

School District #75 (Mission)

Public Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes

**September 21, 2021, 6:30 pm
Heritage Park Middle School
33700 Prentis Avenue, Mission, BC**

Members Present: Trustee, Tracy Loffler
Trustee, Shelley Carter
Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema

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

Others Present: MTU President, Ryan McCarty; DPAC Treasurer, Jacquelyn Wickham; CUPE President, Nansy Gibson

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chairperson Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairperson 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.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh sends his regrets that he cannot attend the meeting.

1.1 Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

MOVED and Seconded that Superintendent Angus Wilson and Assistant Superintendent Karen Alvarez be appointed as Scrutineers for the purpose of conducting the Board Chair and Vice-Chair elections.

CARRIED.

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for the position of Board Chair. A nomination for Tracy Loffler as Board Chair was received. No other nominations were received. Tracy Loffer was acclaimed as the Boad Chair.

Tracy Loffler continued to chair the meeting and the election of the Vice-chair position.

Two nominations were received for Vice Chair: Randy Cairns and Shelley Carter. An election by ballot was conducted. Randy Cairns was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

MOVED and Seconded that the ballots for the vice-chair election be destroyed.

CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be amended.

CARRIED.

AMENDMENT 1: Item 1.1: Substitute Superintendent Angus Wilson to replace Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh as a scrutineer.

AMENDMENT 2: Item 5.6: Correct year in Recommendation from 2020-21 to 2021-22

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

During July 15, 2021, Special Closed meeting of the Board of Education of School District 75 (Mission), personnel matters were discussed.

During September 14, 2021, Special Closed meeting of the Board of Education of School District 75 (Mission), financial matters were discussed.

During September 21, 2021, Closed meeting of the Board of Education of School District 75 (Mission), Property, Personnel, and Student Matters were discussed.

5.2 School Opening Report

The Superintendent presented an updated enrolment chart and reviewed the school opening report.

5.3 COVID Update

The Superintendent clarified the current mask mandate, shared information about vaccination clinics being held at MSS, HMS and HPMS. To date, some emails have been received from parents with concerns about mask-wearing and mandating vaccines. The vaccinations are offered to students who want them but are voluntary.

SD75 dealt with a few protesters, most of which have spoken to RCMP. A few were informed to stay off the school premises.

SD75 shares updates as we receive them from the Ministry of Education, the Province of BC, or Fraser Health. Notifications will be different this year; however, Fraser Health will resume sending exposure notifications.

There has been at least 1 exposure in about 45% of our schools. Fraser Health has been requesting a lot of information from the schools.

Most exposures took place in K, Gr1.

5.4 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED and Seconded that the draft School District No. 75 (Mission) June 30, 2021 Financial Statements be accepted.

CARRIED

Trustees have met with auditors. Once the Board accepts the Statements, the auditors will provide a signed, finalized audit report. On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the Annual Report will be presented with the finalized Financial Statements.

The Auditor had no cause for concerns. The auditor praised the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for smooth and transparent co-operation. Trustee Renkema pointed out that SD75 still needs to be cost-conscious, as the current surplus was created by the unique situation created by the pandemic.

5.5 Executive Compensation Disclosure

MOVED and Seconded, that the Public Sector Executive Compensation Report dated September 21, 2021 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 noted that this is an Annual disclosure. She also acknowledged that the Superintendent took a partial payout of vacation leave, as taking a vacation last year was near to impossible. The trustees

stressed the importance of staff taking vacations for their mental health and wellness.

5.6 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 2021-22 operating year, up to:

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

CARRIED

This is an annual operating procedure, and the line of credit increase is to provide a cushion for unexpected expenses.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Sept.30 Day of Truth and Reconciliation

MOVED and Seconded that the 2021/2022 District Calendar be amended to change September 30th from an instructional day to a statutory holiday.

CARRIED

6.2 Hatzic Middle School Incident update

September 14, 2021, there was a Hold & Secure Incident at HMS. The Superintendent informed the Board and Public that Staff and Police were very professional and everything went as smoothly as it could have possibly gone. All Staff and the Principal did an excellent job handling the situation.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Board of Education Special Public Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education Special Public meeting minutes dated June 22, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Bylaw, Policy & Procedure Review and Updates

Secretary-Treasurer started doing Policy work a year and a half ago. Some of this work has been on hold throughout COVID. Extra Committee of the Whole meetings have been scheduled for the review.

October 12, October 26, November 23, 2021

8.2 Boundary Review - Durieu and Steelhead - Next Steps

At COTW, September 14, 2021, The Secretary-Treasurer presented all recent information regarding boundary realignment due to substantial growth in several areas of Mision, such as Stave Falls and Hatzic. We may need to wait until November to get the latest Baragar numbers. Special COTW (Boundary Review) Meetings have been scheduled for October 26 and November 30, 2021.

Trustees are is in favour of continuing the process of the possible school catchment boundary realignment for the Durieu and Steelhead areas.

8.3 New Public Engagement Portal

SD75 is starting to utilize a new public engagement portal. All of the Boundary Review Information provided at the Committee of the Whole will soon go to the <http://engage.mpsd.ca> portal for input from the community, so the board can make their decision.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

10. **COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS**

- First Nations meetings, LMS (Kwantlen, Matsqui, LFN)
- National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
- Siwal Si'wes September 14
- Volunteer for FESL Review Group meetings
- BCSTA meetings
- Board Chairs Zoom calls
- Orange Shirt Day Planning meeting Sept 8
- DPAC meeting Sept 13

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Clarification was sought for the Operating Surplus in the Financial Statements. A lot of positions could not be filled last year, a significantly lower number of sick-leave absences, and COVID funding from the government arriving late Jan/Feb have all created the operating surplus. Spending has not been initiated yet.

A question was asked about a different approach to projecting more accurate enrolment: If we overestimate and fall short (i.e. 2011-2012), we result in a deficit. We budget cautiously and conservatively and the Ministry of Education's projections are even more conservative than ours.

Baragar data: Last year, \$160,000 came from the development. This year, we received \$170,000. Indicating even more school enrolment increases in the future. The first week of school has always been difficult to plan for, and a lot of the enrolment adjustments take place instantly, as people move into the area.

A question was asked about the plan going forward for Middle Schools & High School? Is it in the best interest of the community to build such a large high school? There was a lot of thought put into the decision of having one Secondary School. Students had limited access to classes and were leaving the district due to not being able to get the courses they desired. MSS - we are advocating for replacement plus a substantial increase in capacity.

Mission West projects to have space for new schools. MOE provides funds only once the district is experiencing struggles. There is a plan of replacement / expansion of several elementary schools.

A question was asked about Covid Issues - everyone who has attacked staff regarding masks etc is known to police. Are these reported to the Government or the MOE Covid Information Group? The Deputy Minister is aware. There has certainly been information flow.

A question was asked about the lack of Supervision Assistants - is there a plan? SD75 is facing a similar challenge as we have with bus drivers. Fundamentally, we need people to apply and stick with the positions. There is no legal requirement to have a supervision assistant. If a school has a long spell of non-supervision, the Principal needs to let the District know. HR is working on campaigns to attract more people. We are also asking EAs to help.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
September 28, 2021 at the Special
Public Board of Education meeting.