



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, February 9, 2005**

TIME: 6 PM

LOCATION: School Board Office

Attending:

Trustee M. Baxter (Chairperson)

Trustee E. Buckley

Trustee: C. Horan

Trustee W. Horning

Trustee G. Scanlan

Trustee C. Wiebe

Absent: Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley

Staff:

R. Rubadeau, Superintendent

Juleen McElgunn, Assistant Superintendent

Eileen Sadlowski, Secretary-Treasurer

M. Stolze, Executive Assistant/Information Officer (recorder)

Partner Group Representatives Attending:

COTA

Alice Rees, President

CUPE 3523

Bill Zeman, President

ORDER:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

AGENDA

Add Info. & NOM Veendam Sister City Student Exchange Trustee Buckley

Main

05P-033

MOVED by Trustee Wiebe, SECONDED by Trustee Scanlan,
THAT: The Agenda for February 9, 2005 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

MINUTES

Delete duplicate word Pg. 9

Main

05P-034

MOVED by Trustee Scanlan, SECONDED by Trustee Horan,
THAT: The Minutes of the public Board meeting of January 26, 2005 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

Abstained: Trustee Wiebe (absent for that meeting)

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Assistant-Superintendent's report is attached to and forms part of these Minutes. She reported on:

- Tsunami relief fundraising
- City of Kelowna's recognition of School District No. 23 for support of Centennial celebrations
- Glenrosa Elementary School's new website
- Western Canada Basketball Tournament - winner of the Slam Dunk
- Mount Boucherie Secondary Chess Tournament
- Ready Set Learn events at 29 schools
- Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Study

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Randy McGraw – *Outstanding Canadian Principal*

The Board recognized Randy McGraw for being acknowledged as an Outstanding Principal by the Learning Partnership, a consortium that includes the Canadian Association of Principals. The Learning Partnership used a comprehensive and detailed rubric to select twenty-six winners from British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory. Randy McGraw was nominated by the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association for his "implementation of innovative assessment and instructional practices, resulting in significant gains in the students' academic achievement." He was also recognized for "taking a leadership role in early Literacy programs." Until very recently, Mr. McGraw was Principal of Shannon Lake Elementary School. He is currently Principal of Watson Road Elementary.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Wiebe presented Randy McGraw with a Certificate and a District Pin. Trustee Wiebe, speaking from the perspective of a parent at Shannon Lake Elementary, spoke highly of the initiatives introduced at that school, which enabled Mr. McGraw to be very aware of the academic achievement level of every student.

In thanking the Board for the recognition, Randy McGraw acknowledged not only the creativity and commitment of his teaching staff and the District's leadership in literacy instruction, but also acknowledged the involvement of support staff and parents in coming together as a team to make the initiatives so successful. He added that, on a daily basis, Principals must deal with serious issues that have to take priority; nevertheless, he is only one of the many principals in School District No. 23 who continue to have leadership roles in improving student achievement.

Presentation by the Superintendent: Data Summary – French Immersion Survey (attachment)

In September 2004, the Board decided to implement a consultation process on the delivery of the French Immersion Program in this District, with a report to be provided to the Board in February 2005. On October 27th, the Board approved the set of questions to be included in the survey. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers and in all school newsletters

indicating that the questionnaire was available on-line and in paper form. In total, 704 responses were provided. The majority of responses were from Glenmore Elementary and Watson Road Elementary. The completed survey and all comments may be viewed at www.sd23.bc.ca.

The Superintendent reviewed the attached data for the Board. He requested that the Board consider all the data and comments and, at a later date, provide direction to him on this matter. The consultation process as directed by the Board is now complete.

The Superintendent advised the Board that there has been one request for a presentation to the Board; representatives from Watson Road Elementary wish to present on February 23rd.

The Board discussed the matter and, at the suggestion of a trustee, discussed the need for a special public meeting to accommodate presentations. The Superintendent advised that the consultation process has been extensive and that some form of response has been received from almost every school community; only one request for a presentation has been received. For this reason, he suggests that the next step should be for the Board to make its position and intent known. The Board discussed the matter further. At this time, no date was set for a special meeting.

