

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72 (CAMPBELL RIVER), HELD IN PERSON AND ELECTRONICALLY AT 7:30 PM, ON TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

Present: C. Gillis, Chair; S. Briggs, K. Eddy, J. Gladish, D. Hagen, D. Harper, J. McMann, Trustees; P. Cizmic, Associate Superintendent, M. Kyle, Associate Superintendent; J. Morrow, Superintendent; and K. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.

23-63 Call to order/ Chair's remarks

Board Chair Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Eddy noted the observation of Red Dress Day on May 5 and the upcoming anniversary of the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. She urged everyone to be willing to step in to effect real change on the pathway to truth and reconciliation.

Eddy recognized the work of grad parents, students, teachers and volunteers to put on the upcoming graduation ceremonies at Carihi, Robron and Timberline and celebrate the achievements of this year's graduates.

23-64 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Morrow noted recent district events and celebrations including: Earth Day awards for École Phoenix and Sandowne School, district medalists from the Skills BC competition on April 19 and the return of the district track meet on May 25. Summer school registration opens on May 15 and is available through the district's website. He also shared that he will be participating in a meeting with international program staff to familiarize visiting agents with our programs, schools and local area.

23-65 Approval of the minutes of April 18, 2023

It was proposed by C. Gillis, seconded by D. Harper and **CARRIED:**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2023 are hereby approved as circulated.

23-66 Additions to the agenda

12A Funding and administration of the International program (D. Harper)

23-67 Approval of the Agenda

It was proposed by S. Briggs, seconded by J. Gladish and **CARRIED:**

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

23-68 Report from the May 9, 2023 Confidential Board Meeting

Vice-Chair Gillis reported general statements of matters discussed in the Board's Confidential Meeting, and in accordance with Section 72(3) of the School Act, reports the following:

1. Teaching, administrative and support staff changes;
2. Property, legal and financial issues.

23-69 Cedar elementary school literacy intervention

James Zlatanov, Cedar elementary school principal, Christine Fraser, elementary literacy coordinator and Jennifer Comeau, learning support teacher, gave a presentation on literacy intervention work being done at Cedar school. The team has been working with small groups, for 20 minutes a day with the goal of improving reading ability and literacy for students who aren't yet reading at grade level. Evidence gathered through district literacy assessments points to the effectiveness of this approach and the importance of baseline literacy skills by grade three as a predictor of future school success and graduation from grade twelve.

23-70 Funding and administration of the International program

It was proposed by D Harper, seconded by D Hagen and **DEFEATED:**

THAT under no circumstance shall surplus revenues from the International program paid for by international student fees be spent on any other district programs.

Trustees discussed the motion brought forward by Trustee Harper. Harper questioned why the international program has a surplus and wants the board to have a governance policy regarding the establishment of student program fees, homestay stipends and use of program revenues. Chair Eddy noted that Operational Procedure 303: International and out-of-province fee paying students sets procedure for the operation of the program in line with provincial requirements.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick explained the process for the board to develop a new governance policy. Following deliberation of board governance policies and operational procedures, trustees expressed a need for more information to better understand the program funding before a board governance policy is drafted. Chair Eddy further noted that the development of a new board governance policy, if agreed to by the board, would not be ready for this budget cycle.

Chair Eddy called the question and the motion was defeated with Trustee Harper voting for and Trustees Briggs, Gillis, Gladish, Hagen, and McMann voting against the motion.

23-71 Presentation of 23/24 operating budget proposals

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the operating budget proposals that the senior management team is recommending for 2023-2024. Over 260 proposals from staff and rights holders were considered in the development of the budget. Patrick discussed areas for savings, new targeted French grant funding, use of savings from unspent benefits from the current year, use of unspent international program revenues, use of the projected 2024 summer school surplus and an increase in rental income to address the deficit.

Chair Eddy shared her appreciation for the responsiveness of staff to feedback e.g. increasing CUPE support hours in the education centre. She further noted that without additional student growth we will continue to be in a deficit situation due to rising costs.

23-72 Q3 2022-23 Quarterly budget analysis for the period ending March 31, 2023

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick highlighted labour settlement funding in the quarterly budget analysis as well as miscellaneous revenues and investment income that were higher than budgeted. Chair Eddy asked whether technology replacement came from capital or operational funding. Patrick responded that it comes out of the operational budget. The district was fortunate to have embarked on a technology update before COVID started. The introduction of Teams and mobile devices helped us navigate periods of remote work and learning and has enabled the district to continue to advance its use of technology to support learning. The updating and maintenance of hardware and software is ongoing.

23-73 Finance Warrant No. 8 February 28, 2023

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by J. Gladish and **CARRIED:**

*THAT the Finance Warrant No. 8, dated
February 28, 2023 be accepted as presented.*

23-74 BCSTA AGM April 27-30, 2023

Chair Eddy, Vice-Chair Gillis, Trustee Gladish and Trustee McMann attended the British Columbia School Trustees Association AGM in Vancouver April 27-30. Keynote speaker Jody Wilson-Reybold made an impactful presentation emphasizing the need to listen, understand and act in order to effect change. Trustees attended a number of sessions including: incorporating student voice, anti-racism work, board governance, school facility funding and teacher recruitment.

23-75 BCSTA Provincial Council April 29, 2023

Vice-Chair Gillis attended the British Columbia School Trustees Association Provincial Council meeting while at the BCSTA AGM. Representatives from sixty school boards from across BC were in attendance to share their common goals.

23-76 Questions from anyone present on agenda items for this meeting:

Question 1 – Debra Coombes, President, Campbell River District Teachers’ Association (present in the gallery)

“Can you confirm the benefit holiday is one time? There was also one last year.”

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that it has been accessed in the past but because it has been used in the past it is noted as one time to indicate that it is not a standing item.

Question 2 – Debra Coombes, President, Campbell River District Teachers’ Association (present in the gallery)

“Is the Board aware that the addition of the education centre support doesn’t return all services but only the CUPE supports? There were also cuts to the district librarian position.”

Chair Eddy acknowledged that is correct. Superintendent Morrow noted that the CUPE position is only a 1.0 FTE for 2023-2024, from 1.5 FTE in 2021-2022, and not a full restoration of the CUPE supports to the education centre that were cut last year.

Question 3 – Andrea Craddock, President, CUPE Local 723 (present in the gallery)

“Do senior management and exempt staff have a salary grid taking into account years of service?”

Superintendent Morrow noted that the grid for school administrators takes into account years of service and is performance based for other exempt management staff.

23-77 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Kat Eddy, Chair.

KWP:nc

May 9, 2023

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.