

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting (Public)

Minutes



Special Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 27, 2018 at 6:00pm
District Education Office, 33046 – 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present:

Chair Tracy Loffler
Trustee Rick McKamey
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Jim Taylor
Trustee Shelley Carter

Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being 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 adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Staff Reports

3.1 Stave Falls Elementary – School Board Report

The Secretary Treasurer noted that staff revised the report with additional information as discussed at the last meeting. A summary of the report is outlined on page 18 of the Agenda. Staff reviewed the building maintenance costs and do not recommended pairing down the costs any further. There is a concern that there are many unknowns regarding repairs and if needed facilities would come back to the Board to request additional funding.

Some start-up costs could be deferred a little further as they are dependent on enrolment. Most of the IT needs are requirements with very little deferred. Both a laptop cart and an iPad cart are required for educational purposes.

We know that in the 1st year the funding for a rural school is not available. We will need approximately \$800,000 to cover the start-up costs. The budget would come from two sources:

1. Unrestricted operating surplus
2. Local capital reserve

There are enough funds available if the decision is to open the school immediately. Page 19 of the Agenda shows options for a 2018 school start up or a 2019 school start up.

The school district will need to add one bus at a minimum. Some unknown factors are:

- What information will the seismic review return,
- We are unable to confirm the roof and the timbers are tied to the walls,

- Inspection in the basement for floor joist,
- The septic system needed a major upgrade prior to the school being close. A full inspection is required.

The Secretary Treasurer offered to answer specific questions that were not explained in the report.

The Chair asked the Board for input on the report.

Trustee Cairns – Satisfied with the report and recognizes that the figures are just estimates. If we are going to open the school, it needs to be in proper operating condition.

Trustee Taylor- Thanked staffed for their work. We can always be nit-picky about costs but believes there is enough information to make a decision.

Trustee Carter- Researched information about different school districts around the province and found South Canoe is considering re-opening an elementary school. Are re-opening cost items consistent around the province?

R: Our costing needs have not been compared to other districts. The list of items was prepared by facilities staff and the costs are unique to our district.

Superintendent- While each district has unique collective agreements, the services are relatively consistent across the province.

Trustee McKamey- Acknowledged staff for their efforts on preparing the report in such a short timeframe. The report was released yesterday and more time is required to thoroughly review the information.

Comment- The public is impressed with the information. MTU is supportive for re-opening the school and a motion will be presented at tomorrow's union meeting. Would like to see the Board open the school.

Comment- Some schools did not receive iPads. Our school had to fundraise for them. Are we becoming a school district of have and have-nots?

The Secretary Treasurer was supportive of the comment and noted that IT has been consulting with Teachers. The feedback is that younger children are working better on tablets and this will become the new standard.

Q: What will be the deficit for Stave Falls Elementary school if the enrolment is less than 100 students?

The Secretary Treasurer referred to page 7 of the agenda that provides information on revenue and expense examples based on student enrolment numbers.

Q: Why was the potential daycare income excluded from the numbers?

R: Currently the revenue generated from any daycare is recognized as district revenue, rather than revenue generated for the specific site. These practices have been established in the past.

Q: How is the funding for buses generated?

R: It is a district fund; some schools offering bussing and some do not.

A bus was purchased at the start of the school year. If the school was re-opened, the district would need one more bus.

Comment- If we were just looking at financial contributions, then Riverside would not be in the place it is today. The Board seeks positive outcomes.

Q: What would be your ideal plan for Stave Falls Elementary?

Trustee McKamey- The facility needs to be repaired to be functional as a school. The process is going as quick as it is possible. If we open, I need to be sure that I am putting my support behind a successful facility without putting the entire district at risk.

Q: If the Board adjusted catchments, would students who attend Silverdale be grandfathered in?

R: Most likely, that has been past practice.

Trustee Taylor- We have been through an intense process in the past year, at some point we need closure.

The Assistant Superintendent entered the room 6:50pm.

Q: How would MPSD promote Stave Falls to other school districts?

Several responses noted regarding the question:

- It is not acceptable to advertise to other school districts,
- MPSD aims to keep good relationships between neighbouring districts,
- Usually this happens through word of mouth,
- Daycare services could be one attraction,
- Convenience and proximity are factors for parents,
- Schools are doing a good job at finding what is unique to them and this is what the Board supports.

Comment: A letter was mailed out by SD42 at the end of school year saying they welcome students from Mission.

Q: Would a school ever share a principal?

Superintendent- This is not in the best interest of the people in the building. The distance between Silverdale and Stave Falls is too far. In addition, if a school is going to offer a unique program, we want to hire someone suitable for that vision.

The Chair would like to hear from the Board regarding what they would like to see:

Trustee Cairns- Enough information received and would like to bring the discussion to the Public Board meeting.

Trustee Carter – Would like to see options brought to the upcoming COTW for consideration.

Trustee McKamey- Discussion may come through the COTW, but this does not preclude discussion to come to the Public meeting. Would like more time to review the report.

Trustee Taylor- Do we want to give direction to staff. For example, that staff bring forward some options.

Trustee Carter- It is common practice that staff provide 2-3 options to discuss.

Trustee Loffler- The consensus is that staff bring forward options based on what staff is hearing from the Board.

Moved and Seconded

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THAT staff bring two or three options for consideration at the March 6, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1 Special Committee of the Whole meeting minutes

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes dated February 13, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

March 6, 2018

Date

March 6, 2018

Date