The Chairperson explained to the gallery that the Board entered into consultation and is now discussing the French Immersion Program because the Superintendent originally reported an overcrowding situation at Glenmore Elementary, a dual track (English/French Immersion) school. The intent, at this meeting, was for the Board to receive the Superintendent's presentation of the survey data. Board discussion will take place at a future date, as an Action Item.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

Joel Short, Watson Road Elementary PAC

- thanked the Board and senior staff for undertaking the survey, commended the fact that the results are available on line and urged the trustees to read all of the many comments that are provided along with the data. Mr. Short also congratulated Randy McGraw, Principal, on his appointment to Watson Road Elementary.

David Atkins, Parent, Glenmore Elementary

- asked about the number of empty classrooms at Watson Road and North Glenmore Elementary Schools; when the survey was distributed and how the data will be used to enhance the French Immersion Program.

The Superintendent responded that there is one empty classroom at Watson Road and several at North Glenmore Elementary. The survey was distributed in November and closed in January. He does not know how the data will be used as that is for the Board to determine.

Mr. Atkins requested that the survey be excluded from any determination because of demographic bias and reflection of emotional positions from parents at Watson Road Elementary and Glenmore Elementary. He objects to the fact that money is still being spent on portables instead of on student needs and urged the Board to make a decision regarding French Immersion. He objects to the need for a special meeting, believing that the Board has all the information it requires. At the request of a trustee, the presenter agreed to provide his comments in written form.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

All trustees were provided with an opportunity to comment on their recent involvement in District activities.

Queries:

Trustee Buckley

- asked about the appropriate way to inform grade 11 students about the Veendam Student Exchange Program. (Trustee Buckley is now Director-At Large for the Kelowna-Veendam Sister City Association. Trustee Scanlan is the Board's Representative to the Association.) *The Superintendent responded that the Association should provide information to his office for distribution purposes.*

Trustee Horan

- asked for early data on the recent kindergarten registration period. *The Superintendent responded that registration continues until the beginning of the next school year, however, early data indicates that in some areas the enrolment is below projection. The projections overall was for 1,300 new kindergarten students; the District's demographer will be reviewing the situation. The Superintendent noted that the decline in kindergarten registration reflects the trend that is affecting private and public schools.*

Trustee Wiebe

- asked for assistance in distributing information regarding the City of Kelowna Civic Awards. *The Superintendent indicated that a plan is in place.*

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation – School Calendar Committee

(attachment)

In attendance: Mike Roberts, Director of Human Resources

The School Act requires that a Board consult annually regarding the establishment of its local school calendar.

Chaired by the Director of Instruction – Human Resources, a committee involving teachers, parents, support staff and administrators was established to:

- evaluate the local school calendar for 2004/05;
- make recommendations to the Board with respect to the development of a local school calendar for the 2005/06 school year.

In addition, all schools were asked to distribute directly to parents an overview of the proposed local school calendar and Provincial standard school calendar, with an invitation for interested parents to respond directly with their comments and questions.

Mike Roberts reported that few concerns with the 2004/05 local school calendar were noted. This year's local calendar deviates from the Provincial standard calendar in that it provides for three teacher professional days in the summer, which results in the creation of a two-week spring break. With Easter occurring at the same time as spring break this year,

it means that the change can occur without the loss of instructional time. However, in 2005/06, Easter occurs at a time separate from spring break and, therefore, an extension of the school day (3 – 4 minutes) will take place in order to meet the minimum instructional time mandated by the Ministry.

In general, all of the partner groups reported general satisfaction with the current year's local school calendar, with one exception. The CUPE representatives had concerns regarding the economic impact on some of their members (10 month employees) through loss of work days and a lack of a corresponding budget adjustment.

The Director responded to questions.

Bill Zeman, President, CUPE 3523, confirmed the Association's concerns. He added that, because teachers now return to schools in late August for professional development, the timing of work for regular support staff is also affected.

The Chairperson requested that the Director clarify eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits. In response, Mr. Roberts advised that the majority of the affected employees would likely claim Employment Insurance benefits for the five lost work days. The Committee did spend considerable time, however, discussing the educational versus financial implications of the School Calendar recommendation.

Overall, the Committee felt that this year's local school calendar is working well and that it is favourably received by the majority of our partner group members.

