



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
MARCH 17, 2015
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, L. Collingwood, BJ Beaubien, J. Williams, D. Hanson

Regrets: P. Michell
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / L. Collingwood

"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."

CARRIED

The Board returned to Regular session at 7:00pm.

2. OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Kearns welcomed our guests and wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Trustee Michell is ill tonight and not able to attend and sends her regrets. Chairperson Kearns congratulated the SSS Sr. Boys Curling Team on their Provincial win and welcomed the team up to the front of the room. Mr. Laurence Turney, coach of the team, introduced the team members to the Board. Mr. Turney provided a brief history about the team and knew that by the way they came together, they were going to win. He received complements on their sportsmanship. The team brought their Provincial Trophy sponsored by Rio Tino Alcan with them. This is the first time in 20 years that the boys' championship banner was won by a Smithers team. The girls curling team from Kitimat won their provincial championship as well, so Zone 8 had a clean sweep if the High School Championships. Mr. Turney thanked the Board for the help over the years. The BC High School Curling championships will be hosted in Smithers in two years. Chairperson Kearns handed out a token gift from the Board to the team.
- HSS students have also just returned from the provincial wrestling tournament. Trent Siemens finished in fifth place and Rebecca Ells finished 1st and has qualified for the nationals in April. They are both coached by Don Roy.
- BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guyton visited our School District last week; she attended WPS Breakfast & Books, a SSS Drama presentation and Telkwa Elementary and the co-generation project. Chairperson Kearns found she was very personable and down to earth. The Lieutenant Governor and her husband are ranchers in the Nicola valley and he found it to be a treat to tour her around. The SSS Band did the best rendition of "O Canada" that he had ever heard. Minister of Education Peter Fassbender visited SD54 on March 16th and wanted a tour of our facilities. He visited the SSS band 9 class, the Bio Dome; went to Lake Kathlyn Elementary to see their work with self-regulation; at HSS he had a Q&A session with a grade 11 socials class; lunched with the PC1 Class and visited the Electrical class; then finally stopped at NWCC to see our partnership in action. The Minister left with a clearer picture of how we are making changes to better our students. Thanks to all of the staff members for being so welcoming. Thank you to our superintendent for planning this tour.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Kearns requested to add to New Business 8.3) Smithers Interior News Article.

MOVED/SECONDED D. Hanson / L. Collingwood

"That the amended agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 17, 2015 or the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes of February 17, 2015. There being none, the minutes of February 17, 2015 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes of February 17, 2015 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Innovations

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the innovations report to the Board: Ms. Faye Brownlie was here last week for her last visit with our teachers. This year our teachers have been working together and opening up their classroom doors to share their practice. Ms. Brownlie also helped the Changing Results for Young Readers Team. Superintendent van der Mark thought the highlight of this year was the co-planning and co-teaching as it has been a powerful experience for our teachers. It has been very courageous of our teachers to do this. In addition, there also has been tremendous participation of our support staff, taking part in the learning opportunities. Mr. van der Mark thanked all the teachers that opened up their classrooms.

District Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives report to the Board: We were joined by The Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon for Anti-Bullying Day on February 25th. She also visited the Breakfast and Books program at WPS. She was greeted at SSS by the band playing "O'Canada" and had a private viewing of "The Crooked Tree", a drama production written by the SSS drama students. Her Honour also visited Telkwa Elementary before heading off to Houston. This year's District Dogwood Scholarships have been announced and SD54 has twenty four \$1,000 scholarships to give out this year. Have your student talk their school counselors for more information. The Grade 4 Feast will take place on March 25th in Moricetown. District administration has been working on potential staffing levels for the 2015-2016 school year. Electrical Foundations and Professional Cook 1 are continuing at HSS. These programs are going well and in particular the transportation of students from Smithers to Houston has been well received. The March Education forum has been postponed. The April Education Forum will feature innovation occurring in our schools. HSS and SSS both hosted the WorkBC "Find Your Fit Tour". It was an interactive event where students had the opportunity to try the skills they'll need for different careers that are in demand across the province. This hands-on program was visited by students from Grades 6 to 11 to help them apply real life experiences to their career planning.

School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark, presented the school based initiatives to the Board: As noted earlier Anti-Bullying day was on February 25th, schools across the district participated in initiatives focused on bringing awareness and an end to bullying. The SSS Drama students brought home many top awards from their performances at the NW Zone Festival. At the Provincial wrestling Alex Schell from SSS won bronze, Rebecca Ells from HSS won gold and Trent Siemens from HSS placed 5th. SSS Girls Grade 8 Basketball team attended the provincials and won the Most Sportsmanlike Team. The SSS Boys Curling team won their Provincial High School Championships!

