

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, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

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

Absent: S. Briggs, Trustee

24-26 Call to order/ Chair's remarks

Board Chair Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Eddy noted several significant recent events in the district including the Feb 21 We Wai Kai treaty society presentation to the district leadership team and the Feb 22 district long service awards. Upcoming school events include Pink Shirt Day on February 28, the District Battle of the Books on March 5 and the musical theatre production of Guys and Dolls at Timberline.

24-27 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning shared his recent visit to the Cortes Island school and attendance at the long service awards. He highlighted professional speaker and author Michael Bortolotto who will be speaking at schools throughout the district over the next two weeks.

24-28 Approval of the minutes of February 6, 2024

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

THAT the minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2024 are hereby approved as circulated.

24-29 Approval of the Agenda

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick asked that item 14 A: 2023/2024 minor capital plan amendment, be brought forward to the next meeting as the information has not yet been received.

It was proposed by C. Gillis, seconded by J. Gladish and **CARRIED:**

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

24-30 Report from the February 27, 2024 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.

24-31 French Immersion

Associate Superintendent Kyle introduced District Vice Principal of French Immersion Rachel Black. She highlighted the inclusiveness of today's French immersion programs and some of the advantages of bilingualism. Black noted current district French immersion enrolment of 388 students in Kindergarten – grade 5, 230 students in grades 6-8, 21 students in late immersion and 266 students in grades 9-12.

24-32 Budget Bylaw - Amended 2023-2024 Operating Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick highlighted the amended 23/24 final operating budget. Changes from the preliminary budget reflected updated expenses, actual revenues based on student enrolment, salary costs from the implementation of labour settlements and cost increases due to inflation. Targeted special purpose grants were used to fund administrative and teaching staff. The district is seeing an increase in benefits costs from inflation and usage volume.

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

THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2023/2024 Budget in the amount of \$89,915,205 be given all required readings at this meeting.

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

THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2023/2024 Budget in the amount of \$89,915,205 be given first reading.

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

THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2023/2024 Budget in the amount of \$89,915,205 be given second reading.

It was proposed by C. Gillis, seconded by J. McMann and **CARRIED:**

THAT the Budget Bylaw for the Amended Annual 2023/2024 Budget in the amount of \$89,915,205 be given third reading.

24-33 Strathcona Regional District/ Southgate middle school project announcement

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared that the Strathcona Regional District was engaging in a joint project at Southgate middle school. The project to remediate wet areas of Southgate field by creation of a wetland will be funded by an external grant program.

24-34 How Are We Doing Report

Superintendent Manning presented a summary of the recently released "How Are We Doing Report" for 2022-2023 focused on outcomes for Indigenous students. Trustees noted the lower numeracy and completion results for Indigenous students compared to the total number of district students and the need to explore the reasons for this and possible targeted approaches to improve student outcomes

24-35 2024-2025 Enrolment Forecast

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick shared the district’s enrolment forecast for the 2024-2025 school year. The enrolment forecast helps inform budgeting and staffing projections. Ministry projections are for a decline in enrolment however local projections are for a small increase in enrolment. Corresponding trends in other districts are assessed for relative impact. Changes to the way that high school course full time equivalencies (FTEs) are counted at the provincial level has led to some of the difference in projections. A large increase in English Language Learner (ELL) students needing supports are being identified at a younger age leading to classroom staffing increases.

24-36 Draft 2024/25 Annual Operating Budget Development Schedule

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick noted the schedule of consultation meetings with partner groups to identify their priorities in the development of the 2024/25 annual operating budget. Trustees are invited to join meetings as observers.

24-37 Guiding Principles for Decision Making – Budget Cycle 2024-2025

The guiding principles for decision making are a way for the Board to communicate to stakeholders and to represent Board policy in the development of the budget.

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

THAT the Board adopt the Guiding Principles for Decision Making - Budget Cycle 2024 – 2025 as presented.

24-38 Ministry of Education and Child Care Partner Liaison meeting February 9, 2024

Vice Chair Gillis attended the Ministry of Education and Child Care Partner Liaison meeting on behalf of the Board Chair. Gillis noted: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) report data pointing to a decline in numeracy worldwide; the expansion of the K-12 mandate to include Child Care, food programs and low income family supports; continued review of the impact of technology on socialization and learning; and the need for school districts to be able to activate contingency plans as part of the provincial emergency management framework.

24-39 District Parent Advisory Council meeting February 20, 2024

Trustee McMann attended the District Parent Advisory Council meeting on February 20. McMann noted the attendance of CRDTA President Debra Coombes who shared professional development ideas and Associate Superintendent Cizmic who provided an update on the Child Care project.

24-40 British Columbia School Trustees’ Association Provincial Council meeting February 24, 2024

Vice Chair Gillis attended the British Columbia School Trustees’ Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council meeting on February 24. Gillis noted that the Council meets three times a year with representatives from each school district to discuss advocacy for things such as capital funding for schools and retention and attraction of staff.

24-41 Questions from Anyone Present on Agenda Items for This Meeting

Question 1 – Andrea Craddock, President, CUPE local 723 asked if any ideas came out of the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting in regards to retention and recruitment of staff.

Vice Chair Gillis responded that while specific actions were not suggested at the meeting, the meeting alerts the Council to topics to be addressed at the BCSTA AGM.

Question 2- Debra Coombes, President, CRDTA asked if the numeracy results in the “How Are We Doing” report came as a surprise given that we’ve had such a focus on literacy through various initiatives and she didn’t see the same focus on numeracy.

Superintendent Manning responded that the surprise for him was that the local results were better than the provincial average but overall the results are not good. We need to focus on numeracy without losing the focus on literacy. Board Chair Eddy agreed that, looking at the report, we need to ask how to engage all students to raise results.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Kat Eddy, Chair.
KWP:nc
February 27, 2024

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.