The Board discussed the matter.

The Superintendent and the Director responded to questions.

Main
05P-035

MOVED by Trustee Horan, SECONDED by Trustee Scanlan,
THAT: The Board adopt the 2005-2006 local school calendar as outlined in the report from the School Calendar Committee.
CARRIED

Main
05P-036

MOVED by Trustee Wiebe, SECONDED by Trustee Horan,
THAT:

- 1. The Superintendent direct individual school Principals in consultation with staff and parents to establish calendars for the 2005/2006 school year and make such calendars available to all parents by May 31, 2005; and**
- 2. In establishing such calendars, the principal must:**
 - (a) Conform to the School Act and Regulations, applicable Collective Agreements, and School District No. 23 Board Policy.**
 - (b) Schedule school parent/teacher conference times.**
 - (c) Schedule their school's calendar as follows:**

Days in session	191
Number of days of instruction	184
Number of non-instructional days	3 (+3 summer)
Designated summer teacher pro-d days	August 30, August 31 and September 1
Schools open	September 6
Administrative Implementation Day	September 23
Thanksgiving Day (schools closed)	October 10
Teacher Professional Day	October 21
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	November 11
Schools close for Winter vacation	Friday December 16
Winter vacation period (schools closed)	December 17- January 2
Schools reopen after Winter vacation	Tuesday January 3
Teacher Professional Day (Support Staff In-Service Day)	February 17
Schools close for Spring vacation	Friday March 10
Spring vacation period (schools closed)	March 11-26
Schools reopen after Spring vacation	Monday March 27
Good Friday (schools closed)	April 14
Easter Monday (schools closed)	April 17
Victoria Day (schools closed)	May 22
Administrative Day (students do not attend)	Friday June 30
Schools close	Friday June 30

- (d) **Maintain the Ministry prescribed minimum number of minutes of student instruction per day (Kindergarten – 2.4 hours per day, elementary grades 1 to 7 – 4.75 hours per day, middle/secondary grades 7 to 12 – 5.15 hours per day), plus an additional 3 minutes per day at the elementary level and 4 minutes per day at the middle and secondary levels.**

CARRIED

The Director thanked the Committee members, particularly the partner group representatives for their participation in the calendar-setting process.

**Recommendation from Trustee Buckley
– Legal Opinion: School Planning Council Meeting**

Main
05P-037

MOVED by Trustee Buckley, SECONDED by Trustee Horning,
THAT: The Board request the Superintendent to seek an opinion from legal counsel on the issue of Board appointment of an individual trustee to represent the Board at a School Planning Council meeting.

The Board discussed the matter.

**The question was called on 05P-037
DEFEATED**

Opposed: Trustees Baxter, Horan, Horning, Scanlan and Wiebe

7:40 PM The Chairperson called for a recess.

7:50 PM The meeting resumed.

Superintendent's Report – *Technology Unplugged*
(attachment)

The Superintendent reviewed the attached report which explains the need for the Board to make decisions in regard to the District's technology program. The Ministry has provided an educational technology mandate for Boards. Students in grades 7 to 12 are now expected to accomplish specific technology goals. To enable students to achieve these goals, the Board will be required to spend operational dollars to either increase the level or number of school-based computer labs, or teach technology in another way. The current program, lab-based program is not sustainable financially. In order to 'evergreen' the existing labs, at least \$500,000 per year is required above our current expenditures.

Students who now enter our system are not just familiar with basic operations; they have used home-based computers as a form of entertainment as well as a basic tool for preschool readiness. User friendly, market standard technology is available – wireless laptops. This technology is already available and in use in school districts in BC., New Brunswick, Quebec, Maine and Maryland. The Superintendent is recommending that teachers and students be provided with wireless laptops. His report includes:

- the list of benefits that one-to-one wireless technology would provide for the needs of adolescent students
- the program proposed for this District
- the proposed schedule of technology expenditures
- the proposed implementation schedule, beginning in July 2005.

The Superintendent noted that, as middle and secondary labs are taken offline, these spaces can be converted back to classrooms. A reduction of 30 portables is expected to save \$500,000 annually in operating expenses.

