



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008**

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: School Board Office
1940 Underhill Street
Kelowna, B.C.

Attending:

Trustee M. Baxter (Chairperson)
Trustee R. Cacchioni
Trustee W. Horning
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley
Trustee S. Nicholl
Trustee G. Scanlan
Trustee C. Wiebe

Staff:
M. Roberts, Superintendent
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
H. Gloster, Assistant Superintendent
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representatives Attending:

COPAC	Liz Therres, President
COTA	Michelle Davies, First Vice President
COPVPA	No representative
CUPE	No representative
DSC	No representative

ORDER:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Add	Action Item	Additional Material for item 7.1 – Board Correspondence Received School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) – copy of letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond regarding Carbon Tax
Add	Action Item	Additional Material for item 7.2 – Board Correspondence Received School District No. 28 (Quesnel) – copy of letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond regarding Funding for Special Needs Students and Aboriginal Students

AGENDA

Main

08P-153 **MOVED** by Trustee Horning, **SECONDED** by Trustee Hunt-Binkley,
THAT: The Agenda for October 8, 2008 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

MINUTES

Main

08P-154

MOVED by Trustee Cacchioni, SECONDED by Trustee Nicholl,

THAT: The Minutes of the Public Board meeting of September 24, 2008 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

Abstained: Trustee Horning (absent from meeting)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent provided the following report:

There is a Ministry of Education requirement for all School Districts to submit a 1701 report which indicates the number of students enrolled in the District. There has been an increase in enrolment from last year, although the number of students entering Kindergarten continues to be fewer than the number of students graduating. The School District is currently at approximately 175 students over projection. The original projection for September 30, 2008 was 21,567 and the actual for September 30, 2008 is 21,728. The reconciling of the final student enrolment is in process in certain specialty areas including special education and career programs. There continues to be an increase in Distance Learning as last year there were approximately 15 FTE with 100 courses completed and this year currently 169 FTE with approximately 4,000 courses to be completed. The target for Distance Learning is 500 FTE.

The Superintendent reviewed the areas of the School District where significant increases have occurred including Lake Country increased by 50 students, primarily at the elementary school level, central Kelowna increased by 10 students, the Westside has the largest increase with 55 students in the Mount Boucherie Secondary School catchment area, Rose Valley Elementary School and Shannon Lake Elementary School are the two Westside Elementary Schools with significant increase in enrollment. A decrease in student enrollment is shown in the downtown Rutland area with a decline at Rutland Middle School and Springvalley Middle School.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION

Recognition:

School Bus Safety Week – October 20 through to October 24, 2008

(attachment)

The Chairperson announced the following declaration:

I DO SO DECLARE THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) declares the week of October 20 through to October 24, 2008 as "School Bus Safety Week" in School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) supporting the theme "Stop on Red, Kids Ahead".

Library Month – October 2008
(attachment)

The Chairperson announced the following declaration:

I DO SO DECLARE THAT: The Board of Education of School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) declares the month of October 2008 as “Library Month”.

Presentation:

Data Warehouse/School Improvement Planning Project Overview

In attendance: Hugh Gloster, Assistant Superintendent
Jon Rever, Director of Technology & Education Services

The Assistant Superintendent and the Director of Technology and Education Services presented on the Data Warehouse/School Improvement Planning pilot project that School District No. 23 is involved in with the Ministry of Education. Two School Districts, Central Okanagan and Maple Ridge, were selected to engage in a ‘Proof of Concept’, to establish that a business case can be made for making these tools available on a widespread basis.

Staff reviewed the history of the School Planning Council process in School District No. 23 along with the rationale for our School District getting involved in this pilot project. During the presentation, the educational objectives the District is trying to achieve were outlined, and the data warehouse and school improvement planning tools were demonstrated. An outline of the Ministry timelines associated with the proof of concept were also reviewed, including a mid-contract evaluation on October 20 and 21, 2008, leading to a final review of the project in February of 2009.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

Carolyn Reimer, Parent of Student at Casorso Elementary School

- Carolyn Reimer requested information as to which schools were involved in the pilot project for the Data Warehouse/School Improvement Planning Project.

The Assistant Superintendent replied that the schools involved included three elementary schools: Watson Road Elementary School, Belgo Elementary School and A.S. Matheson Elementary School; middle schools: K.L.O Middle School and Constable Neil Bruce Middle School; and secondary school: Mount Boucherie Secondary School. There are two other schools which will be utilizing aspects of the program but not fully involved in the pilot project.

TRUSTEE QUERIES/COMMENTS

All trustees were provided with an opportunity to comment on their involvement, since the previous Board meeting, in District activities.

Trustee Horning

- Trustee Horning attended the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council meeting on Monday, October 6, 2008. Trustee Horning requested that Liz Therres, the President of the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council, who was in attendance, provide information to the Board on the agenda for the November 3, 2008 COPAC meeting.

Liz Therres advised that there will be a training session offered to all parents of School District No. 23 students. There will be training provided on FirstClass, roles and responsibilities of a COPAC representative, PAC President, PAC Treasurer and a round table discussion to obtain parents' input and set goals for the upcoming school year.

Trustee Hunt-Binkley

- Trustee Hunt-Binkley attended the recent meeting held to address the issue of the gravel pits in the Joe Rich area. The Board has previously written to the Minister of State for Mining and the Acting Regional Director, Mining and Minerals Division, requesting consultation with the School District on gravel pit proposals. Has the Board received a reply from the Minister of State for Mining and/or the Acting Regional Director?

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the Minister of State for Mining requested that we contact the Acting Regional Director regarding the Board's concerns. The Secretary-Treasurer has sent communication to the Acting Regional Director and has received no reply.

By consensus, the Board agreed to forward a further letter to the Minister of State for Mining and the Acting Regional Director reiterating the Board's request for consultation.

Trustee Hunt-Binkley also suggested that the students of Black Mountain Elementary School also write to the Minister of State for Mining expressing their concerns over the proposed gravel pits in the Joe Rich area.

Trustee Hunt-Binkley

- Trustee Hunt-Binkley referred to her previous request regarding students' pictures being placed in the BCeSIS program and parents not being notified or consulted.

The Secretary-Treasurer confirmed that the proper review regarding privacy has been conducted by the government agency involved. Student Registration Forms will be amended to ensure parents are notified their child's picture will be captured and downloaded to the BCeSIS program.

Trustee Baxter

- Trustee Baxter referred to the letter received by the Board from Wendy Fraser, PAC President, George Elliot Secondary School, regarding the RCMP School Liaison Officer Training Program, and noted that it is not only Lake Country which does not have a School Liaison Officer as the Westside is also without one.

The Superintendent confirmed that conversations have taken place with the RCMP who are in favour of a RCMP liaison to all schools in the Central Okanagan. The difficulty is in the budget and staffing for the position. Once the budget and personnel are available, the RCMP hope to consult with the municipalities and the Regional District of Central Okanagan to arrange for RCMP liaisons in those areas. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that this item is on the list of topics to be discussed at the next School District and Westside staff Liaison meeting.

Trustee Baxter

- Trustee Baxter requested information on the cost of the busing of students for field trips and the disadvantage of some schools, specifically Oyama Traditional School and Peachland Elementary School. Trustee Baxter requested information on the number of field trips elementary schools participate in and the approximate cost.

The Superintendent advised that the longer the distance and length of time involved, the higher the cost for the field trip. The District currently does not allocate include in the budget funds targeted towards the cost of field trips. The Superintendent confirmed that a report can be

prepared on the number of field trips elementary schools participated in last year and the approximate cost.

Trustee Cacchioni expressed concern in requesting this information in isolation as all issues associated with field trips must be reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Correspondence Received

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) – copy of letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond regarding Carbon Tax

(attachment – additional information provided at meeting)

Trustee Hunt-Binkley, as Chairperson of the Finance and Legal Committee, reviewed the recommendation.

Recommendation of the Finance and Legal Committee – September 17, 2008

THAT: The Board write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the impact of the Carbon Tax on School District No. 23.

By consensus, the Board agreed to defer the recommendation from the Finance and Legal Committee to the next Public Board Meeting scheduled for October 22, 2008, pending receipt of any further specific details from the Minister of Education on the cost relief to School Districts.

Board Correspondence Received

School District No. 28 (Quesnel) – copy of letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond regarding Funding for Special Needs Students and Aboriginal Students

Recommendation of the Finance and Legal Committee – September 17, 2008

(attachment – additional information provided at meeting)

Trustee Hunt-Binkley, as Chairperson of the Finance and Legal Committee, introduced the recommendation. The budget pressures for special education are similar to those as stated in the letter from School District No. 28 (Quesnel) to The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education. The Secretary-Treasurer explained to the Board the Ministry of Education's funding for English as a Second Language (ESL). The Ministry of Education previously changed the funding formula based on School Districts' recommendations. The current funding formula is a less targeted system, however, supplemental Special Education funding for designated students does remain as a targeted allocation. School District No. 23 currently spends more on special education than is allocated, even taking into consideration the amount placed in the block funding.

Main

08P-155

MOVED by Trustee Hunt-Binkley, SECONDED by Trustee Scanlan,

THAT: The Board write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding special education funding.

