

School District #75 (Mission)

Public Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Minutes

January 8, 2019, 3:30 pm

District Education Office, 33046 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Trustee, Shelley Carter
Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Larry Jepsen
K-12 District Virtual Teacher Librarian, Jennifer Lane
Director of Student Services,Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Joseph Heslip
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

Others Present: Acting VP Kristen Beeby, Diane McCall, MTU Vice President
Ryan McCarty, MTU President Janise Nikolic, DPAC Co-
Chair Chantel Morvay-Adams, Principal Susan McLeod, and
Laura Wilson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:43 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.

The Board Chair advised the Committee that Trustees attended a BCPSEA session in Abbotsford and apologized for starting the meeting late.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. CURRICULUM

4.1 MONTHLY CURRICULUM UPDATE

The Assistant Superintendent introduced Diana McCall who leads the Early Learning program in the School District. The presentation provided highlights on activities and events for little learners, as well as professional development opportunities for teachers.

Trustee Carter joined the meeting at 3:47 pm.

Q: What schools are offering the Empower program?

A: Edwin S. Richards, Christine Morrison, Cherry Hill, Mission Central, Hatzic, and Albert McMahan.

Q: What is the difference between Little Learners and Strong Start.

A: Strong Start is offered by Early Childhood Educators.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Vending Machines

In October, the Committee discussed healthier food and beverage alternatives, as well as postponing the renewal of the vending machine contract until the election of the new Board. A motion is expected to be presented at the Public Board Meeting.

The Committee recognizes that unhealthy options are also accessible to students at school cafeterias and stores. DPAC suggested for the School District to create a policy guide related to nutrition and healthy eating in schools.

5.2 Trustee Liaison School Appointments

That the following resolution be forwarded to the January Board meeting for consideration:

That the Chair of the Board of Education no longer assign liaison schools to individual Trustees.

CARRIED

At the December meeting, the Committee requested that partner groups seek feedback from their members and advise the Committee about proceeding with Trustee liaison appointments.

The Superintendent provided feedback by school principals. Broadly speaking, principals see the pros and cons of having a Trustee liaison representative. In some ways it is beneficial, however, in the past there have been instances where the liaison did not visit the school.

Additional feedback was provided by the MTU President stating that teachers like having a liaison Trustee. It allows for staff to build a relationship with the Trustee liaison appointment.

5.3 Vandalism Cost Details for West Heights

At the December meeting, the Committee requested a breakdown of the vandalism costs at West Heights Elementary. A handout was distributed detailing the costs which are mostly labour related.

Q: Have cameras decreased the amount of vandalism at Albert McMahon?

A: The cameras have not been installed yet.

5.4 Response to British Columbia School Sports Letter

A response letter was emailed to the BC School Sports and the Ministry of Education on January 2, 2019. The letter outlines concerns with the organization's original response. If the decision remains unchanged, the Board requested an exception to BCSS's ruling for the School District similar to what is in place for football for this year.

5.5 Financial Summary, October 31, 2018 - Additional Information

At the last meeting, the Committee reviewed the Financial Summary dated October 31, 2018 and requested additional information about Governance Expenses, Other Instruction Costs, and Capital Expenditures.

Currently the School District is seeking permission from the Province to transfer some of the unused Capital Bylaw funding to fund projects currently being funded by the AFG.

Q: What are Staff's concerns about the offshore student costs?

A: Student enrolment was less than projected. The account does show that expenses are higher, but revenue has increased as well to offset. Staff will be looking at this more closely and details will be provided with the amended budget.

Q: Where in the report is the funding for the roof at West Heights.

A: This funding would fall under the AFG.

5.6 Invitation to Minister of Education, Rob Fleming and MLA, Bob D'Eith to tour MSS

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be reviewed and forwarded to the Public Meeting on January 22, 2019 for review;

THAT the newly elected Board of Education re-issue a letter to invite the Minister of Education and out Member of the Legislative Assembly Bob D'Eith for Maple Ridge – Mission to our School District and tour Mission Senior Secondary School.

CARRIED

The previous Board of Education issued a request to the Minister of Education and Member of Legislative Assembly for Maple Ridge and Mission to tour Mission Senior Secondary School. A Deputy Minister did visit the School District; however, another request could encourage the Minister and MLA to visit Mission.

Staff will issue an invitation to the Minister, as well as MLA Bob D'Eith.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Summit Name Change

Acting Vice-Principal, Kristen Beeby advised the Committee that Summit staff have discussed the possibility of changing the school's name. Staff would like to keep Summit in the name of the school. The excerpt in the report was provided by former principal Lynn Cummings.

The Superintendent of Schools advised that if the name is not being changed entirely, the process may be different than outlined in AP #604 for Naming/ Renaming of School or Facility. School staff are in preliminary conversations and recommendations will be presented to the Board when staff are ready to take next steps.

7.2 Dewdney Parking

Traffic and Parking at Dewdney Elementary is an ongoing problem. The fastest and most cost-effective way is to move staff parking to the west of the old portion of the school and use the existing staff lot for parents. The area in front of the old school is problematic for parking and the west side is the best option.

A discussion ensued about installing a crosswalk so that students walking to school can cross safely. Principal McLeod advised that there are issues with sight-lines and distance from easements. The recommendation for a

crosswalk would require input from many stakeholders. At this time, the School District is able to promptly address the parking issue without engaging other stakeholders.

This item is being shared as information. Staff have already started the preliminary process and do not require the Board to pass a motion to continue with next steps.

7.3 Donations made to the School District

The Superintendent advised the Committee that a parent contacted the School District about donating Google Chrome books to Heritage Park Middle School. The IT department did advise Staff that the School District is unable to support this type of device. In addition, there are privacy issues regarding storing data outside of Canada. This item is brought to the attention of the Board to discuss the parameters for the School District receiving external donations.

The Board indicated that approval of accepting such donations should be approved by the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer as they have knowledge about liability issues and other risks.

The Superintendent of Schools will respond to the benefactor outlining the challenges and liability issues for the School District and politely decline the donation.

7.4 Inclement Weather

The Superintendent discussed the communication process related to temporary school closures due to inclement weather. The process is to contact radio stations and post a notification message to the district website.

AP #317 Temporary School Classroom Closure general guidelines does not reference Middle School students. The Superintendent advised that the School District applies the same guidelines to Middle School students and Secondary students. The procedure will be updated to include Middle School students.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2018

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated December 4, 2018, be approved.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary Treasurer

February 5, 2019

February 5, 2019

Date

Date