



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
MARCH 25, 2014
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS BC

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, P. Michell, L. Collingwood, K. Martinsen, J. McIntosh, S. Yaremco
Regrets: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools
Staff: 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 6:00 pm

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Collingwood / J. McIntosh

"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."

CARRIED

- The Board returned to Regular session at 7:04pm.

2. OPENING REMARKS

- On behalf of Chairperson Kearns, Vice Chairperson Farrell welcomed our guests: Karin Bachman - President BVTU, Barbel Schroeter President CUPE Local 2145. Spring is slowing creeping in and School District #54 (Bulkley Valley) had some success on the Provincial Wrestling mat in Prince George recently. From HSS, Leilah Wiebe brought home a gold medal in her weight class and SSS students Jamie Tersago captured gold in the 54 kg weigh class, while Alex Schell won gold in the 47 kg female class. Congratulations to all three of these students and everyone who participated in Prince George.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Trustee McIntosh requested to amend the agenda and add an additional Trustee Report - Aboriginal Education Council meeting .

MOVED/SECONDED L. Kearns / J. McIntosh

"That the agenda be accepted as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Vice Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 18, 2014; the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes February 18, 2014. There being none, the minutes of: February 18, 2014 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes February 18, 2014 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

District Based Initiatives

- Assistant Superintendent Mike McDiarmid presented the district based initiatives to the board: It has been a busy time here in the District; the annual District Elementary Basketball tournament was hosted by Twain Sullivan and Silverthorne this year; The District is happy to announce that we will be awarding twenty \$1,000 District Dogwood Scholarships this year. The presentations will take place during the week of May 12th – 14th; The regional science fair will take place on April 11-12, at NWCC- Smithers; The HSS Shop transformation has started and SD54 is working towards transforming HSS into a college and industry training facility. The Millwright program is already scheduled for this fall and both SD54 students and adults will be able to sign up for this program. We will be bussing students out to Houston – more information to come in the near future; We had a number of students participate in the Skills BC competition in Terrace, two of the students will be attending the provincial skills championship; The next Education Forum will be held on April 23 at 5pm the Walnut Park Training Centre. This Education forum will be on the School District's expanding trades and skills training programs; the District has begun preliminary work on the staffing for next year; Administration has started to explore the possibility of an Elementary Hockey Academy, preliminary letters will be sent home this week to gather feedback and parent response; As a result of all the meetings that were held on Communicating Student Learning in the past number of months, the District is now offering the opportunity to elementary schools, classrooms or potentially groups of teachers to engage in a pilot project to start in September, the focus will be ongoing direct contact with parents rather than the traditional report card; SD54 is excited to participate in a Superintendents and Senior Administrators Mission to China whereby seven BC School Districts Participate in a tour of schools in Beijing and Harbin. This mission has a lot of potential benefits for our district.

School Based Initiatives

- Assistant Superintendent Mike McDiarmid presented the school based initiatives to the Board: Telkwa Elementary put on a fantastic performance of "**Princess Whatshername**"; March is Youth Science Month; HSS & SSS both competed in the annual Zone Drama festival recently; SSS Boys Curling team won 3rd place at the Provincial Curling Championships; HSS and SSS both sent wrestlers to the Provincials in Prince George where a number of them brought back gold metals home in their respective weight classes; The Grade 8 Leadership class was out in the community delivering food to local charities and delivered a donation to the Grendel Group from the monies they fundraised.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – 30 +/- Grade 10-12 Outdoor Education Students to take part in a Winter Camping Expedition to Silvern Lake trailhead on March 28-29, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
- The following field trip require approval **in-principal** by the Board of Education:
 - **HSS** – 25 +/- Grade 9-12 Students to travel to Italy, France and Spain to live and learn about the countries cultures and to practice speaking French. The proposed field trip will take place during Spring Break 2015.

MOVED / SECONDED: L. Kearns / K. Martinsen

"To approve the proposed field trip to Europe in-principal to take place during Spring Break 2015."

CARRIED

OPERATIONS:

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided the operations report to the Board: 2014-2015 funding numbers have been announced. The District's total funding will be \$21,701,849 which is a decrease of \$330,336 from the current year re-calc. Enrolment upon which this funding is based, is 2,148 FTE students, a decrease of 40.3753 FTE from the current year re-calc – a 1.87% decrease. This is the second year in a row for enrollment reduction. Funding protection is budgeted at \$760,095 for next year.

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Farrell presented the March Community Relations report to the Board: The committee discussed the school districts involvement in social media. SD54 already has a Facebook page but recent studies have shown that Twitter is a more relevant communication forum than Facebook now.

MOTION/SECONDED

F. Farrell / K. Martinsen

“Recommended that Mr. van der Mark create a District Twitter account.”

CARRIED

- The committee also discussed the lack of signage at the SBO.

MOTION/ SECONDED

F. Farrell / K. Martinsen

“Board recommends that Mr. van der mark proceed with organizing a signage for the School Board Office.”

CARRIED

- The committee discussed meeting with the Town of Smithers whereby both parties would be able to share their organizational priorities they believe might be of interest to the other. This meeting proposed meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday April 2, at 6:30pm. Superintendent van der Mark will be making up the agenda and any agenda items should be forwarded to him.

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- On behalf Chairperson Michell, Trustee Martinsen presented the Operations Committee's Report from the March 4, 2014 meeting; Projected enrollment for the 2014 -2015 school year is estimated at 2148 - a reduction of 1.87% students; The draft 2014 -2015 Calendar was presented to the committee, the CUPE union has noted that it would like considerations to minimize the impact of job loss for their employees during any extended spring break.

MOTION / SECONDED

K. Martinsen / J. McIntosh

“To approve that the draft 2014 – 2015 Calendar be adopted as the official 2014 – 2015 Calendar.”

CARRIED

- Trustee Kearns questioned the placement of the September Board Meeting. It is currently scheduled for the fourth Tuesday instead of the third Tuesday. Secretary Margerm responded to the question sighting that the committee meetings are normally held in the second week of September and in addition, the Auditor General will be in house during the end of August. Therefore having a later Board meeting will allow the Administration to have more time to prepare for the committee meetings and Board meeting.
- Quick School Plaque – This will be returned back to the Operations Committee meeting in April when more information is available.

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Collingwood presented the Policy Committee Report from the March 4th, 2014 meeting: The committee continued their discussion on Policy #9.950 Student Choice. The significant change to this policy is that only eligible students will be allowed on the bus. There was a significant discussion amongst the Trustees on this policy. This policy was revisited by the committee as the Transportation Supervisor, Cathy Whalen had concerns with safety and the complexity of the business system and is spending enormous amounts of time on this complex issue. Committee members Trustee McIntosh stressed that this discussion reflects exactly what the committee has talked about. The committee found themselves getting caught up in emotion and they had to remember what the goal of this policy was.....safety.....is what they all want.
- The committee recommendations
 - 1) There would be no policy changes around the cross-transfer within catchment areas
 - 2) Policy would require the District to know which students are on any bus at any time and require parent authorization for students to travel on busses
 - 3) Recognize the distinction between eligible bussing students (living out of town limits) and non-eligible bussing students (living within town limits). Cross catchment transfers would be deemed as an eligible student. Only eligible students would have access to the district bussing system.
 - 4) Transportation of eligible bussing students would only be to-and-from accepted residence(s)
- This will go back to committee to create language. Then go out for public consultation.
- Vice Chairperson Farrell thanked everyone for their hard work on this policy so far.

MOTION / SECONDED K. Martinsen /S. Yaremco

"Return Policy #9.950 Student Choice, back to committee. "

CARRIED

- NEW Policy - Student Trustee – The committee discussed the need for guiding principles around a policy for student trustee.

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- Trustee Yaremco submitted her Trustee Report from her trip to the February 2014 Provincial Council. Trustee Yaremco wanted to highlight that Minister Fassbender announced that private schools will receive 14 million dollars in funding to assist with their hydro costs and because their enrollment has gone way up.
- **2014 / 2015 BCSTA Draft Budget** – The BCSTA Finance Committee requested that the following questions to be answered by each board:
 - 1) ***if members fees are increased by one and one half percent, to which service areas should the additional fund be allocated (for example: trustee professional development, advocacy, communications, standings committees, branch support, other member services)? Please indicate your Board's priority areas for increase.***

A spirited discussion took place amongst the Trustees. Trustee Farrell asked for accountability of where the money is spent. Trustee Kearns reiterated that school boards are constantly bombarded with increases. A little bit here a little bit there. He didn't think it would take a lot of effort to reduce their budget by \$35k. He suggested the reduction to come from travel or AGM expenses. Trustee Kearns also noted the multiple high priced speakers that are brought in to speak at the AGM. As a Trustee all he wants is to talk to other trustees instead of listening to the high priced speakers. Trustee Kearns would speak against the increase. Trustee Martinsen defend the speakers that are brought in as they are good for new trustees and are valuable to existing trustees who have learned a lot from them. Trustee Kearns responded by saying that he is not saying they should not have a well know speaker come and talk to trustees but the last one had 2 or 3 high priced speakers. He totally agrees about new trustees but there should be some kind of limit to the big names that come in. Reduce the conference budget. Trustee Yaremco wanted to remind everyone that the BCSTA directors have just given themselves a raise. Trustee Farrell's argument was, if there is a cut, he was afraid that the area of advocacy and outreach be cut. Trustee Farrell's proposal would be to increase the member's fees but make recommendations on cutbacks. Trustee McIntosh suggests reducing "branch support". She enjoys speaking to other branch members but feels that BCSTA would be requested to come to a meeting not

automatically come. Trustee Kearns reminded everyone that this is the second year that the executive as received raises.

