

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUNSHINE COAST BOARD OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46)
Held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.,
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B. C.**

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: Mr. S. White, Chair; Mr. K. Sinnott, Vice-Chair; Mrs. F. Heppell;
Mr. J. Scott; Mrs. L. Fielding; Mr. D. Mewhort; Mr. G. Russell

STAFF: Mrs. D. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Hierck, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. D. Ready, Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Pritchard, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Ms. C. McPhedran, Confidential Secretary

#1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Trustee White welcomed the audience and introduced Jenny Wagler as the new Coast Reporter who will be present at SD 46 Board Meetings.

Trustee Russell presented Jenny Garrels, a bouquet of flowers as a welcome gift to her new position as president of the SCTA.

#2 Public Question Period (10 minutes in total)

No questions at this time.

#3 Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Mewhort/Russell

“That the agenda be adopted as circulated.”

Carried.

#4 Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Russell/Heppell

“That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2009 and Record of the Closed Meeting of June 16, 2009 be adopted as circulated.”

Carried.

#5 Reports

(a) Executive Report:

In addition to the information items included in the report, the following topics were reviewed with trustees:

Trustee White explained to the audience that discussion had taken place in the Closed Board Meeting in regards to the government cuts and that a decision had been made at that time that there would not be any layoffs within the district. He went on to say that senior management would be looking to the schools, as well as administration, for cost saving measures. The Board will also approach government to request their assistance with projects that may affect the health and safety of our students.

Trustee Russell extended the Board's appreciation to D. Ready, Secretary Treasurer for her concise presentation.

J. Pritchard, Assistant Secretary Treasurer gave a brief overview of the Financial Statements.

MOTION: Mewhort/Sinnott

"That the board approve the allocation of \$223,180 from unrestricted reserves to balance the 08/09 budget."

Carried

J. Pritchard thanked the Accounting staff for their work to prepare for the audit.

(1) 2008/2009 Financial Statements

MOTION: Russell/Scott

"That the Board adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 as presented."

Carried.

(2) Public Sector Energy Conservation Agreement Funding Approval

MOTION: Russell/Scott

"That the Board of Education approves capital project No. 126110 in the amount of \$108,817 for lighting upgrades from T -12 to T- 8 at the following sites: Halfmoon Bay, Roberts Creek, Sechelt, Chatelech Secondary, Elphinstone Secondary and Pender Harbour Secondary."

Discussion followed.

Carried.

(b) Trustees' Report:

(1) Chair Report

Committee Agendas were circulated at the meeting. Trustee White extended an invitation to the public to attend committee meetings.

Trustee White gave an overview of the letter he wrote to the Minister of Education that was prompted by a motion from the June 16, 2009 meeting. He spoke about the effects that SD 46 will experience due to the cancellation of the Annual Facilities Grant.

Trustee White opened the floor to the Trustees for further discussion.

Trustee Mewhort commented that the cancellation to the Annual Facilities Grants was not the only devastating move and went on to speak about the cut to leasing of our space to the Conseil Scolaire Francophone.

Trustee Sinnott remarked about bank interest lost.

Trustee White said that the cancellation was shortsighted and that the longer we wait to make improvements to our schools the more it will cost.

Trustees Sinnott reminded the audience that although we are experiencing these cuts we continue to deliver superior education to our students.

Trustee White gave an overview of the Vision Statement that came out of Board planning sessions in August. He said this statement will give the Board a focus and a strategic plan will grow from this Vision Statement.

Trustee White spoke about the cuts to the Gaming Grants, the reduction in funding to Parent Advisory Committees and the \$130,000 cut to BC School Sports. He went on to say that SD 46 will continue with their sports programs.

MOTION: Fielding/Russell

“That the board send a letter to the Provincial Government documenting the high value of BC School Sports to our students, and the need for its operating grant to be restored.”

Carried

(2) BCSTA Council

Trustee White asked if there were any motions to be given to Trustee Mewhort to take with him to the BCSTA Council.

Trustee White spoke about Administration’s tour of the schools earlier in the day. He commented that the schools look great and at some schools enrolments have increased. Everyone appreciated the extensive work done at Madeira Park Elementary. He also extended his thanks to Trustee Russell and Trustee Fielding for their visits to various schools.

Trustee Russell suggested that a letter of thanks be written to the Maintenance Department for the work they have done this summer.

(c) Committee Reports:

(3) Policy Committee

Trustee Mewhort noted the Policy Committee Report and notice of motions to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Board.

(4) International Education Committee

Draft – Terms of Reference

“To explore the viability of an expanded International Student Program in SD46 by;

- (a) Examining our current program,
- (b) Reviewing other programs in the province to determine what’s appropriate for us, and
- (c) Making recommendations to the Board (with timelines).”

(i) MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That the draft Terms of Reference be adopted.”

Discussion followed.

Carried.

(ii) MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That an International Student Program line item be created in the budget that carries forward its year end balance each year.”

Discussion followed.

Carried.

(iii) MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That the newly created budget line item called International Student Program claw back whatever money there is left unspent on our International Students and International Student Program from the '08 – '9 year as a start-up fund for the '09 – '10 year.”

Trustee White stated that he could not accept this motion to the Board as it would be revising the Budget. He asked that it be referred to the Strategic Planning Session.

MOTION: Russell/Heppl

“That the Board refer the motion 5(c)4(iii) back to the strategic planning sessions.”

Discussion.

Defeated.

MOTION: Mewhort/Russell

That the Board refer Motion 5(c)4(iii) to the Secretary Treasurer for further financial information.”

Carried

MOTION: Russell/Scott to receive the reports.

“That the committee notes be received.”

Carried.

#6 Pending Business

(a) Report on Action from Previous Meeting:

The Report on Action from the previous meeting was reviewed.

(b) Diary:

The Diary from the previous meetings was reviewed. As noted on the Diary, all items marked complete will be removed from the next Diary.

MOTION: Russell/Mewhort

“That the Report on Action and Diary be received.”

Carried.

#7 Correspondence

(a) Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, Letter of Thanks

The letter was received.

(b) Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, National Child Day

The letter was received.

(c) Denis Fafard, SCTA – Administrative Regulation 2300 – Code of Conduct

The letter was received.

(d) Connie Denesiuk, BCSTA – AGM refund

The letter was received.

(e) Bryan Parker, Department of Finance Canada – School Reconstruction

The letter was received.

(f) Louise Gleason, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada

The letter was received.

(g) Danyta Welch, Policy and Program Officer, UBCM, School Community Connections Program

The letter was received.

(h) Diane Henley, Cedar Grove Accessible Play Park Coordinator

The letter was received.

MOTION: Sinnott/Russell

“That the correspondence be received.”

Carried

#8 New Business

(a) Administrative Regulations

1. Purchasing – Draft
2. Conflict of Interest – Draft

#9 Questions and Inquiries From the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

J. Garrels commended Trustee White on the letter he wrote to the Ministry and hoped he would write another one in light of the new AFG cancellation.

Trustee White stated that the Board will consider writing another letter to the Ministry when they have had time to realize the full impact of the cancellation of the AFG.

K. Mahlman spoke on behalf of the principals present and expressed support for the Board and the willingness to help in finding reasonable solutions. She expressed appreciation that the Board opted against lay offs.

#10 Next Meeting

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2009 at Madeira Park Elementary.

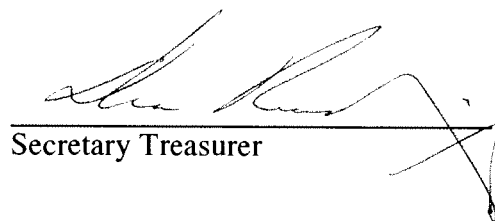
#11 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Carried



Chair



Secretary Treasurer