The Superintendent reiterated that the Board will have to spend considerable funds to upgrade the technology program. The Ministry of Education has selected this District to

receive a \$325,000 incentive grant to be used towards the installation of wireless technology. To provide funding sources to supplement the Operational Budget, the Board is now in a position to undertake entrepreneurial projects or programs, as is happening in many other Districts around the Province.

The Superintendent concluded that our current technology program is outdated and does not lead to the desired outcomes. He recommends a new and more dynamic approach, which puts the student at the heart of our technology program. The one-to-one wireless program will lead to an improved focus on teaching and learning in the middle and secondary schools and, additionally, will permit a student to have instant access to textbooks, assignments and research materials. The Superintendent recommended that the Board view the program in operation in the Fort St. John School District.

The Board discussed the matter.
The Superintendent responded to questions.

Alice Rees, President, COTA, commented, as a grade 7 teacher with 25 years of experience, in support of the program. She believes it will change teaching practices, for the better. Students who know how to access the web now need to be taught analytical skills.

Main
05P-038

MOVED by Trustee Buckley, SECONDED by Trustee Horning,
THAT: The Superintendent's Report *Technology Unplugged* be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration during budget deliberations for the 2005/06 Operating Budget.

The Board discussed the most appropriate next step and the proposed visit to Fort St. John. It decided it would not, at this time, be appropriate to refer the matter to the Finance Committee.

Main
05P-039

MOVED by Trustee Horning, SECONDED by Trustee Wiebe,
THAT: Motion 05P-038 be tabled indefinitely.
CARRIED

The Board discussed the matter further.
The Superintendent responded to additional questions.

By consensus, the Board decided that it required additional information on the following:

Available Funding and Possible Alternate Funding Sources
Additional Costs, e.g. Alterations to Facilities
Program Maintenance Costs
Security Issues
Ergonomic Issues for Students and Teachers

Main
05P-040

MOVED by Trustee Buckley, SECONDED by Trustee Horan,
THAT: The Coordinating Committee designs a strategy for pursuing further information regarding the proposed Wireless Technology Program.
CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

David Atkin, Parent, Glenmore Elementary

- commented in support of the wireless technology proposal; asked if the Superintendent knew why, in Maine, students were using Apple products, rather than mainstream technology that would likely be used in the students' home-based systems; if the students would be permitted to take the lap tops home, and if the lease costs, in other districts, included software upgrades.
The Superintendent responded that staff in this District did not want to introduce another platform – if adopted, the technology would be mainstream; students would be allowed to take the laptops home (the laptops come in knapsacks; in other Districts, the lease costs include software upgrades.

Trustee Queries

Trustee Baxter

- asked if, in other Districts, the Provider gave the laptops away when the three-year lease expired. *Trustee Horan responded that this had been printed in a newspaper article on the topic.*

Trustee Baxter

- asked if there is a charge that parents would pay.
The Superintendent responded that, in other Districts, it was similar to a text book charge.
The Board agreed that it also required information regarding fees, including inability to pay.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Summary – Field Trips
(attachment)

Employee Absenteeism
(attachment)

Month End Enrollment – January 2005
(attachment)

Response to Trustee Query – Reimbursement of School Planning Council Expenses
(attachment)

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

SENT:

RECEIVED:

Deputy Minister of Education – Study of Photocopying Patterns in Schools
Loreta Learmonth – Hazardous Conditions on Hudson Road
BCSTA – BC School Sports Association Resolutions
S.D. No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) – Letter to Premier Campbell: Consolidation of Airports
S.D. No. 39 (Vancouver) – Letter to Minister of Education – Funding for Public Education
S.D. No. 39 (Vancouver) – Letter to Minister of Education – New Grade 10 Provincial Exams
George Elliot Secondary PAC - Support for Reinstatement of the Family Life Team
Minister of Education – Reporting to BC College of Teachers

The Chairperson will follow up on the following correspondence items:
University of British Columbia/Okanagan – Meeting with Board Chairperson
Adair Hobson – Chamber Music Kelowna Society Performances

Main
05P-041

MOVED by Trustee Wiebe, SECONDED by Trustee Horan,
**THAT: At the February 9, 2005 Public meeting, the Board receives
the correspondence listed above.**
CARRIED

FUTURE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Public Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 6 PM, School Board Office

Regular Public Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 6 PM, School Board Office

Regular Public Board Meeting (if required)
Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at 2 PM, School Board Office
Note: If this meeting is required, the Agenda will be posted on the website
on Monday March 28th or Tuesday, March 29th.

