

## Committee of the Whole- Special Meeting

October 10, 2017 at 6:00pm

Fraserview Learning Centre, 32444 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mission, BC

### Members Present:

Chair Tracy Loffler  
Trustee Randy Cairns  
Trustee Jim Taylor  
Trustee Shelley Carter

### Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson  
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker  
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen  
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

### Absent:

Trustee Rick McKamey

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being held on Stó:lō Territory. There are four First Nation Bands within the boundaries of the Mission School District: Leq:a'mel, Sq'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

One addition:

Item 4.1 - Preliminary Student Registration

**MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended.**

**CARRIED**

## 3. Delegations/Presentations

## 4. Unfinished Business

4.1 Preliminary Student Registration to gather data for use in Board deliberations on the possible reopening of Stave Falls School.

The following rationale was read by Trustee Taylor:

Trustees and staff have stated publicly on several occasions that hard enrollment data is required for deliberations on whether a full or partial reopening of Stave Falls School is financially feasible and has educational merit. Previous experience of the Board has shown that demographic predictions and general population growth indicators are often unreliable. In a circumstance involving a small community and a possible student population that is unlikely to exceed 150, specific individual commitments will be readily obtained and prove to be a very solid foundation for future deliberations.

**MOVED and Seconded that the following preliminary registration process be forwarded to the October 17, 2017 Public Board meeting for approval.**

**CARRIED**

- A preliminary registration for a potentially reopened Stave Falls School will take place between November 20, 2017 to December 15, 2017;
- The registration will be available for both on-line and paper submissions;

- The registration will be open to all children eligible for public education in British Columbia who fall within the acceptable age ranks for kindergarten to grade 7 in the school years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21;
- Registration forms will be patterned from the registration form currently used by the District but, if necessary, modified to provide information on anticipated home address and current school attended.

The topic to gather registration data was discussed at a previous Committee of the Whole meeting and a resolution needed to be brought forward.

The form will be available in a printable version and on the web for online submission. The printable form will be available at the School Board Office and once completed, it can be returned to the office.

Some important information to be included on the form:

- Name of school where student is currently enrolled;
- Physical address;
- The curriculum or frame work for the intent to register;

Additional comments noted:

- Everyone should have input on the process. If there are indicators that school should open, we need to start planning for the school to open in September 2018;
- Need to include children that are three and four years old;
- Request to have the registration available in all newspapers and widely published;
- Request that Stave Falls Association be informed regarding the registration, so they can share the registration survey with established network of contacts;
- Would the intent for enrolment change if the school was opened as an outdoor education school?
- Note there is no door to door Newspaper delivery in Stave Falls;

The Secretary Treasurer noted that efforts will include various communication mediums as well as contacting a data base of individuals who have requested to receive updates on the Stave Falls School.

Comments:

It would be helpful to send a letter to all the parents of other schools that can be impacted to notify them that this is something the Board is exploring.

Q: With some of these schools that have students a far distance to travel, will the board review catchment areas?

R: The Board recognizes the need to have a boundary review.

Q: What is the timeline for the mentioned recommendation?

R: We will collect data November 20, 2017 to December 15, 2017 and this information will come to the Board meeting in January.

Q: Will this be enough time? How long will it take to re-open the school?

R: Budget and resources tie up re-opening a school. It would mean holding back funds with the amended budget. Should the data prove that there is sufficient enrolment to re-open the school, a recommendation would be forwarded to the Board for deliberation.

R: Some repairs to the building are a quick fix while others are not. We haven't drawn a conclusion.

Q: Does the school require exterior work? Has there been any maintenance completed since the school closed?

R: There has been minimal maintenance.

Q: Are the damages to the building a result of the school sitting closed and vacant?

R: The boiler system is something that fails over time. When you re-open any building, it needs to meet today's building codes.

Q: Would you base the kindergarten registration off February enrolment?

R: We are now moving kindergarten registration to January.

Q: Can there be a mail out to all the Stave Falls residents?

R: Yes.

Q: Do you have a hard and fast number for to reopening the school. R: No

R: This is also contingent on the model. All gathered data and possible outcomes will be debated in Public.

R: The Board needs to consider the impact on other schools.

Q: How will this information affect your decision?

R: We can't say how this will affect the Board. The approach we take, is to provide as much information as possible and weigh out all potential options.

Comment: One factor to consider is a preschool setting. Stave Falls does not have these resources in place.

R: We would need to complete a cost and benefit analysis. At Dewdney we spent \$30k in renovations, however, over time these costs will come back to the district.

Q: Would a daycare question be added to the registration form?

R: The problem is that if you add this information, it can be misinterpreted.

A recommendation was made for the wording related to the daycare / preschool question. Sample Question: Would you attend Stave Falls or not? If not, would a preschool change your mind?

Superintendent announced that he and the Secretary Treasurer met with the Stave Garden Group who shared their thoughts about another curriculum format for the Stave Falls School.

The Secretary Treasurer commented about Baragar; a massive information system and a powerful tool that can assist with analysis. It helps the district determine projections. It would be helpful to identify boundary shifts; however, some complications arise from having cross boundaries.

Q: Can we identify how many children from the Stave Falls area attend a school in Maple Ridge?

R: We have some information, but we would have to complete more research. Student information is confidential and if we call the Maple Ridge School District, they won't disclose who is attending their schools.

Comment: Sometimes students attend a school in a certain district because the parents work in the area. It's not always they attend a certain school because there isn't a school in the area.

**5. Staff Reports**

N/A

**6. New Business**

N/A

**7. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

N/A

**8. Information Items**

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2017

8.2 Mission & Silverdale Student Catchment Analysis 2016- 2017

8.3 Superintendent Stave Falls PowerPoint Presentation

8.4 Article

**9. Adjournment**

**Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Rick McKamey

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

December 5, 2017

Date

December 5, 2017

Date