

Committee of the Whole Meeting
January 16, 2017 at 3:30pm
District Education Office, 33046 – 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Trustee Randy Cairns
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen

Partner Groups Present:

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), Principal Vice Principal Association (PVPA), Mission Teachers' Union (MTU), Canadian Union of Public Employers (CUPE), and Stave Falls Community Association (SFCA).

Guests:

Sanjay Gulati, Executive Director of Mission Community Services Society and Paul Horn, Instructor at Riverside College.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 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

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Delegations/Presentations

The Board Chair introduced Sanjay Gulati, Executive Director of Mission Community Services Society and Paul Horn, Instructor at Riverside College. A video played highlighting information about a new program called Volunteer Mission. The following comments were noted during the discussion following the video:

Q: How do you envision Volunteer Mission working with the school system?

R: Volunteer Mission has an online data base; we would isolate the schools needs based on specific events.

Q: How do you address privacy concerns?

R: We understand that we need to comply with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and our database is secured.

Q: Is there a fee associated with membership?

R: The fee can range from \$60-\$120. Each client is unique and the model would be determined on a needs basis.

Q: What are the next steps?

R: Volunteer Mission would like to connect with someone in the school district to try a pilot project.

4. Curriculum Update- Standing Item

The Superintendent provided an update on behalf of the Assistant Superintendent in his absence. A reference was made to the information outlined in the agenda starting on page two (2).

Q: What six (6) schools will participate in the Joyful Literacy program?

R: Albert McMahon, Windebank, Mission Central, Dewdney, Cherry Hill, and West Heights.

Additional Comment: Last year, six (6) elementary schools were selected. This year, the other six (6) schools are receiving exposure to the conference.

The Director of Student Services introduced Donna Gresham and referred to item 4.1 – Attachment C found on page six (6) of the agenda. The following items were noted:

- Kindergarten screening reintroduced;
- RAT assessment is outdated and the District Psychologists recommended a new assessment;
- SET BC highlights – Albert McMahon Elementary applied for a grant and will receive 10 laptops;
- Smart Braille machinery arriving in January.

Q: Can all classroom teachers access the resources available on the Accessible Resource Centre (ARC).

R: Yes. Teachers must complete the online training available through ARC prior to gaining access to resources. Perhaps the need for access wouldn't apply to all teachers; if a school based team had a need, the Director of Student Services would allow access.

Q: Is ARC available for parents to access?

R: The information is only available to teachers and teacher aides.

The Director of Student Services will attend the district Welcome to Kindergarten day to provide information to parents on certain resources.

The District Principal of Aboriginal Education referred to item 4.1 – Attachment D found on page nine (9) of the agenda. The following comments were noted:

- District Principal for Aboriginal Education also expressed interest in attending the district Welcome to Kindergarten day;
- A video was presented and is available at www.greatspirithand.com;
- Mention of art piece created by Trenton Pierre, Katzie FN;
- Love is the sacred teaching for the year;
- Peggy Janicki working with mentor teachers on indigenizing the curriculum for K-12.

5. Unfinished Business

5.1 Process for Public Involvement – Stave Falls Elementary School

Trustee Taylor referred to the information outlined on the agenda cover report regarding a process for public involvement for Stave Falls Elementary School. The following information was noted regarding the discussion topic:

- Trustee Taylor mentioned that timelines are tight and there is very limited information available to understand the costs and risks;
- The Secretary Treasurer mentioned that the Board asked staff to complete a preliminary registration. The registration data was gathered and it will be presented at the Special Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting on January 24, 2018;
- In addition to the preliminary registration data, a report on the building will be available for sharing at the next special meeting.

Q: Would children be able to cross boundaries and how would busing work?

R: This is something the Board would need to consider.

Q: Will there be a conversation about boundary reviews?

R: The Board has issued previous direction with this matter; a boundary review will occur before the end of the school year.

Trustee Taylor shared a handout with the committee, “Board Support for Rural Schools” and noted this resolution will be presented at the next Public Board meeting.

Q: Is there additional funding for rural schools?

R: Yes, in order to be considered a rural school, a school must be five (5) kilometers away from other schools.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 2017/2018 Amended Budget

Moved and Seconded that the draft amended 2017/2018 budget be reviewed and forwarded to the January 23, 2018 Board meeting for consideration.

CARRIED

The Secretary Treasurer referred to the report attached to the agenda and noted that the 2017 / 2018 Amended Budget must be approved prior to February 28, 2018. Page fifteen (15) of the agenda outlines a summary of the proposed 2017 / 2018 Amended Budget with a comparison to the Preliminary Budget.

Q: For the Teacher Salaries line below the Operating Expense section, how is the -0.67% reflected in the budget?

R: The district added 50+ new teachers, however, they have a lower salary grid. This has decreased the average teacher salary.

Q: What jobs are included in Support staff?

R: Payroll, clerical, secretaries, supervisor assistants, and more.

Comment: Looking at the surplus, it appears that the school district is operating at a very healthy financial position.

R: The Secretary Treasurer noted the current financial position is moderately healthy and the school district is taking a very cautious approach on any recommendations.

7. New Business

7.1 2017 Trustee Committee and Liaison Appointments

The Board Chair referred to the report outlined on page 32 of the agenda along with the attachment found on page 33. The following comments were noted:

- The Board Chair sent an email to all Trustees requesting preferences and only one email was received back;
- A liaison was added for International Education.

7.2 Board Meetings Highlights- News Release

The Secretary Treasurer mentioned that the purpose of the News Release is to provide extra communication on information stemming from Board meetings. Following the meeting in December, there was discussion on preparing a News Release to update the community on changes with the Board Chair and Vice Chair roles. The goal would be to issue a notice periodically perhaps at the end of each month.

Q: Would Trustees have input on this information?

R: The purpose is to summarize information derived from the Board meetings to provide an overview to those who are unable to read all the minutes.

Q: Who is responsible for creating the News Releases?

R: The Secretary Treasurer and Executive Assistant.

7.3 Student Transition Plans: Elementary to Middle / Middle to High School

Trustee Loffler read the recommendation and rationale outlined in the agenda. The following discussion items were noted:

- There are concerns with the current transition practices;
- It's easy to assume that something is already being done or why certain things are done the way they are;
- The Superintendent will bring up this topic for discussion at the next Principal and Exempt Staff meeting to receive input and bring back to a future COTW meeting;
- Within schools, this transition is very easy. Elementary to Middle School is still easy because the group of people involved is smaller;
- The student services department is already talking about this topic and they feel positive about the fact that this conversation has already started;
- This shouldn't be a year end conversation;
- There seems to be a disconnection with Summit, a mechanism is missing to communicate that a student completed a course through distance learning.

Minutes



8. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated December 5, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated December 12, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

9. Information Items

The Board Chair noted the items attached in the section are for information only, no additional discussion took place.

9.1 December Enrolment Charts

9.2 District Parent Advisory Council, Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2018

10. Adjournment

Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

February 6, 2018

Date

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

February 6, 2018

Date