

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

**December 15, 2020, 6:30 pm
Via Zoom Videoconference**

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema

Members Absent: Vice Chair, Shelley Carter

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.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Trustee Carter sends her regrets for not being able to attend the meeting.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 DPAC Trustee Liaisons

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education appoint Trustee Shelley Carter as the 1st Trustee Liaison for the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and Trustee Tracy Loffler as the Alternate Liaison.

CARRIED

The item was discussed at the Committee of the Whole and the Board agreed to appoint liaisons for the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC). All Trustees are still welcome to attend DPAC meetings.

4.2 Assessing and Communicating Student Learning Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the Assessing and Communicating Student Learning Policy be considered by the Board for approval.

AMENDMENT

THAT the policy be approved.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded that the Assessing and Communicating Student Learning Policy be approved.

CARRIED

The draft policy was reviewed at the December Committee of the Whole and referred to partner groups for additional consideration. No further changes were brought forward.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Reporting out from Closed Meeting

The Superintendent reported that staff and legal matters were discussed at the December 15, 2020, Closed Meeting of the Board.

5.2 Annual Report

MOVED and Seconded that the 2020 Annual Report be approved.

CARRIED

The report was reviewed at the December 1, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting. A few revisions have been made to the wording under the sections for Organization and Strategic Plan. Chair Loffler acknowledged and thanked staff for their work on the Annual Report.

5.3 2019-2020 Statement of Financial Information

MOVED and Seconded that, pursuant to the *Financial Information Act (the "Act")*, the Statement of Financial Information be approved.

CARRIED

The 2019-2020 Statement of Financial Information includes details on employees earning more than \$75,000 a year, including their expenses,

payments to suppliers of more than \$25,000 a year, and the audited financial statements.

5.4 COVID-19 Update

The Superintendent provided an update on the recent changes Fraser Health has made to its reporting and tracing process, as well as general information on exposures at Mission school sites.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Spread the Word Pledge

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education takes the pledge to take action for a more inclusive world.

CARRIED

The Board shared their support for taking the pledge and agreed that taking the pledge as a whole offers a unified message for supporting the initiative.

6.2 Whistle Blower Protection Policy

MOVED and Seconded that the amended Whistleblower Protection Policy be approved.

CARRIED

The Chair noted that there were a few changes to the policy. Section 3.d has been updated to provide a report annually versus monthly. The procedure has been referred to legal counsel for review, as reporting to legal counsel is part of the procedure. Staff anticipate that this will result in further revisions. The policy will also be referred, and any recommended amendments will be returned to the Board in the new year.

6.3 Black Shirt Day

MOVED and Seconded that Mission Public Schools support and encourage Mission students and employees to participate in Black Shirt Day, January 15, 2021 to support ending systemic racism.

CARRIED

Black Shirt Day is meant to promote awareness of anti-racism and civil rights. It is similar in this aspect to events related to Pink Shirt Day and Orange Shirt Day. The hope of organizers is to promote conversations about racism in Canada and work towards a more positive future for all Canadians.

The Superintendent commented that there is more significant work that needs to be done surrounding the content and curriculum of black Canadians and other persons of colour. This item can be revisited in the New Year.

6.4 Boundary Review

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education direct staff to do a detailed analysis of the Durieu area students in consideration of changing the boundary to Dewdney; and

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education direct staff to do a detailed analysis of the Steelhead area students in consideration of changing the boundary to Stave Falls.

CARRIED

Following the Special Committee of the Whole meeting on October 27, 2020, the Committee requested that the recommendations be forwarded to the Public Board meeting for consideration.

6.5 Motion regarding Masks

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education School District 75 require and expect masks to be worn in all school buildings and workplaces in the district until further notice. Exceptions would be for medical reasons.

AMENDMENT

MOVED and Seconded the Board of Education and SD 75 expect masks to be worn in all school buildings and workplaces in the District as mandated in the guidelines provided by the Public Health Authority until such time that these guidelines are revised.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education and SD 75 expect masks to be worn in all school buildings and workplaces in the District as mandated in the guidelines provided by the Public Health Authority until such time that these guidelines are revised.

CARRIED Opposed: Trustee Cairns

The Provincial Government requires that masks be worn in all public buildings with the exception of all school settings. The recommendation is brought forward to enhance the safety of our staff. Wearing masks and washing hands are reasonable recommendations that can be followed by all individuals.

Trustees commented that the Board does not have the legal authority to mandate the wearing of masks in school buildings and that the SD should follow the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. Concerns were raised about liability issues.

The motion was not supported as presented. An amendment was presented, and the amended motion was approved. Trustee Cairns requested to register a negative vote against the amendment. He stated it is not in the interest of mitigating the transmission of COVID-19.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

How does the Board feel about the "liability shield/ aspect" with not supporting the mandate to wear masks knowing that teachers have contracted COVID and that teachers will contract COVID?

We are doing the best we can to keep everyone safe and will continue to follow Provincial Health Orders. We cannot legally mandate the wearing of masks in schools.

A question was asked about the wording used in the letter to Jennifer Whiteside. Terms like "special needs" was used because that was the wording that was in the Minister's mandate letter. The Chair acknowledged that we are trying to move away from such wording, and this is why diverse learners was used later in the letter.

Has the Board considered that a mask mandate might improve the TTOC shortage? We are following provincial guidelines and realize that COVID has impacted shortages across the province. Mandating masks in schools has to be a larger movement like lobbying BCSTA, BCTF, the Health Authority and the Minister of Education.

Is there insight or thoughts about why Hatzic Middle School (HMS) has a larger amount of exposures compared to other large school sites? No specific information or data is known about the exposures at HMS. Some research was shared from the Surrey SD. Schools are a reflection of their community, the activities that people do, and the work backgrounds of parents.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
January 19, 2021 at the Public
Board meeting.