Field Trip Proposals

The following field trip requires **approval** by the Board of Education:

- **SSS** – 16 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Education students to participate in a Bulkley River Rafting Trip in late May or early June (dependent on river levels). Their rafting guide will be Kevin Knight from Main Current and teacher Kyle Peruniak. Approval will be subject to travel dates being supplied to the Board Office Staff prior to departure.

MOVED/SECONDED J. Williams / L. Collingwood

"To approve the proposed field trip to participate in a Bulkley River Rafting Trip. Approval subject to providing travel dates to the board office prior to departure ."

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson asked how many adults will be attending. Superintendent van der Mark answered that there will be at least 3 adults minimum joining the class for this trip.

CARRIED

- Superintendent van der Mark presented a Board Authorized Course Application to the Board:

- **Sports Leadership 11-12** will allow athletes to pursue their interests while directly promoting a positive sports culture within their school and community. While training in their chosen sport, learners will develop leadership skills with an emphasis on athleticism, communication, mindset and inquiry. This will be a learner driven course where participants will be encouraged to question, problem solve and collaborate.

In addition, they will be required to support the development of their sport with younger athletes by engaging in officiating and coaching opportunities.

This course adds personalization and is consistent with the direction of BC Ed Plan and supports students' ability to take courses that they are interested in. The course has been reviewed and is compliant with all regulations and requirements set out in Ministry guidelines.

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

"To approve the proposed Sports Leadership 11-12 Board Authorized Courses as outlined."

Discussion:

- Trustee Collingwood asked if there was someone to teach this course. Mr. van der Mark said that yes there is.
- Trustee Kearns asked if this could be possibly opened up to HSS? Mr. van der Mark answered yes that is a possibility if the schedules line up.
- Trustee Hanson asked if this course was a DL course or taught in the classroom. Mr. van der Mark commented that our DL program is a hybrid and this course could be a bit of both.
- Trustee Hanson asked if there are a minimum number of students that needs to register for it to run?
- Mr. van der Mark replied that because it is a DL program that it is fairly flexible.
- Trustee Hanson asked if there an evaluation after 1 year?
- Mr. van der Mark said that we do not do formal evaluations but gage it on whether the students sign up for it again next year. It is a simple way to evaluate it.

CARRIED

- **BC School Sports Application - Rugby:** In the fall the Board approved the BC School Sports application for Basketball, we now have one for rugby. Attrition is often 30% due to work schedules or injury. SSS has 17 rugby players and HSS has 7 and cannot field a team. Administration is now asking for approval to combine schools to make one team.

MOTION / SECOND: J. Williams / L. Collingwood

"To approve the joint sponsorship application from Houston Secondary School and Smithers Secondary School to apply to BC School Sports to have one Senior Boys Rugby team."

Discussion:

- Trustee Farrell asked if this will make it too many kids with the possibility of kids being dropped from the team.
- Mr. van der Mark said that SSS has just enough players but HSS doesn't have enough.
- Trustee Hanson asked if BC Rugby still has to approve it.
- Mr. van der Mark clarified that that application has to be approved by BC school sports.

CARRIED

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Farrell presented the Community Relations Committee report from the March 3, 2015 meeting: The committee discussed the option of bringing back Board reports. It would create immediate information to the stakeholders.

MOVED/SECONDED F. Farrell / J. Williams

"The School District not pursue reinstating Board Reports. "

CARRIED

- The Committee continued their discussion on a regular newspaper article.

MOVED/SECONDED F. Farrell / B.J. Beaubien

"The School District proceed with the newspaper articles as soon as details can be planned out by District Administration."

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson asked who would be writing the articles?
- Trustee Kearns replied that to his understanding that they would be coming out of the Board office
- Secretary Margerm added that the committee discussed who will be writing the article. There are some details to work out. Mr. McDiarmid has been in contact with the paper about this.

CARRIED

- Committee Relations Chairperson Farrell submitted his report from the February Education Forum that focused on the SSS Fine Arts program and encouraged all trustees to participate in the Education Forums.
- The next Education Forum will take place in April and will focus on innovation in our schools. More details to come.
- Next meeting will be on Tuesday March 24, 2015 @ 4:00pm

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Collingwood presented the Operations Committee's Report from the March 3, 2015 meeting: The committee discussed the following items:
 - **Provincial Budget Update** – See new business 8.2

- **Trustee Stipend Adjustment** – The committee discussed the option of a 1% raise to the trustee stipend based on the Dec 2014 Consumer Price Index. The Committee acknowledged that the trustee stipend has not had an increase since 2009. They also acknowledged that the BCTF and CUPE staffs have settled on increases recently.

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

“To allow a one percent (1%) raise to the Trustee Stipend effective July 1, 2015 as per Policy 1.170. ”

Discussion :

- Trustee Hanson did some research on Village of Telkwa, Town of Smithers and the Village of Burns Lake Mayor and Council stipends. She found old trustee data that shows SD54 Trustee stipends to fall in the middle of all other Boards for trustee remuneration.
- Trustee Farrell reminded everyone that there was increase in 2009 and 2001 and they have not had one cost of living increase in 14 years. In addition we have had two labour agreements recently and exempt staff are in discussions and will have an increase some point in the future. He said that he supports this increase based on the cost of living increase.
- Trustee Kearns reminded the Board that they have policy that every year this topic has to come up. They can vote for it or against it but reminded everyone that it is dependent on CPI. If it was to go down their salary would decrease.

5 votes for
1 vote opposed
CARRIED

- **2015 – 2016 School Calendar** – See new business 8.1
- **Utilities Costing** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm outlined recent data involving hydro and natural gas costs. The data indicates a savings of approximate \$77k due to Mr. Hildebrandt's work around energy savings projects. Mr. Margerm explained that with the consumption demand rapidly increasing due to electronic demand (by double), having a decrease in cost is remarkable.

Discussion:

- Trustee Hanson – asked if they have a sense of what the cost was to do this maintenance?
- Mr. Margerm responded that it is based in the AGF. It was basically insulation and weather stripping installation, based on what the thermal cameras found.
- Trustee Kearns added that it is the simple things like adding timers to where they plug the buses in.
- Mr. Margerm reminded that the hydro costs have been reduced through grants through BC Hydro. BC Hydro is very involved with helping us having their experts come in. They say there is not much more that we can do to save hydro now. We are as efficient as we can be.

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Policy Committee Chairperson Farrell, presented the Policy Committee Report from the March 6, 2015 meeting:
 - **Policy 1.100 – Trustee Representation**

MOVED/SECONDED F. Farrell / J. Williams

“To change trustee term length from 3 to 4 years.”

CARRIED

- **Policy 1.120 - Board Meetings** - Update locations for the Board meetings in Houston from 3 to 1 to reflect previous Board's motion.

- **Policy 1.185 – Trustee Professional Development** - Change term trustee term length from 3 to 4 years, increase Pro-D amount from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per term and change attendance at BCSTA events for years 2 – 4.

Discussion:

- Trustee Collingwood questioned the timing of the motion. She thought that the Board should wait until new trustees go to the BCSTA AGM in April so they can decide if they want to go to both in the future.
 - Trustee Hanson read the policy to Trustee Collingwood stating that all first year trustees can go to both.
 - Trustee Kearns clarified what Trustee Collingwood was saying, that everyone should wait until everyone goes down to the spring AGM and trustees might find both valuable to go.
 - Trustee Collingwood asked if all changes are in one policy
 - Trustee Williams questioned the two policies that were included in the Board package.
 - Secretary Treasurer Margerm clarified which ones were updated.
 - Trustee Farrell said that the Board would bring this policy back to committee
- **Weather Conditions** – The BVTU requested that the policy committee discuss a policy allowing teachers not to attend work due to poor weather conditions. The committee concluded that this is a collective agreement issue. No further action required.

- Next meeting, Tuesday March 24th at 3:00pm

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- Trustee's Beaubien submitted her report for her trip to the BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting on February 20-21, 2015.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business was submitted this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **8.1) 2015- 2016 School Calendar** – The Committee reviewed input from several stakeholder^r and found support for both versions. Mr. van der Mark commented that we had a fair bit of response from our stakeholders about the 2015-2016 calendar. The main discussion was about having the professional development day on September 8th, 2015 or on September 18th. The results were split.

MOTION / SECONDED

L. Collingwood / J. Williams

“The board approve the “version 2” option of the draft 2015 – 2016 be adopted as the official 2015 – 2016 Calendar.”

Discussion:

- Trustee Kearns clarified that School will be starting on Wednesday Sept 9th .
- Trustee Beaubien asked if Wednesday would still be the half day format. Mr. van der Mark replied - Yes.
- Trustee Farrell asked if this changes the October Non-Instructional Day?
- Trustee Kearns replied – No.
- Trustee Hanson asked if having the Non-Instructional Day on the first day will cause a loss of opportunity to plan the goals around the students that the teachers have in their class?
- Mr. van der Mark replied that the September Non-Instructional Day is a district day, used for reviewing district goals. Given the transitional staff during post and fill process you could have an entirely different staff in September. There is no easy answer. A lot of other districts do this, it is not unusual. Based on information from stakeholders and the committee this is the way we will proceed this year.
- Trustee Kearns commented that the results were split. The elementary schools will still be a soft start. When we hand out the survey's we should ask for response numbers as well. It gives us a better handle of the breakdown.

