



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
JUNE 23, 2015
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, B.C.

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, L. Collingwood, B.J. Beaubien, J. Williams, D. Hanson, P. Michell

Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Collingwood / J. Williams

"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."

CARRIED

The Board returned to Regular session at 7:02pm.

2. OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Kearns welcomed everyone in attendance. Chairperson Kearns opened up the meeting by speaking about the passing of Mr. Dan Michell. Mr. Michell, (traditional name Wigetimstachol) was a Hereditary Chief of the Tsayu Clan. Mr. Michell was selected by the SSS Arts Class for their "Legacy Project" a couple of years ago. Mr. Michell was the father of Brenda Michell, who is a long-time member of the SD54 Aboriginal Education Council and Uncle to Trustee Priscilla Michell. The Board of Education would like to send their condolences to the Michell family for such a great loss.

Chairperson Kearns attended the HSS Commencement Ceremony that took place a couple of week ago, and commented on that once again this year it was a lovely ceremony.

All of our Schools will thank all of their volunteers on their own, but the Board of Education would like to thank all volunteers in the district, whether it is driving our students to different events, working in the kitchens, volunteering in the classroom or going on field trips. These volunteers add such a culture to our school and thank you for making a better place for our students

Chairperson Kearns would also like to send a thank you out to Kyle Thompson, owner of Monster Welding, for helping the district with the shops in Houston and joining the SD54 administration team at the Innovation Seminar in PG.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED/SECONDED L. Collingwood / B.J. Beaubien

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of May 19, 2015; the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes May 19, 2015.

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson wanted to clarify the intent of her question around doing three readings of the bylaw and the effect on the public process by doing the three reading at one board meeting.
 - There being none, the minutes of May 19, 2015 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes of May 19, 2015 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Student Achievement

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the student achievement report to the Board: Congratulations to the graduates of 2015. Thank you to Trustee Kearns for his address at HSS ceremony and to Trustee Hanson for her address at SSS ceremony on behalf of the Board of Education. Report Cards will be going out shortly. Mr. van der Mark would also like to acknowledge Telkwa and Lake Kathlyn Elementary Schools for their ongoing work to explore better ways of communicating student learning.

Innovations / Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the innovations and initiatives report to the Board: Ms. Monica Strimbold hosted 'Maker Days' at our local elementary schools in June. Ms. Strimbold has done a lot of innovations, skills competitions, luncheons for industry etc. this past year. On June 15th Trustee Kearns, Superintendent van der Mark and District Principal of Technology Mr. Monkman, attended the BC Innovation Forum in PG. SD54 was called upon to share our work aligning high school timetables, trades expansion and partnerships at HSS and self-regulation work across the district. Superintendent van der Mark represented SD54 at the ITA Trades Forum where he presented about the HSS shop and the trades expansion project. SD54 was the only K-12 school to be invited to present there. Representatives from all schools were trained by Faye Brownlie on Early Primary Reading Assessments (Baby Dart). These assessments will be a regular part of the primary years. Dr. Yong Zhao will be here on September 24-25 to work with our educators and will be holding a community forum in the evening as well as a session for students. A team from SD54 will be presenting at Trent University in July as a part of Dr. Stuart Shanker's international conference on the self-regulation.

District Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives report to the board: Thanks you to everyone who attended the year-end celebrations to honour our retirees and long-services recipients. The District Track & Field Meet took place on June 5th. Thanks to the teachers, parents and volunteers. Congratulations to St. Joe's for winning the small school's trophy and Walnut Park for winning the large school trophy. A special thanks to Kispiox Community School for bringing their students out and enriching the day! The PLC/NOII year-end celebration was held on June 11th, where 27 educators from across the district shared their stories of innovation and inquiry. This year's work for the CR4YR group has been stunning with all schools participating in some level of inquiry. Thanks to Ms. Lynn Rutley and Ms. Nicole Davey for their leadership in coordinating this powerful work, making a difference for teachers and learners across the district. Finally, thank you to Perry Rath for this year's honouring our elder's ceremony. Mr. Jim Davidson and Lucy Bazil Berigin were honoured this year.

School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark, presented the school based initiatives to the Board: SSS athletics came away with multiple zone banners this year. Thank you to Ms. Lytle , Mr. Saefkow and Mr. Doogan-Smith and students for another amazing musical. Both HSS & SSS girl's rugby teams played at the provincial championships this year. SSS hosted their Technical and Ecological Knowledge day on June 2, where students and staff gathered at Tyhee Lake to learn and share in the environment.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **WPS** – 30-40 +/- Grade 6 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel Joe L'Orsa Cabin on June 18 and 19th, 2015. The purpose of this trip is to support student curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** - 80 +/- Grade 8 & 9 students from Houston Secondary School to travel to the Nisga'a Memorial Provincial Park June 9 through June 10th, 2015. The purpose of this trip is to support student curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 50 Grade 4/5 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Rough Acres on June 8th, 2015 to take part in the class year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 120 +/- Grade K-3 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 19th, 2015 to take part in the primary year-end picnic and celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TSE** – 27 +/- Grade 6/7 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary School to travel to Rough Acres Bible Camp on June 15-16, 2015, to take part in the class year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TSE** – 45 +/- Grade 3-5 students from Twain Sullivan Elementary School to travel to Rough Acres Bible Camp on June 9th, 2015. The purpose of this trip is to support student curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **TES** – 9 +/- Grade 7 students from Telkwa Elementary School to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 23rd – 24th, 2015 to take part in the class's year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **WPS** – 28 +/- Grade 6 students from Walnut Park Elementary School to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 23th-24th, 2015 to take part in the class's year-end celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SIL** – 159 +/- Grade K – 7 students from Silverthorne Elementary to travel to Rough Acres Bible Camp on June 23rd, 2015 to take part in the year-end school celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SIL** – 22 +/- Grade 2 students from Silverthorne Elementary to travel to Tyhee Lake on June 17th, 2015 to take part in the year-end class celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SIL** – 75 +/- Grade 4-7 students from Silverthorne Elementary to travel to Rough Acres Bible Camp on June 18th, 2015 to take part in the year-end class celebrations. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- Superintendent van der Mark presented a slide show on SD54 highlights from this past year.

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Farrell presented the Community Relations Committee report from the June 2, 2015 meeting: The bulk of the meeting was around the proposed "SportsPlex" and the amenities that students currently have access too. Superintendent van der Mark informed the Board that the notes have been typed up from the Education Forum and will be brought forward to the committee meeting in September. The conversation will continue out in Houston in September.
- Trustee Farrell also presented the June Education Forum report – Trustee Farrell reported that there was fulsome discussion on the topic of the proposed "SportsPlex". He was impressed with the presentation and the whole exchange. By in large there is belief that a "SportsPlex" complex could benefit everyone in the region not just Smithers. Senior administration answered questions asked by the public. All in all it was a great evening.

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- On behalf of Chairperson Collingwood, Trustee Williams presented the Operations Committee's Report from the June 2, 2015 meeting. The committee discussed the following items:
 - **Carbon Neutral Report** – Secretary Margerm provided a short overview of the Carbon Neutral Report to the committee.
 - **Report Card Process Update** - Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid updated the Committee on the pilot program for reporting student learning at Lake Kathlyn and Telkwa Elementary. This pilot program concentrates on communicating student learning and individual anecdotal reports and not focusing on letter grades
 - **Budget - SBO & SSS Parking Update** – Mr. Margerm updated the committee on the cost figures for the SBO and SSS drainage and paving parking lots. As the initial project was too costly given other priorities, Mr. Margerm, recommended that Mr. Hildebrandt proceed with the drainage project as it is a necessity. This includes adding a walkway in front of the SBO to SSS. The drainage will now be directed out to Montreal Street. Cost of redoing the drainage is between \$300k - \$350k.

MOVED/SECONDED J. Williams / D. Hanson

"The Board recommends proceeding with the necessary repairs to the School Board Office and Smithers Secondary drainage and parking lot structures. This will include authorizing the construction of a drainage system that attaches to the Town of Smithers sewage line on Montreal Street."

Discussion:

- Trustee Beaubien asked if the walkway will be in front of the SBO
- Secretary Treasurer Margerm said yes it will run across the front lawn meeting up with the SSS parking lot. Currently there is a path used by the students.

