

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

September 12, 2017

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

Members Present:

Board Chair Rick McKamey
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Jim Taylor
Trustee Shelley Carter

Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Derek Welsh
Director Student Services, Carolynn Schmor
District Principal Technology and Innovation, Colleen Hannah
District Principal Ab Ed, Joe Heslip
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

Absent: Vice Chair Tracy Loffler

Partner Groups Present:

DPAC members, PVPA members, MTU members, and CUPE members.

Guests:

Kevin Matheny and four (4) Mission Secondary School students.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 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'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Additions:

- 6.4 Bus Issues
- 6.5 Stave Falls Follow-Up Meeting
- 6.6 Cadets License Agreements

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Delegations/Presentations

3.1 Presentation: Mission Secondary Field Trip Update, Kevin Matheny: Island Nation of Fiji

The Chair introduced the presenter; Kevin Matheny, a Teacher at MSS. Kevin thanked the Board for approving the course and confirmed it was a great success. There were no issues to report all students were well behaved.

A video played followed by pictures taken during the trip. Following the presentation, reflections were made by the students;

- There was a lot of division amongst the male and female villagers;

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- There was a connection with the community due to similar beliefs and cultural background;
- Very life changing and eye-opening. The experience was very hands-on which allowed for a different learning perspective and it will be something I can always reflect on;
- Poverty does not dictate how you live; you can still live a happy- fulfilling life with very little.
- Hope that the MSS student body made an impact on the children at a young age with respect to setting examples that all genders are equal.

Q: Is this a first time that the village had seen outside visitors in their community?

R: The village has seen Westerners before, however, this is the first time that someone outside of their village came into their community to build resources.

The Board members acknowledged the students for representing the district on such a positive level and noted how proud they were of them.

4. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Banking Resolution- Borrowing

Board Chair read the banking resolution outlined in the Agenda and noted that the information presented was a house keeping item. The Board does not have plans to borrow these funds. In addition to reviewing this information at the start of every school year, the Board gives authorization to the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer to borrow funds on behalf of the district.

Secretary Treasurer will confirm the date of the Public Board meeting where the Board will base their decision regarding the Banking Resolution.

MOVED and seconded that the Banking Resolution be reviewed and forwarded to an upcoming Public Board meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 Long Range Facility Plan

Board Chair read the Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) resolution outlined in the Agenda.

Due to an increase in enrolment greater than we anticipated, our forecast might be on the light end. The projections should be reviewed in the next few years. Growth is going to skew the projection; however, items will be prioritized accordingly. A consideration for the Board is to set a cap size for certain schools and perhaps for all elementary schools. This is a discussion for the future.

Q: Is it a common trend for school districts to have a max cap for student capacity?

R: It is helpful to have a plan in motion; the figure of 500 students is a random number. At this time no research has been conducted to support this figure.

The following comments were made during discussion:

- Why is MSS not on the plan for expansion? This item should be communicated with the Ministry as a top priority.

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- What considerations can be made at high school level for trade program;
- Albert McMahon should be one of the top three priorities;
- Boundaries need to be revised. If boundaries are going to be a topic of discussion, the boundaries need to be finalized before Christmas. This would allow enough time to plan and order portals for September 2018.
- Is there overuse of one space and underuse of another? Can a portable release enrolment at another school?
- Push for a new High School;
- If a new school is built in Hatzic, where would it be? Would it compromise a public park? What is the value of the land the school is built on currently? So many considerations to take into account;
- As a district we need to review the LRFP plan every two years.

Q: There is a large piece of land cut out in Hatzic; are all future developments being considered in this plan?

R: Yes

Q: Are we considering second floors when expanding schools?

R: Elementary schools have restrictions based on land size. There is a formula that sets out parameters.

The Board cannot approve the plan until the Planning Officer approves the plan. The Plan can be brought to the next Board meeting for further discussion.

Once the plan becomes final, the Secretary Treasurer will need to amend the capital plan so that it is consistent with LRFP. The sooner we submit the plan to the Ministry, the sooner we will receive their response. At that time, the Board can begin further discussion.

Secretary Treasurer suggested moving the plan forward with the three priority schools in mind; Mission Secondary, Albert McMahon, and Hatzic. The Board will receive another opportunity to review the plan before it is submitted to the Ministry.

Q: Will there be a long waiting period to hear back?

R: The Planning Officer already had a chance to see the plan as it is available on our website and responded with some feedback. The response process should not take overly long.

5.3 School Opening Report - verbal update provided by the Superintendent:

- Schools that had space two weeks, no longer have space. West Heights is an example;
- Population of growth in Mission has two known movements. One is in the North in Cedar Valley and the other is in the East in Hatzic;
- Dewdney is effectively full. To grow this space we would have to ask Montessori to move;
- Two new portables at MSS, three more to come and logistics are always a huge factor. One at ESR and two at Hillside;

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- 200 more students are using the school buses - the district needs 2 - 3 more buses;
- 45 more teachers were hired;
- TOC list was reduced as most of the individuals on the list filled teaching positions;
- Due to growth and class composition requirements, MSS is operating at over capacity;
- Successfully hired two Halq'emeylem teachers

6. New Business

6.1 Student Absenteeism

The Board and the greater committee should consider this topic further. How does the school district handle chronic under attenders and what can be done to decrease absenteeism if it is an issue? The Board requested data for absents greater than 20 days per year. This was easily obtained and supplied for Elementary level but still waiting for data from Middle Schools and High Schools. More data will be collected and presented to the Board.

6.2 Solar Array

Certain factors need to be considered;

- Size,
- Age of panel;
- Productivity;
- How to make it a grid tied system;
- Technical expertise is required;
- Computerized displays to show case benefits;
- School needs to stay informed about the plan and this item should be tied in their lesson plans;
- Huge educational component for students for conserving energy;

Comments were made about bringing forward motions for timelines and particulars.

The district has one facilities manager who is overseeing the growth and class composition issues. Specs and details will be delivered at the Board meeting in October.

6.3 Riverside Shop: Additional Course Space Planning

Propose a plan on growing the facility for the future. What are the possibilities for expansion? How can the Board offer more courses and find suitable space? Can the District partner with other organizations for additional space? Build onto facilities for multi-purpose use? More discussions to take place in the future.

6.4 District Bus Update

Additional buses were not included in the 2017-18 Capital Plan. Two buses are in need of repair. If one is repaired, the district would have a backup bus, however, management is recommending that the district purchase a bus tomorrow. A new bus is approximately \$150K.

A separate conversation is necessary to discuss back up buses for field trips and extra use.

Q: Have we considered purchasing a used bus?

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R: The Transportation Manager has been in communication with a Supplier. We are confident that appropriate research was conducted for sourcing a bus. Mission is part of a Purchasing Group; there are a few options available. One bus would not match our fleet while another would not be suitable for the hills of Mission.

Q: Are you requesting the board approves the purchase in principal? Does the Ministry provide guidelines for purchasing a bus and will they pay the district back?

R: A bus is needed today and there are several factors that go into making this decision such as the size of the bus, is it new or used, and what is the most cost effective decision in the long term? Since we did not build this cost into our budget for this school year, the Ministry may or may not reimburse us in the future.

Q: Would we purchase the bus out right?

R: Yes, funds will come out of the reserve.

MOVED and Seconded that the conclusion time for the Committee of the Whole meeting be extended to 6:15PM.

CARRIED

6.5 Stave Falls Follow-Up Meeting

Staff suggested October 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM to commence further discussion. The Board recommended holding the meeting at Fraserview and suggested Silverdale as a back-up option.

6.6 Cadets- License Agreements

Last September there was discussion about the Cadets surrounding the space that group was renting at Heritage Park. Due to certain limitations, staff were in the process of relocating the group to Hatzic Elementary. Unfortunately, the Cadets found a space outside the school district that better suited their needs.

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated June 6, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Public Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

8.1 Curriculum Update (*Standing Item*)

8.2 District Parent Advisory Council (*Standing Item*)

8.3 June 2017 Enrolment Charts

8.4 DoM – Official Community Plan

8.5 Staff Report, District Principal Innovation & Technology- Verbal Update

Technology Update

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- Infrastructure has been built;
- Wifi upgrade is being completed school by school with four complete;
- Challenge found with NGN internet as our new system is far more robust system and the ministry needs to upgrade their system;
- Students are in the process of receiving their new Dell products for student carts.

Q: Which schools are receiving the new Dell products?

R: All the schools are receiving these products. Dell will allow parents to purchase these through the buy-out plan. The model of this computer is Dell3189.

Q- Will there be restrictions on accessing certain applications like Netflix?

R- Yes

Q- Is there a plan in place to provide training to teachers on the use of dell computers?

R- Yes, at this time the students are only required to log on.

Innovation Update

- Proud to announce that Mission received the Trees Canada Grant;
- Two experiential field trips will happen on October 6 and 11;
- Currently we have 45 classes that would like attend but do not have enough buses to transport all the classes;
- The current budget for this field trip \$5000; if we had access to another \$5000, we would have the ability to add another day which would allow more classes to participate.

9. Adjournment

Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Vice-Chair, Board of Education

October 3, 2017

Date

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

October 3, 2017

Date