- Mr. van der Mark replied that the survey was through the local so it was not our survey. We relied on our locals to do that.
- Trustee Kearns replied the locals may see a benefit of it as well.

CARRIED

- **8.2) Provincial Government Budget Announcement** – Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided a PowerPoint report on the Provincial government budget announcement.
 - - \$101 million net overall budget , \$94 million to teacher raises , \$564 million will be put into education over the next 3 years. Mainly to support teacher and support staff increases
 - Education Budget Facts:
 - \$130 million settlement
 - - \$29 million required by SDs to find in administrative savings (SD54 has to report how we are going to save our portion. Approximately \$133,000)
 - - \$94 million already accounted for in 2014/2015
 - + \$7 million net over all change in funding to school districts.
 - The government will not be funding: general inflation(ie: MSP Increases, CPP Premium Increases, BC Hydro - SD54 estimate \$172k) , Next Generation Network (SD54 cost approx., \$120k) , Excluded Staff Compensation Increases (SD54 cost approx. \$ 82k - \$178k) , or MyEdBC – Student Information System (SD54 Cost – No projection on cost at this point).

Discussion:

- Trustee Farrell - in a nut shell – we aren't increasing any educational resources but we have to reduce administration resources, it seems the work we have done in the past we are being penalized for now. In the end we will tighten our belt and balance the budget but how far do we have to go?
- Mr. Margerm- it is confusing for a district like us. They are targeting districts that aren't efficient. Our worry is over the next two years, how we are going to be even more efficient? It will be tougher on efficient districts.
- Mr. van der Mark – that is the challenge for sure. We don't do anything to maximum. We put things in place for EA's and learner support time – remarkable , we have those opportunities. It is challenging because we get a lot of subsidies because of where we live. We have already done a lot of pretty good stuff but this will be additional challenge.
- Trustee Hanson- why can't you put the savings into the education services? Not just take it away.
- Trustee Kearns- every penny we get comes from the gov't. If they have the money to give us then that will be a great idea. But they don't have very much money. Their revenues are down substantial
- Mr. Margerm – not to penalize district but they think they can be more efficient. Trying to work with the provincial operating budget.
- Mr. van der Mark – we have become pretty efficient, we have already done this. (Procurement cards). It would be nice to put it back into the educational services.
- Trustee Hanson – what does it look like from here?
- Mr. Margerm- Mr. McDiarmid and Mr. van der Mark are developing staffing currently. We figure out the cost from there, the draft budget goes to committee in May.
- Mr. van der Mark- senior staff will come in with recommendations on how we can save funds.
- Trustee Farrell - gets the impression that they want to amalgamated services and districts and even boards. I don't understand what the end game is. What is the school system going to be 5, 10 years down the road?
- Mr. van der Mark –that's hard to speculate. Amalgamate services yes, legal services, procurement services, it is irrespective of this.
- Trustee Kearns - The BCSTA conference call after the budgets announcement was a sad conference call. No one had any concrete suggestions on how to deal with this. BCSTA sent out an action plan. Would like to take that information to the next operations committee and figure out if we want to use it or how to use it. Caution in jumping into something right away. Our next steps need to be well planned out.

- **8.3) – Interior News Article – Minister of Education – Peter Fassbender**
Trustee Hanson reason for this item: topic of communication. She didn't necessary disagree on what Minister of Education Fassbender was saying. Trustee Hanson's goal is communication. It would be really important for the Board to share where we are at, what is being asked of us. Her worry is if we leave it too long till May, misconceptions can happen, it will open the door for conversation. Provide the public with solid information. Separate budget communication and public communications. What's next? How we are going to navigate through this?

Discussion:

- Trustee Farrell – what you are indicating, statement or a response of where he has gone and where we are headed.
- Trustee Hanson – look at a variety of ways to alleviate fears and worries. General Information from the Board. We can look at it during the committee meeting for next week.
- Mr. van der Mark – it is definitely a topic to chew on.
- Trustee Kearns – We partially have dealt with, waiting for a package from BCSTA as we have done in the past. I am okay to put it on the agenda for the next committee meeting.
- Mr. van der Mark – What committee ?
- Trustee Hanson – Will it have to have a recommendation to the Board?
- Trustee Kearns – We can send out an email, so we don't have to wait for the Board meeting.

9. READING FILE

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / L. Collingwood

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

CARRIED

10. CLOSING REMARKS


- n/a

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

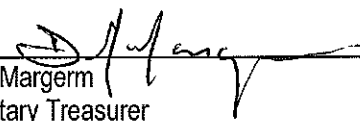
- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on April 21, 2015 commencing at 7:00 pm at the Moricetown Multi-Plex. .

12. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm .



Les Kearns
Chairman of the Board of Education



Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer