



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

*(Second and Fourth Wednesday of every month, except July, August and the fourth Wednesday in December,
at the School Board Office.)*

DATE: Wednesday, February 29, 2012
TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: School Board Office
1940 Underhill St.
Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Attending:

Trustee R. Cacchioni
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee J. Brinkerhoff
Trustee D. Butler
Trustee J. Fraser
Trustee C. Gorman
Trustee M. Pendharkar

Staff:

H. Gloster, Superintendent
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
R. Dumontet, Director of Instruction, Human Resources
J. Colquhoun, Director of Human Resources - Labour Relations
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representatives Attending:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	Alice Rees - President, Susan Bauhart - 1 st Vice-President and April Smith - 2 nd Vice-President
COPVPA	Derek Lea, President
CUPE	Wendy Johnson, Vice-President
DSC	No representative

ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

AGENDA

Additions/Amendments/Deletions

Add:	Action Item	2.2 E-mail received from Alice Rees, COTA President
Add		4 Public Question/Comment Period

Main

12P-032 MOVED by Trustee Fraser, SECONDED by Trustee Gorman,
THAT: The Agenda for February 29, 2012 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEM

Update of Contract Negotiations with BCTF

The Director of Human Resources - Labour Relations reviewed the material contained in the handout Summary of Major Events - 2011 Collective Bargaining between BCPSEA and BCTF.

On February 28, 2012 the Labour Relations Board issued an interim order regarding strike activity beyond Phase 1 which provides for an “initial expanded job action” allowing BCTF members to withdraw from all duties for a maximum of 3 consecutive instructional days (notice of not less than 2 school days must be provided). BCTF members will not picket, block or restrict access to schools.

Information was provided on Bill 22 - The Education Improvement Act which would suspend all strike and lockout activities, and allows for a cooling off period for both parties until August 31, 2012. Mediation would be provided to assist the parties in reaching a negotiated settlement. The net zero mandate remains in effect for any mediation process. Based on information received to date, legislative approval of Bill 22 could be completed by Tuesday, March 6th at the earliest. Trustees discussed the process should mediation prove unsuccessful in reaching a negotiated settlement.

Bill 22 also deals with a Learning Improvement Fund, collective bargaining on class size and related matters, class size limits and compensation, and consultation on class organization. Trustees discussed the procedure for allocation of the Learning Improvement Funds.

E-mail from Alice Rees, President - COTA

The Chair reviewed the information contained within the E-mail from the COTA President.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

The purpose of this public question/comment period is to provide an opportunity to members of the gallery to ask a question or comment on any items on the agenda. The total time for this period shall normally be 15 minutes. A person wishing to speak is requested by the Chairperson of the Board to state his/her name and provide, if possible, a written copy of the comments.

Comments were received from the gallery as follows:

- Steven Kuffner, Teacher - RVE
 - Requested information on Bill 22 compensation for increased class enrolment. (*The Director of Human Resources - Labour Relations advised that compensation could be in the form of an increase in salary, professional development funds, additional resources or additional prep time.*)
- Alice Rees, COTA President
 - World education rankings show Canada is among the top countries with the smallest gap between high achievers and low achievers.
 - The mediator appointed by Bill 22 legislation would have strict boundaries for negotiations and have a net zero mandate to work with.
 - Requested the Board take a stand and advise the government that they are not in support of Bill 22.
- Sheila Graham, Intermediate/Middle/Secondary Literacy Teacher
 - Encouraged the Board to treat teachers with respect, as fellow partners in Education, and send the COTA President's message to the government.
- Michelle Davies, Teacher - RSS
 - Bill 22 is an act of regression.
 - Urged the Board to send letters to MLAs to stand up for what is right, not what is easy.
- Kumi Nittel, Teacher - RVE
 - Proud to work for the school district and would assume the Trustees would support teachers in this issue.
- Catriona Guild, Teacher - CTE
 - Want to hear that the Trustees will fight the government's position.
- Joanne Gorjanc, Teacher - BGE
 - Reminded Trustees that today is anti-bullying day.

- Jane Nordquist, Teacher - RVE
 - Requested an explanation as to why Trustees were not supporting teachers.
- Karen Regan, Teacher - BME
 - The government has left teachers powerless to negotiate and demonstrate.
 - Someone must stand up to the government and say they don't agree with treating teachers that way.
- Danielle Weill, Teacher - RVE
 - The government may listen to Trustees if they stand up for teachers.
- Nicki Hokazono, Retired Teacher/Retired Board Chair
 - Previous Boards put forward motions to BCSTA asking that teachers be given the right to strike and had signed contracts re class size language.
- Darlene Zerr, Teacher - RAY
 - A Trustee's job has changed as kids have changed. The government must look at these changes.

The Chair attempted to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 pm

Members of the gallery requested a response to their expressed concerns.

Trustees commented on opinions expressed by the gallery.

Additional comments received from the gallery were:

- Crystal Moore, Teacher - RAY
 - The public perceives Trustees as being able to take a stand, whether or not it makes a difference.
 - Trustee support of teachers would provide teachers with encouragement and the knowledge that they have the support of the Board.
- Alice Rees, COTA President
 - Trustees need to say that the Learning Improvement Act is not for Learning Improvement.
 - Teachers want to know that what they've been doing is honoured and respected.
- Robyn Cassan, Teacher - PGE
 - Want to hear that teachers are worth something.
- Jane Nordquist, Teacher - RVE
 - Trustees need to comment on the Act and speak to the underfunding for education and how it will impact the role of Trustees.
- Stacey Manoin, Teacher - BME
 - What is happening is not a democracy and teachers need Trustees to stand up for them.
- Kim Dennis, Teacher - CTE
 - Invited Trustees to come into the classroom to see what teachers do every day.
- Erin Daum, Teacher - RAY
 - Trustees should not forget what it was like to be a teacher (for those who previously were teachers).
 - Asking for respect.
- Catriona Guild, Teacher - CTE
 - Asking Trustees to stand up for change.
- Jim Strachan, Teacher - KSS
 - Bullying is faced every day in schools; if a stand is not taken to stop bullying, it will only get worse.
 - Trustees recognize that writing a letter to the government will not change the government's standpoint; however, to do nothing gives a silent agreement.
 - Doing nothing sells out children in the classroom and sells out teachers.

- Clay McLeod, Teacher - SKE
 - Within the BC Education Plan are items that teachers believe in, including the fact that the teacher is one of the most important elements for student progress and achievement.
 - A clear statement of support from Trustees in terms of writing a letter would be a statement that they are standing with teachers in the face of Bill 22.
- Lori Dawson Bedard, Teacher - CPS
 - Students are complex; adding more CEAs or para professionals, who have limited training, is not providing a service to students.
- Marie-Claude Lecours, Teacher - KLO
 - Would like to know that Trustees do not agree with the Minister of Education and are willing to speak up for teachers.
- Michelle Davies, Teacher - RSS
 - Within the BC Education Plan it states that the plan is essential for students to learn properly.
 - Trustees need to tell the Ministry that it's not OK to take away the provisions of the teachers' contract and it is not OK to make a new law whenever they want.
- Hilde Dietzel, Teacher - ASM
 - BC is going to lose its amazing teachers.

Trustees discussed comments made by teachers in the gallery.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer