

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 36 (SURREY) HELD IN ROOM #2020 OF THE DISTRICT EDUCATION CENTRE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 5th, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Trustees

S. Wilson, Chairperson
L. Larsen, Vice Chairperson
T. Allen
B. Holmes
G. Thind
G. Tymoschuk

Staff

Dr. J. Tinney, Superintendent
W. Noye, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Ryan, Deputy Superintendent
K. Botsford, Executive Assistant

Absent

L. McNally

[1] **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Presenters & Staff:

In addition to the Table Officers named above, the following staff were in attendance at the meeting:

Dr. Elisa Carlson, Director of Instruction; Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Kerry Magnus, Associate Director, Business Management Services; Doug Strachan, Manager, Communications Services; Karen Steffensen, Assistant Superintendent.

- (a) **"O Canada"**
Trustees, Administration and the audience sang "*O Canada*" accompanied by a recording by North Surrey Secondary.
- (b) **Approval of Agenda of Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Allen requested that item 4 (a) Trustee Reports be removed from the agenda.

It was moved by Trustee Allen, seconded by Trustee Tymoschuk:

THAT the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Cont'd...

[2] **DELEGATIONS**

No items.

[3] **ACTION ITEMS**

(a) Adoption of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held 2015-02-12

It was moved by Trustee Tymoschuk, seconded by Trustee Thind:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held 2015-02-12 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

(b) Relocation of the North Surrey Learning Centre

It was moved by Trustee Tymoschuk, seconded by Trustee Larsen:

THAT the Board direct Administration to proceed with the relocation of the North Surrey Learning Centre to the Surrey Community College Campus located at 9260 140th Street.

CARRIED

(c) Trustees' Honorarium

It was moved by Trustee Allen, seconded by Trustee Larsen:

THAT the Board table the Trustees' Honorarium recommendation until such time as the Board receives further information from the Ministry regarding the required administration cuts for 2015/2016, and

THAT the Board reconsider the Trustees' Honorarium at a later date when the Board presents a balanced budget.

CARRIED

(d) Capital Project Bylaw No. 126835 – 2015/2016 Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)

It was moved by Trustee Allen, seconded by Trustee Larsen:

THAT, subject to Ministry approval, Capital Project bylaw No. 126835 be given three (3) readings at this meeting (vote must be unanimous).

CARRIED

It was moved by Trustee Larsen, seconded by Trustee Tymoschuk:

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126835 be approved as read a first time.

CARRIED

It was moved by Trustee Holmes, seconded by Trustee Thind:

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126835 be approved as read a second time.

CARRIED

It was moved by Trustee Allen, seconded by Trustee Tymoschuk:

THAT Capital Project Bylaw No. 126835 be approved as read a third time and finally adopted.

CARRIED

[4] **INFORMATION & PROPOSALS**

(a) Trustee Reports

There were no Trustee reports as per the amended agenda.

(b) Progress Report Active Capital Projects

Trustees received a progress report regarding active capital projects.

(c) Community Forum Input/Feedback

Dr. Jordan Tinney, Superintendent and Rick Ryan, Deputy Superintendent presented the Board with an update on the Long Range Facilities and Education Plan and the process to date, highlighting excerpts from the draft report that will be released later this spring.

Last spring staff committed to the Board to undertake an analysis of the long range plans for the district. Dr. Tinney thanked Kerry Magnus, Associate Director Business Management, for her team's work on providing key information regarding demographics and facilities. Three areas continue to grow at a rapid rate: Grandview Heights, Clayton, and South Newton, revealing serious pressures. There is continued need for capital expansion.

The District continues to spend 4 million dollars on portables annually with no relief in sight. The Ministry has approved funds for only one school in Clayton while an elementary school is desperately needed in the area as well as a secondary school in the Grandview Heights area. The District continues to put pressure on the Ministry for capital funding.

Cont'd...

The portable inventory in the District and the students in those portables would constitute a District that would be the 24th largest in BC. Many Surrey secondary schools are reduced to flex hours and as a result there is limited space for special needs. Capacity in our facilities and future enrollment trends affect the ability to offer programs as space is required to expand/offer programs.

Three Community Forums were held for public consultation and feedback. Three questions were asked and a brief summary of the public's responses are listed below:

1. Q: What are the strengths of our current offerings of programs of choice?
R: The variety of programs and the fact that they are offered regionally and that they are well established was the consensus.
2. Q: What challenges exist to our current offerings?
R: Lack of funding, communication and transportation were considered the main challenges.
3. Q: What changes would you make to our current offerings and how would you suggest this be done?
R: More programs, more space and more options and variety was suggested.
4. Q: What obstacles might exist to making the changes you suggest?
R: Lack of funding, transportation to programs and attracting qualified teachers were the main obstacles suggested.

Currently staff are looking at the realities facing the District in terms of space and choice programs. Dr. Tinney used French Immersion as an example and indicated that in exploring a space for an expansion of the program, 8 classrooms are needed at a minimum at the elementary level. To continue the expansion at the secondary level, 300 spaces in addition to regular enrollment would be required.

The Punjabi as a second language program requested by parents at Chimney Hill would also impact the secondary schools if Punjabi was to continue through to Grade 11. There would be a need to have a Grade 8 entry level Punjabi class that would continue through to Grade 11 in addition to the continuation of the Grades 5, 6, 7 programs offered. A survey would need to be conducted to determine interest and level of enrollment as experience has shown that students won't travel cross boundaries for Punjabi.

The District is making changes to the learning centres; recognizing that there needs to be a reduction in leased space and there needs to be adequate space for these important programs. North Surrey Learning Centre is being relocated to Surrey Community College. Guildford Learning Centre has been relocated to a new site within 2 blocks of the former site with improved facilities. Cloverdale Learning Center will be relocated and improvements are being planned to the new space. City Central Learning Centre has a new

location as well and the space is a significant improvement on the old location. White Rock Learning Centre is the final centre requiring a new space. The District is looking for a new location in South Surrey.

The District is growing so rapidly; catchments are adjusted every year in consultation with the City. Five boundary changes were made this year. Further reviews will need to be done to relieve the pressure on Sullivan Heights.

PlaceSpeak, a social media engagement platform, was used this year for public consultation and will continue to be used as a vehicle for communication with the community. The District is looking at expanding the use of PlaceSpeak in order to collaborate on a number of issues simultaneously. For example, capital priorities and projects would be highlighted through the platform.

Dr. Tinney and Rick Ryan highlighted other items in the report including: partnering with the Sarah McLachlan School of Music, the need for review of Adult Education Programs, redesign of Surrey Connect, review of the proposed French Immersion program move from Lord Tweedsmuir to North Clayton, the completion of the Resource and Education Centre, updating and re-locating programs for students with special needs, and International Student Placement.

The final report will be presented to the Board later this spring.

(d) Sibling Registrations; Choice Program Registrations

Dr. Elisa Carlson, Director of Instruction, updated the Trustees on the new automated registration process. Currently there are 289 offers that have been sent out. The breakdown for the choice programs waitlist is as follows: French Immersion 257; Intensive Fine Arts 70; Montessori 97; Traditional 46. The District is reviewing sibling registration and Dr. Carlson has researched what the procedures are in other districts. Currently 77 siblings have been offered spaces in choice programs. The percentages of siblings securing a spot within the choice programs are: 48% French Immersion; 47 % Intensive Fine Arts; 42 % Montessori and 31% Traditional. The practises and results are similar to other Districts. Administration will be reviewing sibling registration as it pertains to the lottery in an effort to provide the most equitable solution moving forward.

(e) Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

Dr. Elisa Carlson reported on the pilot project initiated last year for communicating student learning (CSL). A total of 53 schools are involved. The feedback from teachers, students and parents has been very positive as there is three-way communication. A student can reflect on their progress, the teacher can offer feedback and the parent can offer support. This is all done

through an e-portfolio of the student's progress in learning that is available 24/7 on line. Referred to as a digital window into a child's learning, the program has received commendations from the wider community. As a result of this pilot project and the movement to an implementation phase, Surrey School District is nominated for the one of three top prizes given by the Cmolik Foundation - *The Enhancement to Education Award*.

(f) Provincial Budget Update

Wayne Noye, Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update on the provincial budget explaining that BC School Districts will be required to cut 29 million dollars from their 2015/2016 budgets and 23 million from the 2016/2017 budgets. This puts tremendous pressure on the Boards and the government has stated that the cuts must be made in administration. Mr. Noye commented that Districts do not have the specifics yet citing that the details will be announced on March 12th.

Trustee Allen, Budget Committee Chair indicated that Boards have been managing their money and budgets for years and that the government is essentially stripping the Boards of their power. He commented that all Districts are stunned and in shock.

(g) Incoming Correspondence

There were no correspondence items requiring Trustees' attention.

[4] **FUTURE BUSINESS**

(a) Items for Future Discussion

No items.

(b) Future Meetings

Trustees made note of future meetings outlined on the agenda administrative memorandum schedule.

[5] **QUESTION PERIOD**

An informal question period of up to 30 minutes will be provided immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

[6] **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Trustee Holmes, seconded by Trustee Larsen:

THAT the Regular meeting of the Board be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CARRIED

S. Wilson
Chairperson

W. Noye
Secretary-Treasurer

WDN/kb