

**School District #75 (Mission)
Public Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes**

**September 22, 2020, 6:30 pm
Heritage Park Middle School and Zoom Video Conference
33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC**

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Trustee, Shelley Carter
Vice Chair, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Julia Renkema (Remotely)

Members Absent: Trustee, Rick McKamey

Staff Present: Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo (Recorder)

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'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

1.1 Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education appoint the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh, and the Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez, as Scrutineers for the purpose of conducting elections.

AMENDMENT

Delete Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh as a scrutineer and replace him with Superintendent, Angus Wilson.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education appoint Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez, and the Superintendent, Angus Wilson as Scrutineers for the purpose of conducting elections.

CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Trustee Loffler and Trustee Renkema were nominated for the position of Board Chair. Voting was conducted by ballot. The Superintendent announced that each Trustee received two votes each. The Secretary-Treasurer referred to Policy #50 which recommended that the Board take another vote. If by the fourth vote there is still a tie, the election will be decided by a lot draw. The second entry of ballots was declared a tie. The third entry of ballots was declared a tie. The fourth entry of ballots was declared a tie.

Two ballots were placed in a box. Trustee Loffler's name was drawn and announced as Chair.

The Board Chair called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson. Trustee Cairns and Trustee Carter were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. Voting was conducted by ballot. The Superintendent announced that each Trustee received two votes each. The second entry of ballots was declared a tie. The third entry of ballots was declared a tie. The fourth entry of ballots was declared a tie.

Two ballots were placed in a box. Trustee Carters name was drawn and announced as Vice-Chair.

MOVED and Seconded that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Item 5.2 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements was moved to the first item on the agenda.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED and Seconded that the draft School District No. 75 (Mission) June 30, 2020 Financial Statements be accepted; and

MOVED and Seconded the final School District No. 75 (Mission) June 30, 2020 Financial Statements including the audit report be submitted to the Ministry of Education by September 30, 2020.

CARRIED

The annual audit of the School District's financial statements is complete. Prior to issuing the final signed external Auditor's Report, the Board must accept the financial statements. The Auditor presented information to the Board at a special closed meeting. The findings of the audit will result in a letter expressing an opinion on the audit, from the Auditor, which must be included in the financial statements. Comprehensive information on the financial statements will be presented when the financial statements are published in the annual report.

A discussion ensued about the unrestricted operating surplus. The intent for these funds is to hold these funds in contingency and restrict them from being spent.

The Board Chair thanked and acknowledged the finance team and the auditors for all the work that went into preparing the statements.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 MSS Seismic or Replacement Project Update

The cost estimates for the Seismic Repairs or Building Replacement project for MSS have been submitted to the Ministry. The difference between the seismic upgrade and a building replacement is not significant. The Board would like to continue to pursue this matter further, especially once the provincial election is over.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 School Opening Update

The Superintendent provided a report on the School Opening for 2020. An update from the Transportation Department revealed that no issues have surfaced regarding wearing masks on buses.

Approximately 10% of students are not attending regular school at this time. Overall enrolment is tentatively up slightly from projections, but the numbers are not stable yet. A number of schools are full, particularly with seats being held. The projected enrolment information for 2020-21 is still a rough estimate due to student movement between their home school and Summit and transfers out to other District's DL schools.

The Superintendent provided an overview of the process for a school exposure. If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school, Public Health contacts affected school community members directly. Regional health authorities also provide school notifications on their websites, including the date and type of notification (outbreak, cluster or exposure) for impacted schools.

5.1.1 International Program Update

A typical year sees approximately 150 International Students in Mission, generating approximately \$2M in revenue (gross). Currently, we have 52 international students with 25 more students arriving in January.

A recommendation was presented that the Board review the International Program Budget in October to discuss how the district will handle a net loss.

5.2 Executive Compensation Disclosure Report 2019-2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Public Sector Executive Compensation Report dated September 22, 2020 be approved and submitted to the BC Public School Employers' Association, along with an Attestation Letter signed by the Board Chair.

CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the Executive Compensation Disclosure summary was amended to exclude Employer Health Tax (per PSEC direction).

Boards of Education are required to complete the Public Sector Executive Compensation ("PSEC") Disclosure Report for fiscal 2019-2020, (year ending June 30, 2020). The disclosure requirements apply to chief executive officers and the next four highest-paid executives, where these positions are paid an annual base salary of \$125,000 or more.

5.3 Funding Protection - Financial Risk

The Ministry of Education has referred to funding protection to protect school districts during the pandemic. The School District would need to lose 284 students from the 2019/2020 September enrolment count, or 303 students from the 2020/2021 budget (and the revenue for these students), before funding protection would be available. The School District is at risk of losing \$2,287,617 of funding before funding protection is available.

5.4 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

The Superintendent reported that the Board discussed the Restart Plan at the Special Closed meeting on August 17, 2020. The Board reviewed the Audited Financial Statements at the Special Closed Committee of the Whole on August 15, 2020; and the Board discussed property, personnel and legal matters at the Closed Board meeting on September 22, 2020.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 District Restart Plan

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education endorse the Restart Plan and the Return to School Safety Guidelines for COVID-19 for Mission Public Schools.

CARRIED

6.2 Holding Seats during COVID-19

MOVED and Seconded the Board defer any action on enrollment space allotment policy and guidelines until the Feb. 2021 enrollment counts are in, at which time the Board and Senior Staff will reevaluate.

Further this motion will be subject to the following requirements.

Requirements:

1. For 20/21 as an emergency measure MPSD will hold seats at schools for students at Summit Learning Centre K-6. The Board and Staff will reevaluate after the Feb. 2021 second enrollment count.
2. Only students enrolled in Summit Learning Centre qualify as they are still within MPSD, students enrolled in other DL's or Home School options will not have their seats retained.
3. Waiting lists for schools of choice are frozen until the Feb. 2021 second count and revaluation, with some possible exceptions which staff identify.
4. Students attending Summit Learning Centre wishing to return to their regular school may only do so at natural junctures, eg: the first of the month or at the discretion of Senior Staff.
5. While the intent is to defer until the Feb. 2021 second enrollment count, MPSD Senior Staff and the Board may pause this exception to policy if demand is unsustainable and cap the variance.

AMENDMENT

That bullet # 2 include the word "District" in front of DL's or Home School options.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded the Board defer any action on enrollment space allotment policy and guidelines until the Feb. 2021 enrollment counts are in, at which time the Board and Senior Staff will reevaluate.

Further this motion will be subject to the following requirements.

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4. Students attending Summit Learning Centre wishing to return to their regular school may only do so at natural junctures, eg: the first of the month or at the discretion of Senior Staff.
5. While the intent is to defer until the Feb. 2021 second enrollment count, MPSD Senior Staff and the Board may pause this exception to policy if demand is unsustainable and cap the variance.

CARRIED

With the Ministry of Education moving to the modified Stage 2 of the BC's Education Restart Plan, to bring K-12 students back to the class full-time, the Board recognizes that some families are hesitant with in-class instruction. The Board discussed deferring any action on enrolment space allotment until February 2021. The SD will hold seats for students that are enrolled in the Distance Learning Program at Summit Learning Centre.

6.3 Borrowing Resolution

MOVED and Seconded that the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer be authorized to borrow on behalf of Mission Public School District

(School District #75) from the Scotia Bank for the 2020-21 operating year, up to:

- a. \$1,500,000 in an Operating Line of Credit
- b. \$750,000 in a revolving term / Scotia leasing

CARRIED

6.4 Anti-Racism Policy

MOVED and Seconded the Board look to implement an anti-racism policy in Mission Public Schools, then have staff develop one in conjunction with appropriate partner groups and bring back to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED

The School District has a Respectful Schools & Workplaces Policy, but the policy does not specifically address systemic racism. The purpose of this policy is to build a foundation of change that is free of racism.

6.5 BCSTA / FNEESC Conflicting Conference Dates Motion

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education recommend that BCSTA in the future move the dates of the BCSTA Academy Conference in November, so it does not conflict with the FNEESC conference dates.

AMENDMENT

MOVED and Seconded to include that the motion be forwarded to the BCSTA AGM 2021.

CARRIED

AMENDED MOTION

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

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education recommend that BCSTA in the future move the dates of the BCSTA Academy Conference in November, so it does not conflict with the FNEESC conference dates.

CARRIED

The motion was originally approved at the Public Board meeting on October 15, 2019 and was forwarded to the British Columbia School Trustees Association to be debated at the AGM. Due to COVID, the AGM was cancelled, and the motion was not addressed. The motion will be submitted to the BCSTA AGM 2021.

6.6 Strategic Plan Review

MOVED and Seconded that the Board direct Staff to report on the measures as stated in the Strategic Plan throughout the 2020/2021 school year.

CARRIED

The Board requested that Staff report on the Strategic Plan throughout the year based on the timing for when data/ information becomes available.

6.7 Public Interest Disclosure Act

MOVED and Seconded that the Board advise BCSTA regarding the School District's ability to comply with the Public Interest Disclosure Act, if the Act is applied to School Boards.

AMENDMENT

The motion should read to advise BCPSEA not BCSTA. Also, amend the motion to read that the School District is able to comply with the PIDA, if the Act is applied to School Boards.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded that the Board advise BCPSEA that the School District is able to comply with the Public Interest Disclosure Act, if the Act is applied to School Boards.

CARRIED

The Province is trying to determine whether Public School Districts would be able to comply with the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) legislation before December 31, 2021.

The School District has a whistleblower protection policy 2.6, which is scheduled to be updated. As such, the School District should be able to comply with the legislation, if the act is extended to be applicable to school districts. Staff will conduct a review of whistleblower policy and bring forward recommendations to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Public meeting minutes dated June 16, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

7.2 Board of Education Special Public Meeting Minutes, June 30, 2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Special Public meeting minutes dated June 30, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS

Trustees reported on:

Attending Committee of the Whole meetings, the Mission Community Foundation bursaries, Si'wal Si'wes meeting, BCSTA Zoom Conferences, spending time following the media and the information issued by the Health Minister.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was asked regarding the MSS Project. Would a change in government affect what work has been conducted by the Board to date? There are a lot of unknowns if a new government is voted in. There is uncertainty and it's a possibility this could affect the work that has been completed.

A question was asked about the international students enrolled in the online learning program through Kamloops. The School District planned for a larger number of international students. We have space to accommodate these students should they attend in-person. Any international students coming to the SD need to complete the 14-day quarantine.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
October 20, 2020 at the Public
Board meeting.