CARRIED

- **Sportsplex Update** – Trustee Farrell covered this in his Education Forum report.
- **Letter – B. Silbernagel – re: Proposed SportsPlex** - Trustee Kearns contacted Mr. Silbernagel and now waiting to hear back from him. SD54 will hold a meeting in Houston as well, and will schedule it at the September committee meeting. The community members were interested in our answers to their questions. The School District will be sending an email to all participants as a follow up from the meeting. Superintendent van der Mark commented that community members were lacking information in key areas and which projects are integrated into an annual facilities grant (AFG). Trustee Kearns noted that Superintendent van der Mark did a great job handling the information.
- **Letter – G. Harris – re: Third Ave. Traffic Congestion** - The SD is looking into the redesign of their parking lots which may help with traffic congestion. There is a possibility of meeting with the Town of Smithers. A response letter will be issued to outline what we have done.
- **Letter – Dr. Magda re: WIFI routers in the school.** The committee asked Mr. Monkman to look into the background of this issue and provide any research into this topic. Mr. Monkman will provide the information at the September committee meeting.

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson asked if we could host an education forum on the pilot project on reporting student grades.
- Superintendent van der Mark thought this was a good idea as we held an education forum on this topic at the very beginning of this project. It would be a good follow up.

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell, presented the Policy Committee Report from the June 2, 2015 meeting. The committee discussed the following items:
 - **Traditional Welcome** – The board passed in principal to have a traditional welcome at all board meetings. A sub-committee was formed, Trustee Farrell, Trustee Michell, Trustee Williams and District Principal of Aboriginal Education met on June 23rd for the sub-committee's initial meeting. There was great information presented. They now have enough information to bring to the committee in September.
 - **Priority list for policies** – Chairperson Farrell submitted his policy priority list to Secretary Margerm and it will be brought forward to the September policy committee meeting.
 - **Student Driving Policy** – Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid provided "Student Transporting Themselves" language to add to the Admin Manual. It outlines specifics of the policy and provides documentation for permission forms.

Discussion:

- Trustee Williams – commented that when she read the student driving policy, she read that students from Smithers can only drive in Smithers, and Houston students can only drive in Houston. So if they go to the ski hill or out of their area that would void that. She asked if this can be changed? Cross transfer for school?
- Trustee Farrell – replied that admin and P/VP will develop a form that will outline what are proper procedures.
- Secretary Treasurer Margerm – the policy committee took the view of students not to cross boundary to the other schools.
- Trustee Farrell - that was discussed and that is what the understanding was.
- Trustee Collingwood – what's the rationale for them not being able to drive cross boundary?
- Secretary Treasurer Margerm – legal liability. We would be very hesitant to allow it even if the parent allowed it. Winter driving conditions, vehicle, type of license, maintenance on vehicle are all concerns.
- Trustee Beaubien – if a high school student wanted to drive to the ski hill, the principal had the final say
- Trustee Margerm – if we allowed it, we would be pressed on where the line is Prince Rupert? Vanderhoof? We don't want to get involved with winter driving of students. Too many variables to consider.

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- Trustee Kearns submitted his report from the Prince George K-12 Innovation Forum.

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson – Who else shared?
- Trustee Kearns – every school district that was there was asked to share what was going on in their district. Williams Lake, Quesnel, PG, Coast Mountain. It was interesting to hear what was going on in other districts. Ministry of Education said there are innovative things going on in each of the districts.
 - Trustees Beaubien, Hanson and Williams submitted their reports from their trip to the BCSTA AGM held on April 16-19, 2015. Trustee Hanson said she enjoyed the AGM.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business was submitted this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- No new business was submitted this month.

9. EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- The May 31st, 2015 expenditure summary was included in the Trustee Board packages.

10. READING FILE

MOVED/SECONDED: J. Williams / B.J. Beaubien

"That the information contained in the Trustee Reading File be received and filed."

CARRIED

11. CLOSING REMARKS

- Chairperson Kearns took a moment to recognize CUPE Local 2145 outgoing president Bärbel Schroeter. He spoke of how the School District and Board has enjoyed working with her over the past 19 years, how everyone loved her sense of humor, her dedication for working for her members and how she stands up for them. He wished her the best of luck in her retirement.
- On behalf of the Board of Education Chairperson Kearns wished everyone a safe, relaxing summer.

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

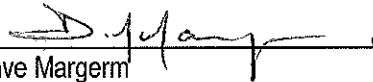
- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on September 22, 2015 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers. Chairperson Kearns asked the Board members to keep August 25th open just in case a summer meeting is required to be held.

12. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.



Les Kearns
Chairman of the Board of Education



Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer