

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUNSHINE COAST BOARD OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46)
Held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.,
At the School Board Office, Gibsons, B.C.**

PRESENT: TRUSTEES: S. White, Chair; D. Mewhort, Vice-Chair; F. Heppell;
L. Fielding; G. Russell; J. Scott; K. Sinnott

STAFF: D. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools
T. Hierck, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
D. Ready, Secretary-Treasurer
C. McPhedran, Confidential Secretary

#47 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

#48 Presentation (10 minutes in total) Cancelled

The presentation "Museum School and Literacy – a good match" was rescheduled to the February 9, 2010 board meeting.

Chair White welcomed guests and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation.

Chair White opened the meeting with comments regarding the school closure process. He conveyed to the audience that this meeting was the first since the board meeting of December 15, 2009 and gave assurances that the board was running a transparent process. He reported that no votes or decisions had been made. Referring to Trustee Russell's notice of motion appearing on this month's agenda, he explained that according to the bylaw this is completely valid.

Secretary-Treasurer Ready reviewed the School Closure Bylaw at the request of the Chair.

Chair White reviewed the approved revisions to Bylaw 7.2 (Written Notice of Motion) from the previous meeting and outlined the reason for the change. He explained that Trustee Russell followed this revised bylaw and this is the reason his notice of motion appeared on this month's agenda. However, the school closure procedure started with the older version of Bylaw 7.2 and this version will continue to be followed for this process.

Chair White said the school closure process is challenging as more information continues to be gathered and encouraged everyone to keep an open mind.

#49 Public Question Period (10 minutes in total)

J. Pratt asked the trustees if they feel the nit policy is effective and if not, what are they planning to do about it.

Chair White replied that more review will be done on this subject.

Superintendent Palmer spoke about the Joint Health Liaison Committee and gave a background on the current Head Lice Regulation that had been approved by the board on November 8, 2008.

Superintendent Palmer explained the eight-week circulation process, during which time members of the public are encouraged to give their input. At the end of the eight-week period the regulation is then finalized and brought to the board for approval. She assured J. Pratt that the correspondence from concerned parents had been received and the current regulation will be reviewed. A petition against the current Head Lice Regulation was handed to Superintendent Palmer.

R. Watson commented about the recent change to Bylaw 7.2 and encouraged the board to reconsider the revision, especially regarding school closures and other important decisions.

Chair White responded saying that as the bylaw previously read it was confusing and open to interpretation and needed to be cleaned up.

Sunshine Coast Teachers' Association President, J. Garrels asked what is considered an optimal size for a school to provide necessary programs.

Chair White replied that at this time, with the budget not yet finalized, it is difficult to respond.

An audience member asked how many cuts had come from the government so far.

Chair White responded that it is hard to keep up with the various cutbacks and referred back to information in the September 2009 agenda package where a \$400,000 shortfall to balance the budget had been reported. He announced that the February 9, 2010 board meeting will focus on the 2009-10 budget at which time more information will be presented.

#50 Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Russell/Heppell

"That the agenda be adopted as circulated."

Carried.

#51 Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

MOTION: Mewhort/Heppell

"That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2009 and the Record of the Closed Meeting of December 15, 2009 be adopted as circulated."

Carried.

#52 Reports

(a) Executive Report:

In addition to the information items included in the report provided in the agenda, the following topics were reviewed:

(1) Cheques issued for the month of December 2009.

(2) Expenditures by Object as at December 31, 2009.

(3) Bill 33

Superintendent Palmer reported a class size change at Roberts Creek Elementary School.

(a)(i) Meeting Schedule

A schedule of additional meeting times and their locations was passed to the audience. Superintendent Palmer read through the schedule and gave details of each meeting date.

A member of the audience suggested that a larger venue would be appropriate and that clearer signage would be helpful.

C. Sombrowski asked for clarification regarding the “debate” and whether this would involve the public.

Chair White responded that although it would be a public meeting the discussion would be between the board members.

Notice of Motion – Trustee Mewhort

“That a bylaw to close Kinnikinnick Elementary School be read for the first time at the January 26, 2010 Special Board Meeting.”

Trustee Mewhort explained that as a result of the barrage of letters, he feels that it is necessary to bring forward this motion.

Trustee Russell commented that it is important to keep in mind the configuration of the schools and that the new notice of motion will allow all schools to have a level playing field.

Further discussion and amendments to the schedule were made. A copy of which is attached to these minutes.

MOTION: Sinnott/Heppell

“That the board approves the schedule as amended.”

Carried.

(b) Chairs Report

Chair White reviewed his written report. He reported that the B.C. School Trustees Association (BCSTA) met with the Ministry on December 5, 2009 at which time they discussed the issues that districts are facing.

