

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

December 14, 2021, 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: MTU President, Ryan McCarty, MTU Vice President,
Shannon Bowsfield, CUPE President, Nansy Gibson,
Principal, Rob Clark, Principal, Angela Condon, DPAC Chair
Cheryl Blondin, Brooke C., Candace DPAC, Sandra Burritt

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.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be amended.

AMENDMENT: Added Item 6.5 Provincial Online Learning Hub

CARRIED.

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Trustee Professional Development Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Trustee Professional Development Policy be approved.

CARRIED

4.2 Menstrual Products Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Menstrual Products Policy be approved.

CARRIED

4.3 Trustee Remuneration and Benefits Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Trustee Remuneration and Benefits Policy be approved.

CARRIED

4.4 Communications and Public Participation Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Communication and Public Participation Policy be approved.

CARRIED

A question was asked if stakeholders should be listed? Staff will have specific procedures drafted.

4.5 Public Interest Disclosure Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Public Interest Disclosure Policy be approved.

CARRIED

4.6 Management Professional Development Policy

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Management Professional Development Policy be approved.

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

Staff could not report from the Closed meeting, as the Closed Meeting was recessed at 6:00 pm and will continue after the public meeting adjourns.

5.2 COVID Update

The Superintendent provided an update on the Covid19 situation in SD75. Fraser Health is seeing fewer cases in the Fraser Valley. Chilliwack is leading in vaccination.

While there is evidence that Omicron may have the morbidity of other strains, tests have mostly been on younger patients, and it is highly contagious, which is a concern for hospitalizations. It is being closely monitored by the health authorities.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Stave Falls Catchment Boundary Adjustment to include Steelhead Area

MOVED and Seconded THAT the proposed school catchment boundary change to move the Steelhead area from the Albert McMahon Elementary School catchment to the Stave Falls Elementary School catchment be approved in principle;

AND THAT additional consultation and engagement with the Steelhead and Stave Falls area school community regarding the school catchment boundary change be initiated;

AND THAT a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled in January for further consultation and engagement with the school community regarding the school catchment boundary change.

CARRIED

January Tuesdays are quite full, so the special meeting may have to be scheduled on another day.

A comment was made about the Little Willows Daycare in Stave Falls Elementary - With increased enrolment, we need to talk about accommodating the daycare. At Webster's Corner, Little Willows is housed in a portable. The daycare is a very important component of the West side of the district.

A question was asked about the proposed bus times for pickup/drop-off.

6.2 Dewdney Catchment Boundary Adjustment to include Durieu Area

MOVED and Seconded THAT the proposed school catchment boundary change to move the Durieu area from the Hatzic Elementary School catchment to the Dewdney Elementary School catchment be approved in principle;

AND THAT additional consultation and engagement with the Durieu and Dewdney area school community regarding the school catchment boundary change be initiated;

AND THAT a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled in January for further consultation and engagement with the school community regarding the school catchment boundary change.

CARRIED

There will be future special meeting(s) to discuss with the community in January. The Board is looking forward to the discussion.

6.3 Procurement to purchase electric vehicle replacement

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Board direct staff in future procurements to purchase electric vehicle replacement for Bus and Fleet whenever feasible.

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Cairns brought the motion to purchase electric vehicles forward to show the young generation leadership in environmentally friendly transportation. Budget is an issue; however, the direction ties into the Board's Strategic Plan, with regards to environmental stewardship.

6.4 Exploring placing of a House Post to the SBO

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Board engage with Leq'á:mel, Matheqwí, Qwó:ltl'el and Sq'éwlets, and the Siwal Si'wes Advisory Council, to explore the placement of a house post at the Board of Education Office.

CARRIED

This action will show we are committed and meaningful in the process of reconciliation. A house post is a welcome to the house. In that, a story has to be told. We would like to express the value of the building to the education of students.. A post would welcome the community to the education place, to create a sense of belonging. Students should be encouraged to help create the post through the curriculum. Trustee

Liaison McKamey feels this may be a big step in engaging with the First Nations.

A question was asked about the cost of a house post. The Leq:a'mel Nation is connected with a logging company, otherwise, the province of BC or another donor may supply the cedar. If a significant artist was commissioned, the cost could reach 6-figures. If the wood is donated, it may be a reasonable cost. The Board chair inquired about the option of allocating the money (cost of this project) for enhancing the Indigenous student academic achievement and recommended discussing with the First Nations, where they would prefer to spend this money.

A comment was made that this would be a positive movement showing support of the Indigenous community. There are 3 artists in the area, but as we move on and engage the communities, we may get the communities to take ownership of the project as well. The cost may be similar to the totem pole at St. Mary's or Coqualeetza. Engaging students in creating the house post is an important step.

6.5 Provincial Online Learning Hub

MOVED and Seconded THAT Mission Public Schools submit to the Ministry of Education an expression of interest for Mission Public Schools to become a Provincial On-Line Learning Hub.

DEFEATED

The Ministry of Education has issued a call for expressions of interest for the provision of Provincial On-Line Learning Schools. The expression of interest must be submitted by December 17th, 2021, and a full proposal in January 2022. Changing to a Provincial model would require significant changes to the current Distance Learning program offered through Summit Learning Centre.

The Superintendent discussed the future of distance learning and how it will be available to students. He also discussed the numerous hurdles in the process, and the lack of scope and scale as compared to neighbouring school districts.

The Moodle model - there would be budget implications in retraining staff. In the future, the Province may looking into creating an online school district.

MPSD can still service MPSD students, but cannot provide online service to students outside of the district.

There will be other districts interested in implementing the DL hub (Abbotsford, Maple Ridge).

7. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

7.1 Board of Education Public Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2021

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

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 FNLC Letter to Minister Whiteside Regarding FSA

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS

Trustee activities this last month included:

Various FESL and BCSTA meetings

Extensive communications regarding Hwy 7 closure to essential travel only with the Mayor, MLA Alexis, BCSTA President,

Nov 18 - Parr Neighbourhood development meeting

Nov 24 - Flooding update with Minister Whiteside

Nov 26 - Vaccine update for 5-11-year-olds with Minister Whiteside

Nov 30 - Joint Meeting with City of Mission

Dec 2-4 - BCSTA Academy, FV Branch meeting

Dec 7 TTAC presentation

Dec 8 City of Mission Transit plan zoom open house

Dec 10 Generation of Change filming at XÁ:ytem

Dec 13 - MLA D'eith reached out for an update on the replacement of MSS

Dec 13 DPAC meeting - discussion about teacher shortages

Dec 14 the Siwal Si'wes luncheon

Mission community foundation,

Heritage committee

Leq'amel meeting about the history of Halq'emeylem

Sumas First Nation meeting

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. QUESTION PERIOD

A question was asked about the outcome of item 6.1. It was clarified, that the Stave Falls boundary adjustment was approved in principle and that the further consultation process is being initiated.

A question was asked about children already enrolled in a school in the district being affected by the boundary change. This will all be discussed in future meetings in January.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and wished everyone happy holidays. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
January 18, 2022 at the Public
Board of Education meeting.