

School District #75 (Mission)**Public Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes****March 9, 2021, 6:30 pm****Zoom Meeting**

- Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice Chair, Shelley Carter
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema
- Staff Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
- Others Present:** MTU President – Ryan McCarty, MTU Vice-President –
Janise Nikolic, CUPE President – Faye Howell, DPAC Chair
– Cheryl Blondin, Principal – Hardeep Grewal, Teacher –
Angela Bout, MSS PAC – Dionne Hairsine

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged that Mission Public Schools is 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

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be amended.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT:

Add item 4.2 Motion to BC STA AGM

Change Item 8.2 into Item 6.5, New business: Development on 10th Avenue/Public Hearing

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED**3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Letter to Minister Whiteside RE Trades

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education sends the letter to Minister of Education Whiteside advocating for the reinstatement of funding by the Ministry of Education to support Trades Training.

CARRIED

Board is ready to send the letter to the Minister and CC to the MLAs. Trustee Renkema would like to thank the TTAC for taking the initiative.

4.2 BC STA Motion

MOVED and Seconded that the following motion be forwarded to the BCSTA 2021 AGM:

That BCSTA, work to ensure that the BCSTA Academy dates do not conflict with the FNEESC Conference dates.

RATIONALE:

The BCSTA Trustee Academy hosted in November has on previous occasions conflicted with the First Nations Education Steering Committee Conference (FNEESC). When these dates overlap, Boards and/or individual trustees must decide which conference to attend. The work of FNEESC is important in supporting our collective efforts to embrace Truth and Reconciliation, and improving education outcomes for Indigenous students. The BCSTA should make every effort to ensure their calendar and work schedule aligns with FNEESC; such a commitment is consistent with the recommendations of the BCSTA's Events Timing Committee report from 2020.

CARRIED.

The Board noted that this is very important to bring forward. Next few conferences till 2025 will not be in conflict.

The Board thanked the Board Chair for reaching out. Strengthening relationship with FNEESC is very important.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

No report, as the closed meeting has not adjourned yet.

5.2 COVID Update

Staff provided a brief update on the COVID situation throughout School District 75. Noticing a longer lag in notices being sent by Fraser Health

again. No report of variants in Mission yet. Vaccinations: request was received to transfer over activities to some of SD75 sites to make processing possible.

5.3 School Safety Update

Staff shared an update on the progress of safety in Mission Public Schools following the recent School Safety Forum. The Forum went well. Lots of information has been shared on the SD75 website. An email was sent to all principals inquiring about their interest to empower students in forums within schools. Will follow up after spring break.

Recommendations at District level: Safer Schools Together are coming out to meet Elementary, Middle, and Secondary. SD75 is reviewing policies and procedures.

VTRA training, workshops for students and parents (will connect with DPAC)

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Holding seats for September

MOVED and Seconded that until June 30, 2021, only, School District No. 75 will continue to hold spaces that were held for students that normally enroll in catchment or choice elementary and middle schools, but were instead enrolled in the Summit Distance Learning school for the 2020/2021 school year; and

that for the 2021 / 2022 school year, School District No. 75 will not hold spaces in catchment or choice elementary and middle schools for students that are enrolled in the Summit Distance Learning school.

CARRIED

As the school district plans and prepares for the 2021/2022 school year the Board has reviewed Summit Learning Centre enrolment numbers and has concluded that holding seats for students at their home schools has come at a significant cost to the district. As such, seats at home schools will be held until June 30, 2021. Should a student remain enrolled at Summit Learning Centre for the 2021/2022 school year, their seat will not be held at their home school. Notice to Parents will follow.

6.2 Flag Issue

Some community members expressed concerns around the use of non-federal (eg pride) or provincial flags on school properties. The Board may wish to consider a response that may include an addition to current policy or direction to staff on procedures on flag use. The Board will need to consider if there are limits on the use of flags based on political

messaging, community standards, Indigenous title, or a variety of other variables.

The Board may:

- a. add wording to a policy such as 2.3 (Sexual Minority) to encourage the use of particular flags such as the Pride flag;
- b. direct staff to create procedural guidelines for non-federal or provincial flags;
- c. create a new policy on flag use in the district; or
- d. leave as is.

The board reached out to other districts. They fly flags on specific days for support. Many will raise flags, but no specific policies are in place. SD75 needs to make sure each group is represented in a respectful way.

The Board directed staff to develop a broad procedural guideline. Board as a whole supports flying any human rights supporting flags.

6.3 School District Calendar

MOVED and Seconded that the 2021/2022, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024 School Calendar be approved.

CARRIED

Submitting calendar is having enough instructional hours. Individual calendars can be adjusted, an amendment can be made. Which community do we align with? Abbotsford/Maple Ridge?

The Board discussed adopting the new calendar for 2021/2022, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024

The more lead-in time we have the better.

6.4 Dress Code

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education reviews individual school dress codes and directs Staff to draft a district-wide, gender-neutral new dress code, written from a Student's perspective.

CARRIED

Any dress code should not be punitive towards girls. The word "distracting" should not be used. Time and place of wearing certain clothing need to be explained i.e. bikini belong to the beach, not classroom, no offensive language.

6.5 Development on 10th Avenue/Public Hearing

The Secretary-Treasurer shared Baragar statistics. There will be more students. 152 single units may generate additional 89 students. High-rise

rental may; however, bring 5 additional school-age children. Low-rise may bring 26 students, 15 to elementary level. There are no direct concerns with the development. SD75 needs to plan with enrolment growth and school capacity. Trails need to be maintained. Shrubbery/greenery cannot create dark spaces. At this point, SD75 does not need to attend the public hearing. Student safety, speed limits, safety issues are being addressed in conversations with the District of Mission.

There is concern about how this and other developments impact HPMS or Windebank area traffic. Local residents may attend the public hearing and express their personal opinions.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes from the Public Meeting of the Board of Education, February 16, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Public meeting minutes dated February 16, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

7.2 Board of Education Special Public Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Public meeting minutes dated February 23, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Minutes from the Trades and Training Committee Meeting, February 9, 2021

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS

Since last Public Board meeting, SD75 Trustees attended/participated in:

- Safe Schools Forum
- Honoured Pink Shirt Day
- Participated in the Fraser Valley Branch Meeting
- Participated in Strategic Plan update
- Provincial Council
- Fraser Valley Branch meeting

- 2 BCPSEA conference calls
- SD75 regular meetings
- Meeting with Leq:a'mel council
- Deroche Cares
- Siwal si'wes
- Sto:Lo re equitable education opportunities and challenges working towards equity to support funding for special education
- Chief's council
- BC AFN
- Black Migration in BC Symposium webinar
- BCSTA Provincial Council
- DPAC meeting
- BCSTA Board Chair Zoom

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

Signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
April 20, 2021 at the Public Board
of Education meeting.