CONFIRMED BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance Committee
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 10:30 AM, School Board Office

Building and Transportation Committee
Topics include: Playgrounds - Pressure Treated Lumber
Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at 9:30 AM, School Board Office

Education Committee – Topics included: Family Life Program Review
Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 1 PM, School Board Office
Trustee Horan, Committee Chair, advised trustees that a binder on Board Authority
Authorized Courses (BAA) has been placed in the trustees' reference library. The
Chairperson requested that the Superintendent also provide a copy of the Family Life
Program binder.

Ad Hoc Healthy Food Choices
Tuesday, March 1, 2005 at 3:30 PM, School Board Office

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION (BCPSEA)

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION (BCSTA)

Provincial Council Meeting, February 11-12, 2005

Trustee Baxter will attend. The Board agreed that Trustee Baxter should use her own judgment regarding upcoming motions.

Branch Meeting, Salmon Arm, February 18-19

Trustees Baxter, Buckley, Horning, Scanlan and Wiebe will attend.

The Chairperson reminded trustees to complete the Branch survey.

On behalf of Trustee Horan, Trustee Baxter will attend the Branch's Education Committee meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Trustee Buckley:

THAT: The Board consider a request from the Kelowna/Veendam Sister City Association for the use of a School District No. 23 bus during the week of August 21 – 26, 2005 for local transportation of a group of approximately 35 Veendam visitors to Kelowna.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD AGENDA

French Immersion Program

Coordination Committee Recommendation – Wireless Technology: Information Gathering

Notice of Motion – Trustee Buckley: Request from Kelowna/Veendam Sister City Association

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Tsunami relief funds continue to be raised by our students and staff – the total is likely to be close to \$60,000.00. We're proud of our students and staff's response to others in need.
- School District No. 23 has received recognition from the City of Kelowna for our enthusiastic support and promotion of the city's centennial celebrations.
- Special thanks to Don Mclellan – teacher and education tech leader at Glenrosa Elementary for the new school website – check it out at www.gre.sd23.bc.ca he's included many wonderful educational sites for students, staff and parents which support student learning.
- Can you slam dunk... oh yes! ... to a great athlete – Wendell Thomas of KSS for winning the Whillis-Harding Slam Dunk competition last Thursday night at the Western Canada Basketball Tournament.
- This past Saturday approximately 40 elementary students gathered at Mt. Boucherie for a chess tournament (15 of the students were primary aged). The tournament was enjoyed by all.
- Ready Set Learn – the child and parent participation in this event at each of our 29 schools has been outstanding! Staff has enjoyed the opportunity to meet new families who will be coming to our schools. Parents are pleased with the kids and the learning experiences offered as part of the program. Every school focused on supporting early literacy opportunities for children with many of the schools holding their RSL event on January 27th – Family Literacy Day.
 - Special thanks to Cathy Richardson, Kindergarten teacher - G. Pringle Elementary - who made 32 library book bags for each child who attended their RSL.

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Study

Country	Expenditure per Student in High School	Students per Teacher		Score (out of 41 countries)		
		Primary	High	Math	Reading	Science
Canada	\$5947.00 (U.S.)	18.3	17.8	7.0	3.0	11.0
Germany	\$6826.00 (U.S.)	19.4	15.2	19.0	21.0	18.0

With less funding and a slightly higher teacher to student ratio Canada achieves significantly better than Germany who has decided they don't want to compare themselves to Japan anymore!

- Nicer environment and climate in BC schools
- There is success throughout the BC system, not just in selected schools
- Success does not have anything to do with origin or social background (unlike Germany)
- The amount of problematic students is half that in Germany
- We have ESL and special needs classes
- In Germany - educational technology opportunities means 25 to 30 computers for 600 students with 3 to a computer at any time
- Students are provincially tested to see if achievement goals are being reached
- Even with high levels of achievement, the Minister of Education still strives to increase student achievements.