("Expenditures by Object") that is included in agenda packages later in the school year.

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick spoke to several statements included in the audited financial statements, highlighting the unrestricted Operating Fund surplus of \$979,657.

MOTION: Russell/Pratt

"THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) approve the 2012/13 Audited Financial Statements, as presented."

Trustees sought clarification and thanked the finance team for their hard work over the summer months. Upon voting, the motion carried.

Carried.

MOTION: Younghusband/Russell

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) immediately direct \$653,000 from the unrestricted surplus to schools, in an equitable manner in keeping with the Board’s Mission, Vision and Values.”

Carried.

b. Capital Bylaw: Amended 2013/14 Annual Facilities Grant

MOTION: Baxter/Younghusband

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126637-2 (2013/14 Annual Facilities Grant - Amendment), in the amount of \$711,195 be read for a first time.”

Carried.

MOTION: Mewhort/Baxter

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126631 (2013/14 Annual Facilities Grant - Amendment), in the amount of \$711,195 be read for a second time.”

Carried unanimously.

MOTION: Baxter/Younghusband

“THAT School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126637-2 (2013/14 Annual Facilities Grant - Amendment), in the amount of \$711,195 be read for a third time, passed and adopted.”

Carried.

c. Administrative Regulations for Circulation:

Secretary-Treasurer Weswick presented the administrative regulations for circulation.

- 1770 – Scent Considerate Environment
- 3470 – Renovations
- 5900 – Volunteers in Schools

d. Administrative Regulations to be Received: 3070 – Anti-Idling

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“THAT Administrative Regulation 3070 – *Anti-Idling* be received.”

Carried.

iii. Information Items

1. Larger Cheques Written in the Month of June, July and August 2013

Submitted as written.

b. Board/Committee Reports

i. Board Report

Vice-Chair Baxter spoke to the written report, elaborating on her experiences at the CSBA conference in July.

Chair White spoke briefly to the interim bargaining advocacy structures proposed by BCSTA. He indicated that two models have been proposed and that the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) has proposed a third hybrid bargaining structure for consideration.

ii. Operations Committee Notes – June 20, 2013

Trustee Mewhort submitted the notes as written & highlighted the recommendation coming from the committee.

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) approve the Five Year Capital Plan Summary.”

Carried.

MOTION: Russell/Pratt

“THAT the reports be received.”

Carried.

#7. Correspondence

- a. O. Johansson, Ph.D. – Gibsons Elementary Wi-Fi
- b. BCSTA – Membership Renewal
- c. SCRD – Roberts Creek Community-Use Room
- d. Minister P. Fassbender – Open Letter Re: BCTF Bargaining (Ref: 168836)

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

“THAT the correspondence be received.”

Carried.

#8. Questions and Enquiries from the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

M. Baba questioned the statement found in the Operation Committee Notes of June 20, 2013, which stated that revisions to the Volunteer administrative regulation were made as a result of changes in the *School Act*, noting that the regulation had been amended twice since those changes came in force. Chair White responded that it was the board’s expectation that administrative regulations are updated to be better align with the *School Act* regardless of when the change to the *Act* occurred. Ms. Baba requested that a definition of “displacement of an employee” be provided. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick suggested that a labour management meeting would be an appropriate venue for that discussion.

C. Wood requested additional information regarding the unrestricted surplus, specifically how those funds would be divided between schools and how the use of those funds would be determined. Secretary-Treasurer Weswick responded that the funds would be allocated in a manner similar to the base operating funds and that principals, in consultation with their school communities, would determine how the funds would best support learners.

C. Wood followed up by asking if the unrestricted surplus would be needed to pay for teacher wage increases. Chair White responded that the Ministry has assured school districts that they would not have to budget for teacher increases.

S. MacKenzie noted that a request was received at a recent PAC meeting from a community school for funds to support the Roots of Empathy program. Chair White indicated that community schools manage their funding as determined by their own board.

R. Emerson noted her disapproval of unpaid CUPE union leave and sick leave in light of the district's large surplus. Chair White responded that the board is charged with the responsibility of overseeing a balanced budget, elaborating that a conservative budget prevents a deficit and allows for the distribution of surplus funds back to schools. Additionally, he reported that the Ministry has indicated that they will not pay for CUPE increases and that those must be funded locally through a savings plan. Chair White reported that there had been a lot of discussion regarding bargaining over the summer. He indicated that the board is willing to discuss savings plans and feels that our employees deserve an increase similar to other public sector employees.

C. Wood asked when a student trustee would be appointed to the board. Superintendent Bocking responded that a student trustee would be appointed by the regularly scheduled November meeting.

#9. Next Meeting

The next public board meeting will be held on October 8, 2013.

The following additions will be made to committee agendas:

- Add "Communications Plan" to the Committee of Whole agenda
- Add "Parent Engagement" to the Education Committee agenda

MOTION: Pratt/Youngusband

"TO approve the committee agendas."

Carried.

#10. Adjournment

MOTION: Mewhort/Pratt

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.


Chair


Secretary-Treasurer