(c) Board/Committee Reports:

(1) Facilities and Finance Committee Notes – December 15, 2009

Secretary-Treasurer Ready reviewed the written report.

(2) Strategic Plan Update

No report at this time.

MOTION: Russell/Scott

“That the reports be received.”

Carried.

#53 Correspondence

- (a) Sheila Pither, BCRTA President – Letter
- (b) Anne Tower, Vice-President, Programs – Junior Achievement- Letter
- (c) Earth Hour – World Wildlife Fund

Trustee Mewhort reviewed the submission.

- (d) Rose McNevin – Letter
- (e) Stephen Hansen, BCSTA - Notice

MOTION: Russell /Scott

“That the correspondence be received.”

Carried.

#54 New Business – Committee of the Whole

- (a) Notice of Motion – Trustee Russell

“That a bylaw to close Davis Bay Elementary School in Sechelt, commencing September 2010, be read for a first time at the January 26, 2010 Special Board Meeting.”

Trustee Russell explained his reasoning behind this notice of motion and the possibilities that students would have with a larger school.

Chair White confirmed again that all trustees are keeping an open mind.

- (b) Motions:

Trustee Mewhort read School Closure Bylaw 2010-1 Sechelt Elementary School as presented in the agenda

1. MOTION: Mewhort/Scott

“That a bylaw to close Sechelt Elementary School in Sechelt, British Columbia be read for a first time.”

Carried.

(c) Public Meeting Notes:

MOTION: Mewhort/Sinnott

“That the public meeting notes of December 1 and December 8, 2009 be received.”

Carried.

(d) Administrative Regulations for Approval.

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the eight-week circulation process.

MOTION: Mewhort/Russell

“That Administrative Regulations 3380, 2350, 1735, 1808, 1840, 1360, 4700, 5800, be approved.”

Carried.

(e) Administrative Regulations 2280 – Coaching and Draft Regulation - Cell Phone Usage presented for circulation.

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the regulations and explained that these regulations can be found on the website and encouraged public comments. She reported that the two regulations will be brought to the March or April board meeting for final approval. She noted that the new Cell Phone Usage Regulation had been created because of the recent change in the law and that district employees are to follow the regulation even during the eight-week circulation period.

#55 Questions and Inquiries From the Public Relating to the Board Meeting

J. Garrels confirmed that although Regulation 1360 - Distributions of Union Materials had been approved, the SCTA does not agree with regulation.

Chair White responded by saying that the regulation does not infringe on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

E. Brooks-Wilson asked what is the objective or the purpose for a student participating on school teams and will this be included in the regulation?

Superintendent Palmer further explained Board Policy and Regulations.

A member of the audience asked if there can be something in place to help with the conflict experienced between coaches and parents as there currently is for parents and teachers.

R. Emerson asked what the trustees are doing to lobby the government? She encouraged this to be ongoing.

Chair White responded that there is continued communication with the Ministry. He also reported that the BCSTA sent strong motions to the Ministry.

L. Perpett asked if volunteer drivers will be included in the cell phone regulation when driving students.

A member of the audience encouraged people to lobby in the community and suggested that letters be forwarded to their MLA.

J. Garrels said that the budget cuts were quite grim and asked if further public consultations will be considered.

A member of the audience asked what the various school groups can do to prevent an attitude of "us versus them" and what can be done as a community in respect to school closures.

Chair White replied that continued communication with the Parent Advisory Councils is necessary.

#56 Next Meeting

The next Special Board Meeting will be held on January 26, 2010 and a Regular Board Meeting on February 9, 2010 at Chatelech Secondary.

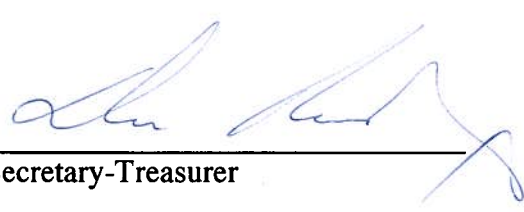
#57 Adjournment

MOTION: Russell

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

January 12

Regular January meeting – 7 p.m. SBO

Sechelt closure bylaw – first reading – vote

Davis Bay closure bylaw – notice of motion – no vote

January 26th - 7 p.m. SBO– Special Public Board meeting to:

- complete first reading of DB - vote

February 2nd – 7 p.m. – Chatelech –

Public consultation to receive feedback on the first readings

February 9th – Regular meeting – 7 p.m. SBO

no debate on any of the school closure motions

09-10 budget

February 16th – 7 p.m. SBO - Special Public Board meeting to:

- complete second and third reading of SES & DB, if necessary - vote