

School District #75 (Mission)
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021, 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice-Chair, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Julia Renkema
Trustee, Shelley Carter (joined 6:52 pm)

Members absent: Trustee, Rick McKamey

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

Others Present: MTU Vice President, Shannon Bowsfield, Acting Principal,
Chandy Ritter, Principal, Tricia Alderson, Principal Jordan
Klassen, Principal, Angela Condon, Principal, Shane Sliziak,
DPAC Chair, Cheryl Blondin, CUPE President, Nansy
Gibson

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.

Trustee McKamey sent regrets for not attending, and Trustee Carter apologized for arriving late.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 School Enrolment Projections

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the long-range enrolment projection for Dewdney/Hatzic/Albert McMahon and Hatzic Elementary Schools. The projections provided are a simulation. We have exceeded our enrolment projections from 5 years ago, and are currently getting even more students.

It was noted that portables are covered by operating funding, not from Facilities. Long-Range Facilities plan: the Ministry has not responded, so the plan submitted was not approved. We should have long-range projection updates in January.

A comment was made that our numbers seem conservative. Baragar projections may not be entirely accurate, as, in the past, we projected more, and fewer actual students registered. Until we have current Baragar data, we cannot do any projections. Based on Baragar data, we have been limiting cross-boundary students at Hatzic Elementary.

At Stave Falls, we would impact the Childcare on-site, as we would be adding 2 classrooms. Chair Loffler encouraged partners to provide input.

Shelley Carter joined the meeting at 6:52 pm.

5.2 Boundary Review - Steelhead Area to Stave Falls

MOVED and Seconded THAT the following resolution be forwarded to the December Board meeting for consideration:

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

If all students from the Steelhead area transferred to Stave Falls, we would need 2 new classrooms.

A comment was made that the daycare at Stave Falls is very important in the area, as currently there is not enough childcare available in Mission. SD75 would need grant funding in order to be able to accommodate the daycare should the boundary change take place. The Secretary-Treasurer has been having discussions with the City of Mission about possibly building a community building on the 5-acre city parcel that could incorporate a daycare.

A question was asked about the overall boundary changes. We have done a review 3 years ago. We see a shift in the urban core, where we see changes at Mission Central and Windebank. The schools of choice also have an impact on the catchments.

A comment was made that displacing a daycare would likely cause the families to remove the children from the school. Is there a way that we could provide daycare? There is Ministry funding available for the facilities; however, the biggest restraint SD75 faces is staff time.

In Silverdale, Stave Falls and Dewdney, we have before and after-school programs. Preschool during the day. The actual daycares are for children that are not associated with the schools at all. Afterschool programs sometimes run in the gym or a library. We need to rebalance the enrolment of the school-age children at the sites. Hatzic Elementary would need a major remediation, sprinkler system, and therefore, full replacement seems like a better option.

A question was asked about enforcing cross-boundary realigning to balance the catchments. Certain schools have put limits on cross-boundary students they can accept. Consultation needs to happen, as some parents may not take the move favourably.

A comment was made about some schools overloaded with children with designations, and remedy. As for the seamless day program - there seem to be problems with sharing classrooms. Other districts have piloted the Seamless Daycare program.

A comment was made that we are trying to be proactive vs reactive - we need to think about what is in the best interest of the students. What impact would moving have on the students?

The technical part in between regulations is busing. If the boundaries shift, the buses and other resources will have to change.

Cross-Boundary: 5-6yrs ago, there were many cross-boundary students in all the schools. As they got tighter, we have become very selective about which cross-boundary students were allowed in. Albert McMahon has 700 students living in the catchment, and in this particular area, the cross-

boundary has alleviated the pressure. When Stave Falls opened, parents could attend Silverdale, but the bus was not guaranteed. Kindergarten classes at Stave Falls are now full, and many are living in the catchment as well.

A comment was made that a large school is hard to navigate. There will always be a need for a cross-boundary. If anything is done quickly, it creates stress for families. Some families would have done anything to stay at their school.

CHE cross-boundary is different than at AME. A lot of Kindergarten families assume they get accepted. People seem to "shop around" for where they want to go.

We are reminding people that cross-boundary needs a yearly renewal. AME has no cross-boundary allowed due to space.

The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that if approved in principle - there will be targeted communication to all parents affected. There will be an invite to specific meetings. The Transportation Manager will do route calculations. All this information will be published on ENGAGE MPSPD. The Board can review all the concerns and make their decision based on this. We cannot make a decision before we hear from the parents.

5.3 Boundary Review - Durieu to Dewdney

MOVED and Seconded THAT the following resolution be forwarded to the December Board meeting for consideration:

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

Analysis was done based on what has been happening this year. We would have at least one additional classroom for next year. Montessori daycare and the outdoor program draw students to Dewdney.

The board discussed past boundary changes, where even though hard decisions were made, children have managed to adjust and flourished post-move. Trustee Carter would like to see even Durieu re-open one day

(note: extensive upgrades would be necessary), as there are still families in the area who have small children. Dewdney has the room for 3 classrooms upstairs.

We will be consulting further. The process is transparent and thorough. Dewdney: if families have an option given to stay or move, many will decide to stay where they are. No matter what decision is made, someone will be upset for a while. Dewdney is ready to welcome more students. Dewdney can offer things that other schools cannot. There is one classroom downstairs. Also, there are spaces used by the ISP room for vulnerable students.

The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that Stave Falls and Dewdney are both rural schools with unique programs. They have the capability to cater to the rural lifestyle. Some of the families choose to live in rural areas. We are realigning rural students with their rural school, instead of forcing them to move into the urban area.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
January 11, 2022, at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.