

PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, December 9, 2009 (6:00 PM)
DEO Resource Centre

IN ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chair: Kathie Ward
Vice Chair: Ken Clarkson
Trustee: Susan Carr
Trustee: Eleanor Palis
Trustee: Stepan Vdovine
Trustee: Mike Huber
Trustee: Dave Rempel

STAFF

Superintendent: Jan Unwin
Deputy Superintendent: Laurie Meston
Secretary/Treasurer: Wayne Jefferson
Communications Officer: Seamus Nesling
Executive Assistant: Tina Fuchs

OPENING PROCEDURES

ORIGINAL Motion P182 t09/10

Member (Stepan Vdovine) Moved, Member (Ken Clarkson) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board move the school closure agenda items to be the first item of business on a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 2 (Trustees Ward and Rempel were opposed). The motion was DEFEATED

Added:

- BCSTA Provincial Council Motions Update to Trustee Report BCSTA Provincial Council Items Trustee Ward
- FOIP under Secretary TCE
- Projects and Initiative report under Superintendent

ORIGINAL Motion P183 t09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board order the agenda as amended.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MATTERS

a) Election of Board Officers

ORIGINAL Motion P184 t09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Susan Carr) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board proceed with the Election of Board Officers.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent of Schools advised that in accordance with current laws that she would act as Chair pro tem, that the Secretary Treasurer is appointed as Returning Officer, and that Deputy Superintendent Laurie Meston is appointed as Scrutineer for the election of Board Officers.

The Returning Officer outlined the balloting procedures to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Board for the period December 9, 2009 to December 2010

i)

d) Readoption of District Policy Manual

ORIGINAL Motion P186 t09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board adopt the current School District Policy Manual for the period December 9, 2009 to December 2010.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

e)

The Secretary Treasurer advised that January 15th is when Staff will bring forward information but not when the decision will be made and so the language needs to reflect that.

The Superintendent added that if a school closes an automatic catchment review needs to take place but the urgency is

The Superintendent explained that there is a little bit of difference between the recommendations for Mount Crescent than the recommendations for Riverside. They tried to put many options together to try and prevent having to come forward with this recommendation to close Mount Crescent. The wide catchment review, strong consideration be given to expanding the current Glenwood Elementary catchment to incorporate most of the Mt. Crescent Elementary catchment. This would allow us to maintain the many valued programs, people and culture as is possible, thereby aligning with the

Each Trustee then shared their thoughts and feelings towards the potential closure of Mount Crescent Elementary and indicated which way they would be voting.

Trustee Ward wanted to add for clarity sake that one of the concerns of the parents of Mount Crescent is that if their child were to go to Glenwood, they would have to walk across 216th street. She too has real concerns around that and so she asked for the cost of a crossing guard but was unable to find out.

The Secretary Treasurer responded by saying that he would estimate that the cost would be around \$1600-\$2000 a year. He does not know if they can do it, but there is a commitment from Senior Staff to look at that and offer the safest pathway for students to attend Glenwood.

The Superintendent added that regardless of the cost, they would commit to looking into getting a crossing guard being it is a safety issue.

ORIGINAL Motion P193 t 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Kathie Ward) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to close Mount Crescent Elementary effective 2010-06-30.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5 Nay: 1 (Trustee Huber was opposed)
The motion CARRIED

ORIGINAL Motion P194 t 09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleanor Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That as part of a district wide catchment review, strong consideration be given to expanding the current Glenwood Elementary catchment to incorporate most of the Mt. Crescent Elementary catchment. This would allow us to maintain the many valued programs, people and culture as is possible, as much as possible, while ensuring the safety of all students.' Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.
The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Superintendent expressed that the school is not the building it is the people inside of the school who create it. They hope to move the majority of the school as a group so that they are kept together.

Trustee Ward asked why the entire catchment would not be incorporated into the Glenwood Catchment. The Superintendent responded by saying that they will do that as they look into it, but that they are not sure if they can do that.

move it the other way. Even part of the catchment area will still be given priority.

Trustee Vdovine advised that a motion around giving priority for school choice to the students from the closed school (and out of catchment) had been tabled, because it was said that catchment would only come into play for the schools that are at capacity and the schools around Mount Crescent are not at capacity anyway. Therefore, he was wondering why they would draw catchment boundaries and continue to nail in the message that we want an amalgamation but yet we want to keep the reality is that the students from Mount Crescent can still go anywhere they like.

The Superintendent explained that when looking at catchment, Glenwood is at a similar enrollment number as Mount Crescent. Therefore, they would draw a catchment that would make sense here if all students in the area stayed with their catchment school, there would be enough students to bring Glenwood close to capacity. However, they want people to know that Mount Crescent was a special school and they want to base on catchment. Any student can go wherever they want, as long as there is space.

ORIGINAL Motion P195 t09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Eleana Palis) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion that a transition team be initiated at Mount Crescent Elementary including school and district staff and parents so that the transition process can occur as seamlessly as possible. A roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0.

The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Ward advised that she would like to amend that motion to include that crossing guards also be set up for Glenwood. Trustee Rempel seconded her motion.

Trustee Vdovine felt that it should be a separate motion. Trustee Ward responded by saying that she was not opposed to rescinding her amendment.

ORIGINAL Motion P196 t09/10

Member (Kathie Ward) Moved, Member (Dave Rempel) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion that crossing guards be set up for the Mount Crescent students to cross 216

Trustee Vdovine then stated that he would like to discuss expenditures like this during the budget process. He is also wondering if the time has come for the District to have an in-house lawyer. He thinks this is a conversation that also needs to take place as part of the budget process.

Trustee Ward asked for clarity, if the District has ever charged the public for copies of the report? The Secretary Treasurer advised that is a requirement under the act to charge \$5 for paper copies but that it is not required for the report.

The BCSTA request dated December 8, 2009 has a deadline of December 15, 2009 and the school district will make the best effort to meet the deadline, but clearly the timeline is short. The special legislative committee has assisted in extending their submission deadline to February 28, 2010.

Trustee Palis will be reviewing the work in preparation for the submission of any concerns and issues.

ORIGINAL Motion P201 t09/10

Member (Dave Rempel) Moved, Member (Stepan Vdovine) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the Board receive the Secretary Treasurer's review of the current Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for information on a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 7 Nay: 0. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Vdovine wanted to urge not to express concerns around legislation as it is a process that takes an immense amount of time and energy. The District does not believe we have any concerns, and if so, we should support the view of the public.

Trustee Rempel advised that he would like to have a discussion around this another day so that Trustees can give it some thought.

The Secretary Treasurer responded by saying that he thinks it could wait until the 2nd board meeting in January.

Trustee Ward asked if the BCSTA needs to know whether our Board wants to put in a position and whether that is the only part they need by December. She thinks the Board should let them know that we would like to make a submission.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that he would prepare a letter regarding this on the Board's behalf.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committees to report on.

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Trustee questions

Trustee Palis advised that she would like to make motion around the Riverside school closure because when talking about the Mount Crescent closure it was mentioned to have crosswalk analysis and the District needs to make sure this is done for Riverside as well.

Public Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Chair

Secretary Treasurer