MOTION/SECONDED: J. McIntosh / S. Yaremco

"The board recommends no increase to membership fees."

CARRIED
5 Agreed
1 opposed
1 Abstention

2) Due to increasing costs and declining enrollment, if member fees are not increased, services will need to be reduced by \$35,000 to achieve a balanced budget. This assumes that \$50,000 in government grant funds will be used to support the budget. If member fees are not increased, which services areas should be reduced to achieve a balanced budget (for example: trustee professional development advocacy , communication , standing committees, branch support , and other members services)? Please indicate your Board's priority areas for decreases.

MOTION/SECONDED: S. Yaremco / J. McIntosh

"The Board recommends that the BCSTA reduce in the area Branch Support and director salaries."

CARRIED
5 agreed
1 opposed
1 Abstention

- Trustee Kearns spoke against this motion. He thinks it is important when they come to the branch meeting. He feels more comfortable reaching out to someone he had previously made a connection with at a branch meeting. And suggests there are other areas that can be cut ie: AGM. Trustee McIntosh responded that she could see if this was an organization that has long term planning. They haven't proven themselves over time that they can make cuts. Trustee Kearns responded, we all talked about salary increases. That can be used as an example. If we tell people that we don't want them to come to our branch meeting that would in the end hurt ourselves. The lower mainland has a lot more access to branch support with fewer costs. Trustee McIntosh added that she didn't say eliminate she said reduce.
- Aboriginal education meeting - Trustee McIntosh spoke of the Aboriginal education meeting that she attended on March 26. There is a lot of positive work going on in our district. Trustee McIntosh wanted to bring everyone's attention to the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding. All of the parties that signed the Memorandum of Understanding came to together to work on aboriginal education. There is still a lot of excitement around the "**The Ways of Our Ancestors**" history book. There are less than 20 copies left from the first printing and lots of pressure to get the second edition cleaned up and ready for the second printing.
- Trustee McIntosh handed out two posters to the Board. On March 28th at noon, Dr. Tyler McCreary will be making a presentation on the Witsuwit'en peoples and on April 1st at the Della Herman Theatre Dr. McCreary and the Witsuwit'en Language and Culture Authority will be showing mini-videos uncovered from 1929 about the Culture of the Witsuwit'en People.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1) Trustee Remuneration

MOTION/ SECONDED: S. Yaremco / J. McIntosh

“ The Board recommends that there is no change to the Trustee Remuneration.”

CARRIED

- Trustee Farrell affirmed “we walk the walk and talk the talk”. Five (5) years that we have not increased the stipend.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 The February 28, 2014 expenditure summary was included in the Trustees Board Packages.

10. READING FILE

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|--|---|
| February 28, 2014 Daily Enrolment | Ltr frm SD08 to C.Clark re: SSCFGS |
| Ltr frm SD20 to P. Fassbender re: Funding | Ltd frm SD22 to P. Fassbender re: Stability for Students |
| Ltr frm SD23 to T. Rezansoff re: Thank you | Ltr frm SD28 to P. Fassbender re: Stability for Students |
| Ltr frm SD38 to P. Fassbender re: Correspondence | Ltr frm SD39 to C.Clark re: Bargaining |
| Ltr frm SD47 to P. Fassbender re: BCSC Ruling and Appeal | Ltr frm SD72 to P. Fassbender re: State of Public Education |
| Ltr frm SD74 to P. Fassbender re: Correspondence | Ltr frm SD82 to C. Clark re: Correspondence |
| Ltr frm T. Rezansoff to P. Fassbender re: Correspondence | Thank you Card from Literacy Week 2014 |
| Ltr frm SD68 to P. Fassbender re: Student Stability | |

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Kearns / L. Collingwood

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

CARRIED

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on April 15th, 2014 commencing at 7:00 pm at the Moricetown Multi-Plex.
- The meeting was recessed at 8:39pm.
- The meeting was returned to order at 8:45pm

MOVED/SECONDED: L. Collingwood / L. Kearns

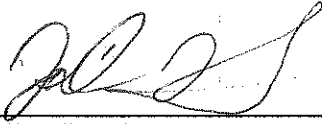
“ That the Board meeting move In-Camera.”

CARRIED

- The Board returned to Regular session at 8:51pm.

12. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.



Frank Farrell
Vice Chairman of the Board of Education



Dave Margern
Secretary Treasurer