

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees, School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) was held in the meeting room of the Creston Education Centre, 617 – 11th Avenue South, Creston, B.C. on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 12:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Trustees: P. Cattermole, B. Ewashen, A. Field, A. Hambler, M. Joy, B. Maslechko, L. Trenaman, B. Wright

REGRETS: Trustee: P. Tees

ALSO PRESENT: B. Reid, Superintendent of Schools
R. Johnston, Director of Instruction – Student Services
P. Dooley, Director of Instruction - Achievement
M. Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Henderson, Executive Assistant

STAFF/PUBLIC: 8 Members of the Public (*2 left following School Closure item*)
N. DeVuono, Principal, Canyon Lister Elementary School
J. Wilson, Principal, Wynndel Elementary School
R. Blair, Co-President, KLTF
S. Wilson, President, DPAC
C. Hawton, Vice-President, DPAC & Adam Robertson PAC
S. Hardy, Gordon Sargent PAC (*left following School Closure item*)
G. George, Gordon Sargent PAC (*left following School Closure item*)

MEDIA: L. Eckersley, Creston Valley Advance

VIDEO CONFERENCE

NELSON: M. Bennett, President, CUPE Local 748
T. Newell, Co-President, KLTF
K. Couch, Secretary, KLTF (NDTA)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewashen called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

He offered Board condolences to the family of Lynn Reine, a noon-hour supervisor at Adam Robertson, who passed away over spring break and to bus driver Val Larsen whose husband also passed away over the break. Mr. Larsen was also Trustee Joy's uncle.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

07-44 Moved by Trustee Maslechko, seconded by Trustee Joy
AND RESOLVED
that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted by the Board.

The following changes and additions were made:

- Move 9.A.(a) – Portfolio and Ministry Standards – Proposal to 9.B.(e)
- Add 12.(g) – Climate Change Conference

RECEIVING PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Ian Hutton – Writing Program (5:08 P.M. – 5:25 P.M.)

Ian Hutton, Teacher at Adam Robertson Elementary School, gave a presentation about the writing program he uses in his classes which has sparked enthusiasm in his students. The program is based upon principles from SMART Learning and has produced excellent results. He shared samples of the students' work which certainly spoke for itself. A binder of the students' work has been published.

Chair Ewashen commended Mr. Hutton for the calibre of student work, the success of the program and thanked him for his presentation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Gordon Sargent Delegation

Bruce Hardy, representing Gordon Sargent parents and staff, made a presentation regarding declining enrolment and the closure of Gordon Sargent Primary School. He expressed appreciation to the Board for finding a solution and adopting Possibility G of the Timelines for Option 4 in the future planning process. He requested that when the Board is making a motion for the sixty day consultation period that Gordon Sargent be moved as a program to South Nelson Elementary School and be retained as a program.

Wynndel Delegation

Casey Holden, Colleen Deathridge and Tania Wiklund, Wynndel parents, spoke about their concerns regarding declining enrolment at Wynndel Elementary School and the possible K-5 reconfiguration of the school. They made a request that the Board publicly announce their support of not closing the school.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

07-45

Moved by Trustee Trenaman, seconded by Trustee Maslechko
AND RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Closed and Regular Meeting of February 27, 2007 and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole (Finance) Meeting of February 27, 2007 be adopted, as circulated.

RECEIPT OF RECORD OF PREVIOUS CLOSED MEETINGS

The Board received the record of a Closed Meeting held February 27, 2007.

REVIEW OF ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board reviewed action taken from previous meetings that was included with the agenda package.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Wynndel Elementary PAC

The letter from the Wynndel Elementary PAC was received as information.

EDUCATION ISSUES

Action Items

07-46 Motion to Consider a School Closure for Gordon Sargent Primary

Moved by Trustee Maslechko, seconded by Trustee Wright

AND RESOLVED

that the Board move to consider closure of the Gordon Sargent Primary School building effective September, 2008 and that the Board initiate consultation with staff and parents.

OPPOSED: Trustee Field

07-47 Motion to Consider a School Closure for A.I. Collinson Elementary

Moved by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Joy

AND RESOLVED

that the Board consider school closure of A.I. Collinson Elementary School in September, 2008 and that the Board initiate consultation with staff and parents.

OPPOSED: Trustee Field

Wynndel Elementary School Configuration

Superintendent Reid reported that enrolments at Wynndel have been declining since 2001. He advised that the only time the Board has considered the closure of Wynndel Elementary School was in 2002; however, the Board can not publicly promise that it would never close Wynndel Elementary School.

A meeting with staff and parents at Wynndel Elementary School to consider whether or not a reconfiguration of that school would be appropriate is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th at 6:00 P.M.

EDUCATION ISSUES

Information Items

Education Committee Report

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 29th with a focus on the district plan to improve learning, developing terms of reference for the Health and Lifestyles Committee and district completion rates.

Bill 33

There was nothing to report.

Calendar Issues Survey

Superintendent Reid indicated that he would be carrying out a formal parent survey to determine parent views on the district calendar and the closure days as well as school fees. A random phone sample of parents will be conducted starting April 2nd with the results being shared at the next Board Meeting.

Interactive Innovations March 5-7, 2008

Director of Instruction – Achievement Dooley advised that the successful Interactive Innovations Conference will be held again next year in Nelson March 5 - 7, 2008.

Portfolio and Ministry Standards

Director of Instruction – Achievement Dooley reported that the Ministry of Education has changed the graduation requirements. Students must meet three requirements which include physical activity, community service and Career Development. A process for the framework has been started.

She invited Trustee participation at the presentations being held at Prince Charles Secondary School on May 26th.

EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Superintendent of Schools

- advised that Superintendents of the West Kootenays had attended a meeting with the staff of Selkirk College to achieve better ties with that College as well as the College of the Rockies.

Director of Instruction – Achievement Dooley

- spoke about the feedback on the very successful March 1st Pro-D day. Feedback has been very positive with over 200 evaluations returned.
- Excited about the early learning directions in the province.

Director of Instruction – Student Services Johnston

- thanked Superintendent Reid, Director of Instruction – Achievement Dooley and Secretary-Treasurer Schulte for their assistance in the wellness meetings and was looking forward to bringing feedback to the committee; and,
- recognized the work of three Salmo Elementary Paraprofessionals - Janet Pierce, Bobbi Hudec, and Ricki Morin as part of his “Telling on You” for exemplary service by staff.

Director of Human Resources Wanless

- Superintendent Reid advised that Director of Human Resources Wanless was attending a BCPSEA meeting in Castlegar today.

REPORT FROM POLICY COMMITTEE

Action Items

Nil

Information Items

Trustee Hamblar, Chair of the Policy Committee, advised that the next meeting of the Policy Committee will be on Thursday, March 29th at 3:00 P.M. at the Board Office.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Action Items

Transportation Review

07-48

Moved by Trustee Trenaman, seconded by Trustee Maslechko

AND RESOLVED

that the Superintendent be authorized to engage the services of a consultant to review student transportation in School District #8 and make recommendations to the Board.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Information Items

Trustee Governance Budget

Trustee Cattermole noted that Policies #113 and #114 do not reflect current Board practices.

The Board agreed, by consensus, that the Policy Committee review all the Trustee budget and governance policies.

Analysis of Ministry of Education Funding Announcement

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reviewed the March 15th funding announcement for the 2007/08 school year preliminary funding budget noting the 100% funding protection for this year.

FINANCE AND OPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte

- attended an AAC meeting with representatives from six different School Districts.

Director of Operations Brown

- in the absence of Director of Operations Brown, Superintendent Reid reported on the reflooring at Wynndel Elementary School, the new heating unit at Prince Charles Secondary School, the work done on the sinks with mercury, cleaning grounds at various sites and advised that the Pine Beetle grant is available again.

MISCELLANEOUS

Receipt of Report on Electoral Areas and Number of Trustees

07-49 Moved by Trustee Hambler, seconded by Trustee Cattermole
AND RESOLVED
that the Board receive the report on electoral areas and number of Trustees.

Redfish Letter K-7

07-50 Moved by Trustee Trenaman, seconded by Trustee Maslechko
AND RESOLVED
that the Board direct the Superintendent, Director of Instruction – Achievement and a delegation of Trustees to arrange and engage in meeting with parents and staff of Redfish in order to discuss their request to configure Redfish as a K-7 school following consideration of closure meeting to happen first and then engage in dialogue.

OPPOSED: Trustee Field

A letter of response will be sent to the Redfish School Planning Council advising that the Board has agreed to meet with them in due course.

07-51 Moved by Trustee Wright, seconded by Trustee Trenaman
AND RESOLVED

that the meeting be extended by fifteen minutes.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees: Cattermole, Ewashen, Hambler, Trenaman, Wright

OPPOSED: Trustee: Joy

ABSTAINED: Trustees: Field, Maslechko

Ad Hoc Communications Committee – Set Date for Meeting

This item was deferred to the next Board meeting.

Board Room Acoustics

The Board agreed, by consensus, for Superintendent Reid to investigate the cost of a sound system for the Board room.

Early Learning – New Directives and Initiatives

Superintendent Reid advised that the district has received two grants totalling \$188,000 to implement a StrongStart Centre which will be located in Creston, and to support early learning initiatives in the remainder of the district. A .2 FTE position will be used for the co-ordination of the new work in the West Zone. Nancy DeVuono will continue her work in early learning in the Creston area.

07-52

Moved by Trustee Hambler, seconded by Trustee Wright

AND RESOLVED

that the Superintendent be authorized to allocate staffing and funding from the two Ministry grants as required to establish a long range action plan for early learning in School District #8.

Trustee Retreat for Year 2

This item will be brought forward at the next Board meeting.

07-53

Climate Change Conference

Moved by Trustee Trenaman, seconded by Trustee Maslechko

AND RESOLVED

that the Board approve to fund Trustee attendance at the Climate Change: Exploring Regional Solutions conference to be held in Nelson April 24, 2007.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Chair Ewashen

- will be away in Jamaica for the next three weeks.

Trustee Wright

- visited Wynndel Elementary School; and,
- attended the Interactive Innovations Conference which was awesome.

Trustee Trenaman

- attended Wellness meetings at Redfish and J.V. Humphries, the Restitution Workshop on the March 1st Pro-D Day and the Interactive Innovations Conference, and the Communications Committee meeting; and,
- invited to the Balfour Town Hall meeting as a guest speaker.

Trustee Cattermole

- attended the Town Hall meeting in Kaslo; and,
- attended the Drama presentation – Fiddler on the Roof at J.V. Humphries and commended the staff, students and community for a fabulous job.

Trustee Field

- attended the Joint Safety Advisory Committee meeting, Community Rec meeting, and Community Centre meeting; and,
- advised of the sad news of attending the funeral for Zoe Read, a Salmo Secondary graduate.

QUESTION PERIOD

Questions and comments were asked regarding the following issues:

- Wynndel Elementary PAC letter;
- whether the Board can publicly support not closing Wynndel Elementary School;
- supporting rural schools;
- possibility of re-examining configuration decisions in the future;
- date and time of the Finance Committee meeting;
- calendar survey and consideration of DPAC in developing questions; and,
- notes from the School Fees Survey meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at Board Office, 570 Johnstone Road, Nelson, B.C. at 5:00 P.M.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Board of School Trustees/Sr. Management
Schools/District Staff (via email)
Presidents: KLTF (via email), KLPVPA (via email), CUPE Local 748 (via email)
DPAC Nelson – (K. Couch - via email)
DPAC Creston
CUPE 748 (Secretary – G. Shmon via email)
School PAC Chairs
BCSTA (via email)
City of Nelson (via email)
Village of Salmo (via email)
Town of Creston (via email)
Village of Kaslo (via email)
Media: Creston Valley Advance, KBS, Pennywise, Nelson Daily News, Express, Valley Voice,
East Shore Main Street (via email)