CARRIED

Date of Inaugural Meeting

Motion of September 24, 2008:

08P-139 MOVED by Trustee Scanlan, SECONDED by Trustee Hunt-Binkley,
THAT: The Inaugural meeting for 2008 be set for Wednesday, December 3, 2008
commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the School Board Office, 1940 Underhill Street,
Kelowna, British Columbia

Main

08P-156

MOVED by Trustee Wiebe, SECONDED by Trustee Scanlan,
THAT: The Board rescind previously adopted Motion 08P-139, as printed above.
CARRIED

Main

08P-157

MOVED by Trustee Wiebe, SECONDED by Trustee Scanlan,
THAT: The Inaugural meeting for 2008 be set for Monday, December 8, 2008
commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the School Board Office, 1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna,
British Columbia.
CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

INFORMATION ITEMS

Transportation Assistance Allowance

(attachment)

The Board discussed the Superintendent's recommendation for a change to the transportation assistance to a formula based system which would enable staff to have a guideline to follow when calculating payments. Any family deemed eligible by the Transportation Department will receive a per kilometer amount at 60% of the employee reimbursement rate, based on the shortest distance to the closest school within School District boundaries, and to a maximum of 100 kilometers a day.

The Board agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation. Staff will implement the new formula immediately.

B.C. Student Leadership Conference

(attachment)

Trustee Baxter will be attending on behalf of the Board.

School District No. 23 Employee Attendance Summary

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

(attachment)

General Statement

(attachment)

Field Trips for 2008/2009

(attachment)

BOARD/DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources and Staff Services Committee Report – October 1, 2008

Trustee Scanlan reported on the correspondence forwarded to the Human Resources and Staff Services Committee from School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) directed to BCPSEA with regard to the Tobacco Control Act. The Director of Instruction – Human Resources will be investigating the cost of tobacco cessation programs and the possibility of including them as part of the benefits coverage, and report back to a future Human Resources and Staff Services Committee Meeting.

Trustee Scanlan advised that the plants for delivery to the schools and other District sites by Trustees, for recognition of staff and volunteers, will be arriving on November 5, 2008 at the School Board Office. Trustees are requested to deliver the plants on either November 6 or 7, 2008.

Education and Student Services Committee Report – October 1, 2008

Trustee Wiebe advised that the Education and Student Services Committee received two presentations at the October 1, 2008 meeting. One presentation was from the Assistant Superintendent, Hugh Gloster, on the new Ministry Regulations on Specialty Academies to be implemented in July of 2009. There was also a presentation on Distributed Learning/BC Learning Network by Alan Lalonde, Principal of Central School Programs and Services, and Brent Sawatzky, teacher at Central School Programs and Services. The goal is to offer over 3,000 Distance Learning courses next year. School District No. 23 is one of nine Districts involved in BC Learning Network. The Achieving a Necessary Future Program Review was discussed. The Committee requested further information and recommended that the Program Review be brought back to the Education and Student Services Committee in January 2009.

Safe Schools Committee

Trustee Cacchioni reported that a letter will be forwarded to the City of Kelowna requesting a crosswalk on Longhill and Valley Road.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Sent: The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education, regarding Electoral Boundary Process
The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education, regarding Transportation Funding
The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education, regarding Dr. Knox Middle School

Received: **Correspondence Directed to the Board:**
Norm Macdonald, MLA Columbia River-Revelstoke, Opposition Critic for Education

The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Finance, regarding climate change initiatives
Wendy Fraser, PAC President, George Elliot Secondary School, regarding RCMP School Liaison Officer Training Program
Marketa Panago regarding school bus transportation

Summary of Copies of Letters received by the Board:

School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) – copy of letter to Honourable R. Coleman, Minister of Social Housing & Development, regarding use of IQ and resources and programming for special needs children

Main

08P-158

MOVED by Trustee Horning, SECONDED by Trustee Wiebe,
THAT: At the October 8, 2008 Public meeting, the Board receive the correspondence listed above.
CARRIED

FUTURE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Public Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., School Board Office

Regular Public Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., School Board Office

SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October 15, 2008

4:30 Planning and Facilities Committee
6:30 Finance and Legal Committee

As Trustee Hunt-Binkley will be absent from the October 15, 2008 meeting, Trustee Cacchioni will be the Chairperson in Trustee Hunt-Binkley's absence.

November 5, 2008

4:30 General Affairs Committee
6:30 Education and Student Services Committee

ITEMS REQUIRING SPECIAL MENTION

BC PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

BC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

Report on BCSTA Okanagan Branch Meeting

October 3 and 4, 2008
Salmon Arm, B.C.

October 2008 Provincial Council

(Motion to Provincial Council attached)

Date: October 24 and 25, 2008

Location: Coast Plaza Hotel
Vancouver, B.C.

Background information to the Motion to the Provincial Council was forwarded to BCSTA upon their request.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEMS FOR BOARD COMMITTEES

ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

Board Correspondence Received

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) – copy of letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond regarding Carbon Tax

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer