

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUNSHINE COAST BOARD OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46)
Held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.,
At the School Board Office, 474 South Fletcher Rd. Gibsons, B. C.**

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

STAFF: D. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools
D. Hierck, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
D. Ready, Secretary-Treasurer
C. McPhedran, Confidential Secretary

#24 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair White acknowledged that the meeting was taking place in the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation. He also acknowledged the attendance of Coast Reporter, J. Wagler; SCTA president, J. Garrels; DPAC representative, S. MacKenzie, as well as, principals and other guests.

#25 Public Question Period (10 minutes in total)

J. Garrels reminded those in attendance of the December 6, 1989 Montreal Massacre and announced that there is to be a commemoration ceremony in Sechelt and that donations are being accepted.

A parent asked if the Board had a policy regarding coaching secondary school level sports teams. Chair White explained that it did not fall under Board Policy but rather an Administrative Regulation. Superintendent Palmer informed the guest that the regulation is on our website under the name of "Coaching" and went on to say that this regulation is being reviewed and will be presented at the December Board Meeting.

A question was asked about the Daily Physical Activity Assessment and discussion followed.

#26 Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Mewhort /Russell

"That the agenda be adopted as circulated."

Carried.

#27 Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Mewhort/Fielding

"That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2009 and Record of the Closed Meeting of October 13, 2009 be adopted as circulated."

Carried.

#28 Reports

(a) Executive Report:

INFORMATION ITEMS:

(1) Cheques Issued for the month of October 2009

Secretary-Treasurer Ready acknowledged the cheques issued for October 2009 and noted the date error in the agenda package.

(2) Enrolment update as of October 30, 2009

Superintendent Palmer reported that the attachment showed the final numbers submitted to the Ministry of Education and that all conflicts had been corrected.

(3) Bill 33

Superintendent, D. Palmer gave an overview of the class sizes.

(4) All Day Kindergarten – as presented.

Chair White enquired about the criteria given by the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent Palmer said that Early Development Instrument (EDI) is critical and that the district would be looking carefully at this.

Trustee Mewhort remarked that this topic was presented at the recent BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting and that Deputy Minister Gorman reported that \$151 million will be allocated for the provision of “all day kindergarten” over the next three years.

(5) Organization Chart

An Organizational Chart was handed out and Superintendent Palmer reviewed this chart with the trustees. The chart lists the senior management and those employees who directly report to them.

(6) Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent’s Report – as attached.

Superintendent Palmer and Assistant Superintendent Hierck reviewed the activities that they had been engaged in since the last board meeting.

(7) Ways to Support Students

Superintendent Palmer explained that items on the attached list were compiled at the last principals meeting. These items are things that are currently done in our schools to support students.

ACTION ITEMS:

(1) Engaging the Community

Superintendent Palmer explained the process in which a committee, with representatives from each of the four schools and their communities, came together for a total of ten hours of consultation. The committee discussed the problems that arise from decreasing enrolment in schools. A complete document of all the meetings will be posted on the district's website by the end of the week. Upcoming public presentations for further discussions have been scheduled for December 1st and 8th at Chatelech Secondary School at 6:30 p.m. The December Board Meeting has been rescheduled to December 15, 2009.

MOTION: Mewhort/Sinnott

“That the board receive the submission and bring forward options to the December meeting.”

Chair White advised the audience that the trustees had the opportunity to review the contents of the submission before the board meeting and commented that he was very impressed with all the work that had been achieved at the ‘Engaging the Community’ meetings.

Carried.

(2) Secretary-Treasurer's report:

- 5(c)4(ii) International Student Program
- 5(c)4(iii) International Student Program money
- 93(d) International Education Pilot Project

It was stated that these items were reviewed early in the International Education Committee meeting.

(b) Chairs Report

Chair White reviewed his written report, as attached, and noted that he was pleased that the trustees had attended eight PAC meetings in the month of October.

(c) Committee Reports:

(1) Policy Committee

(i) MOTION: Mewhort/Heppell

“That the board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) define ‘Administrative Personnel’ to be the same as ‘District Administration’ namely as all those excluded staff in a management or supervisory position.”

Carried.

(ii) MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That Policy 2.6 be deleted from the Policy Manual, updated and incorporated into the ‘Community Plan.’”

Carried.

(iii) MOTION: Mewhort/Heppell

“That Policy 2.1.6(c) be re-named to ‘achievement contract’ and item (f) be added; ‘Superintendent’s Report to the Board.’”

Carried.

Chair White handed out the following Notice of Motion (Bylaw)

To amend Bylaw 7.2 by removing “at the meeting prior to first reading and”
FROM: 7.2 Written notice of intention to propose a bylaw shall be given at the meeting prior to first reading and in the notice of the meeting where the bylaw is to be proposed.

TO: 7.2 Written notice of intention to propose a bylaw shall be given in the notice of the meeting where the bylaw is to be proposed.

Chair White reviewed the bylaw as it presently reads. After consulting with Secretary- Treasurer Ready it was determined that the present bylaw as worded is not required according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

(2) BCSTA Provincial Council Report

Trustee Mewhort reviewed his report of the November BCSTA Provincial Council meeting. He reported that although it is not official yet, it appears that the Annual Facilities Grant will not be renewed next year.

Chair White extended a thank you to Trustee Mewhort and acknowledged the many comments from around the province in regards to Trustee Mewhort’s involvement with the council.

(3) Facilities and Finance Committee Notes

Trustee Sinnott reported that the last Facilities and Finance meeting had been held at Madeira Park Elementary. The trustees had been taken on a tour of the newly renovated facility. They were impressed with the renovations. The board discussed a motion referred to the committee regarding the construction of a new board table and agreed by consensus with the Committee’s recommendation that the idea should be deferred until funding becomes available.

(i) MOTION: Fielding/Sinnott

“That the School Board investigate the possibility of utilizing the Town of Gibsons Council Chamber for the monthly meeting of the Board of Education on a trial basis.”

Trustee Mewhort stated he would prefer that the board continue to have meetings at the board office for convenience's sake.

Carried.

(4) Education Committee

Trustee Scott reported that at the last Education meeting recognition of exceptional individuals was discussed. The next meeting will be held on November 23rd at 1:00 p.m. An addition to the agenda will be a presentation from Sea to Sky Outdoor School. The presentation will take approximately 30 minutes.

(5) Trustee Report:

Trustee Russell reported on activities he had participated in for the month of October. He discussed "Communities In Bloom" and this committee's continuous search for local artists and sponsors for the hydro box artwork project. He also commented on the Town of Gibsons' amazing accomplishments in respect to the two awards they recently received.

Chair White reported that the Board's congratulations were included in a recent letter written to the Town of Gibsons.

(6) Strategic Plan Update

It was noted that the Strategic Plan Update would be a standing item on the agenda.

Trustee Fielding reported on the upcoming District Parent Advisory Council meeting to be held at Chatelech Secondary School on November 23rd at 5:30 p.m. Through invitation from school principals, five members from every Parent Advisory Council (PAC) have been invited, as well as, board members, senior staff and principals.

MOTION: Mewhort/Russell

"That the reports be received."

Carried.

#29 Correspondence

(a) Susan Fletcher – H1N1 letter and brochure

Chair White reported that he responded to this letter.

- (b) Jakob Knaus – letter

MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That the board refer Jakob Knaus’s letter to the Education Committee.”

Carried.

#30 New Business

- (a) Joint Use Meeting: November 12, 2009 10 a.m., SCR D at 1975 Field Road.

Superintendent Palmer reported that she has met with Randy Udahl and that they are working on the parks/playground/green space project. An outside consultant is to be hired to give advice on what needs to be done to update the fields.

Chair White stated that we need funding assistance in order to support community use of our fields.

Trustee Mewhort commented that our fields would become unsafe if not maintained. He went on to say that School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) provides the land that is used by the community and that we need help to keep them in shape.

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

- (1) K. Mahlman asked the board if suggestions were brought forward to them at this late date in regards to “Engaging the Community” would they be considered?

Chair White said all options would be considered.

- (2) A parent asked if School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) had money allocated for field improvement or was the district asking the community for this funding. She also asked if members of the community would be doing a disservice if they volunteered to do the work on the fields.

Chair White answered that funds need to be used for the purpose of education.

Superintendent Palmer replied that by hiring a consultant, this service would identify the areas that need to be worked on and the estimated cost. She also advised that the Manager of Facilities would need to be contacted if parents wanted to work on the fields.

- (3) A. Lutes referred to the Organizational Chart and said she did not see CUPE staff mentioned.

Superintendent Palmer said this was an error that would be corrected.

- (4) A. Lutes asked if the Public Presentations would be advertised.

Chair White responded that the time and location had been chosen and the meetings would be announced through the newspaper and the district website. The public will be encouraged to participate in the discussions.

- (5) L. Dixon stated concerns with the process.

Chair White replied that the board is responsible to care for the whole district and that there has been community consultation throughout the process.

- (6) M. Barclay commented that she was concerned with cross-boundary transfers. She also wanted assurance that it had been noted in the final package that she and other committee members had not made a recommendation at the 'Engaging the Community' meetings.

Chair White and Superintendent Palmer assured her that it was noted that all committee members had not offered a recommendation.

- (7) J. Garrels invited the board to write a joint letter with the SCTA to the Minister of Education regarding the elimination of the Annual Facilities Grant.

Chair White said that a letter had already been written to the Minister and the Standing Committee on Finance stating the district's funding concerns and that when the new budget comes down, this will be reviewed again.

- (8) L. Dixon referred back to prior meetings of the board going back to 2008. She asked if material that had been collected at that time would be used in decisions made now.

Chair White replied that the board is well aware of all the feedback and that has been received from the community.

- (9) A. Lutes commented that she felt a 'disconnect' from the trustees now that they were looking at computer screens during the meeting. She recognized the fact that an effort to save the cost of paper was the reason behind this decision.

- (10) L. Dixon asked about an individual trustee.

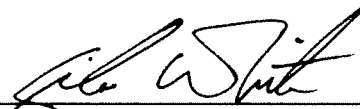
Chair White responded by saying that in the School Act it states that if a trustee misses 3 consecutive meetings then discussion regarding their position would need to take place. This has not been an issue with any of the trustees.

#32 Next Meeting

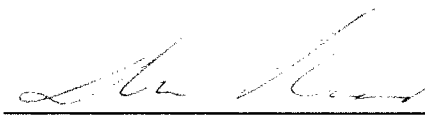
The next board meeting will be held on December 15, 2009 at Chatelech Secondary School at 7 p.m.

#33 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer