

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

**January 24, 2022, 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
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Operations, Dana MacLean
Manager of Transportation, Jodi Marshall
Principal, Chandy Ritter, Principal, Jordan Klassen
District Principal of Student Services, Beth-Anne Cullen
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
- Others Present** MTU President, Ryan McCarty, CUPE President, Nansy Gibson, DPAC Chair, Cheryl Blondin, Hillman Family, Kimberly Branzei, Josh Littler, Melissa Broatch, Samantha Strange, Amy Poirier, Ginny Conroy, Kristina Recktenwald

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'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Correction: p. 2 end of the second line above Dewdney Enrolment Analysis: remove "Stave Falls" and replace it with Dewdney Elementary.

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Dewdney Catchment Boundary Adjustment to include Durieu Area

MOVED and Seconded THAT information and comments from the public engagement process regarding the approval in principle to change the Durieu Area boundary from Hatzic Elementary to Dewdney Elementary, be reviewed and considered and forwarded to the February Board meeting for consideration.

CARRIED

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the public engagement input from the community. Trustees shared some of the history of the Durieu, Dewdney, and Hatzic Elementary (HES) schools. Some years ago, when Durieu closed, Baragar suggested plummeting enrollment in the area. Recently, we are seeing growth in the area, and Hatzic Elementary is feeling the pressure. The Board is here to listen and consider all concerns.

The difference between the program of choice vs school of choice was explained. Some schools have a program of choice, and students attend cross-boundary. School of choice: Mission Central (French Immersion), ESR (Arts-based curriculum), or Hillside Traditional Academy are examples.

A question was asked about starting the new boundary with new registrations going forward. The Secretary-Treasurer provided that an additional classroom was created at HES. Capacity is still looking tight for next year. We will not know until we complete the new Kindergarten roster. We have been asking parents in the rural/Durieu area to register at Dewdney. It is expected, if we change the boundary going forward, we may be ok, but cannot say that with certainty. We may possibly be able to get by in the next 5 years. We will likely not have buses for students that chose to stay at HES. We will need another bus, and we need to get Ministry funding to acquire one. We can do the boundary realignment if the busing goes with the new students. Individual students/routes need to be analyzed. We cannot have the bus going both ways.

A comment was made, that every possible space at HES was utilized to be used, even a change room. There is no portable at the site now, but the site has had a portable in the past. It will be more costly to place a portable to HES now. Due to age, any construction at HES will require asbestos remediation, and installation of a new waterline, as the portables now require having a water line.

A lot of cross-boundary parents chose to keep older students in the original school, and younger to attend another school when space did not allow. We have not seen the changes immediately.

A question was asked about this year's Kindergarten registration numbers. The Registration just started. By the time this decision comes back to the Board, there will be more information available.

A question was asked if we need this boundary decision prior to the new budget process. Based on what the Transportation Manager was able to determine, we can adjust busing, as long as we do not allow existing students to continue to be bused to Hatzic. If we do need to provide the busing service to the Hatzic students, we do not have a bus and will need funding to purchase one. We will also have to consider expenses for portables.

A question was asked if we could not bus all the existing students to Dewdney and transfer from there? We would need to know exactly where the students reside. There are some logistics since when we switched to Middle/High school, the buses do not only go to one school. We are also looking at an electronic route modelling program to assist with future planning. We would need additional information.

A question was asked about situations where children can be dropped off, and transportation is not needed. We have not asked that yet. Several parents had no issues driving.

We have some grandfathered students at HES. How do we decide if/who gets removed and who gets to stay? We are sensitive to moving students through the mid-elementary stage.

A question was asked about any indication of how the class size/ composition would be affected. We have not identified the individual students who would not be transferred yet.

A comment was made that there are currently 37 cross-boundary students at HES, and 46 Durieu area students attending HES. Is there a chance that cross-boundary allowances may be reconsidered rather than having "legacy" students be forced to move? In the past, we looked at individual situations, and we looked at how long we can provide the legacy for. Staff has accommodated students for as long as it has been feasible.

One of the comments from Staff - the first year is always the difficult one. We may need to look at additional supports at Dewdney if further help transitioning students is needed.

A question was asked about the impact on the Montessori daycare at Dewdney. It will depend on the number of students transferring over. We need to look at better utilization of spaces. The Daycare has asked how much longer they will be able to stay. We do not see changes to the

childcare spaces this Fall. There are a lot of cross-boundary students coming to Dewdney. We should not displace the daycare for the residents needing daycare in the 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 7:13 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
February 15, 2022 at the Public
Board of Education meeting.