

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54
(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

January 6th, 2015

6:00PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
L. Collingwood, Chair P. Michell, Alternate J. Williams F. Farrell (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer E. Hildebrandt, Director, Facilities and Maintenance C. Whalen, Transportation & Custodial Supervisor
Regrets: L. Kearns	M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent

Start: 6:10 pm – 7:35 pm

REPORT

[Committee Chair, Trustee Collingwood outlined the Policy Committee and voting rights as members. The Chair also acknowledged the opportunity for public input and questions at the end of the meeting, provided there was time. If no time was provided then the public could submit their questions or comments in writing to the Secretary Treasurer by Friday of same week.]

1. Draft Calendar 2015-2016

Mr. van der Mark outlined new draft calendar for 2015-2016 year. Mr. van der Mark also noted that the September professional development day is on the 18th, but there is an option for Pro-D day to be on 8th, the first day of school, therefore, pushing first day of school to September 9th. He also noted that spring break was scheduled to be two weeks next year as Easter holidays fall in March in 2016, on March 25th & 28th. The Board could look at the option of a one week spring break again for 2016-2017 year if they need to. Issues around the one week spring break are possible lost wages for CUPE and vulnerable students being out of school. ***Committee recommends that the Board adopt the draft 2015-2016 calendar as presented.***

2. Learner support Centre & SBO Downstairs Update

Mr. Margerm outlined the options around the school board basement renovation and the learner support building. Three options were provided: 1) continue to use learner support building (as is or rent out space), 2) renovate SBO basement for LSC staff & close LSC or 3) close Learner Support Centre and move learner support staff to a school. It was also noted that the plan was to move the Aboriginal Education department to Smithers Secondary School in some capacity. This would allow for Aboriginal staff to work more closely with a majority of the Aboriginal students which attend SSS, and this would allow for the option to create an Aboriginal Gathering Space in room 102. It was also noted that future decisions around the Gathering Space in LSC should involve discussions with Aboriginal Education staff due to a need for meeting space and place for resources. Due to issues related to cost,

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options for generating rental income, and displacement of staff, ***the Committee recommends the option to leave the Learner Support Centre open and rent office space in back to generate rental income to cover costs of running facility.***

Mr. Margerm also reviewed the needed renovations to the school board office. As the school district is not proceeding with major renovations to the downstairs SBO, ***the Committee recommends the district administration proceed with necessary minor renovations to school board office.***

3. Sportsplex Update

Mr. van der Mark updated the Committee on new scaled-down plans (based on just field, walking track and 2 versions involving mezzanine, classrooms, offices, canteen...) that had just arrived from architect. Also a need for a plan/estimate from architects in regards to just a field facility? Mr. van der Mark advised the committee that we were moving forward from concept phase to consultation phase where we would develop models/drawings for display with public and for soliciting donations from industry.

4. 2014-2015 Enrollment & Funding update

Mr. Margerm provided update on 2014-2015 Ministry's December funding re-calculation as per our September 1701 submission. Ministry recalculation reports that school district is down 118 students from same recalculation done last December 2013 and 40 students from projected in February 2014. Basically, the entire decline in funding, due to a drop in enrollment, was compensated for through funding protection and enrollment decline protection funding in the amount of approximately \$1.1 million dollars. Therefore, the projected funding of \$21,753,029 will remain the same despite a decrease of 40 more students.

5. St. Joseph's School letter

Mr. Margerm provided an update on a letter from St. Joseph's School requesting we re-evaluate our policy around transporting musical instruments on school district buses to district music programs. Given the nature and complexity of the request, adjustments necessary to transportation procedures and legal requirements of the Motor Vehicle act (35.09). ***The Committee recommends that the issue go before the Policy Committee for evaluation and resolution and then Policy Committee would report back to the Board. Mr. Margerm will also contact St. Joseph's school to advise them on any Board decision.***

6. I. Ronald, A. Copeland, W. Bucher & E. McInnis Letters Re: Semester PE @ SSS

Mr. Margerm provided an update that three letters have been written to the Board concerned with the Smithers Secondary change in their PE timetabling from linear to semestered. It was noted that Mr. Jaksun has already responded to at least one of the letters explaining the rationale for the change. The Committee also noted that this should still

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remain an internal issue for Smithers secondary administration and people writing letters should be referred back to school administration for discussion. ***The Committee recommends that letters from the Board be written in response thanking the writers for their concerns and input, but acknowledging that this still should remain at the school level in hope that an explanation or resolution can be provided by administration.***

7. Gideons Letter

Gideons have requested permission to distribute their Youth Testament Consent Cards to grade 5 students. Only students who return these consent cards signed by their parents will receive the Testament. Committee discussed wording around 'access' to Gideon's books versus the word 'distribution.' ***Committee recommends that the Board approve the motion to allow Gideons to inquire if students would like their literature.***

8. Carbon Neutral Bylaw

The Committee recommends the Board approve the Carbon Neutral Bylaw with three readings at the January school board meeting.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: February 3rd, 2015