

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 14, 2024

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

Absent: S. Briggs, D. Hagen, Trustees

24-84 Call to order/ Chair's remarks

Board Chair Eddy called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Eddy began by expressing her thanks to the District Parent Advisory Committee for their continued work and advocacy on behalf of students and parents in the district.

Eddy continued with a recap of the budget development process. She highlighted Ministry timelines, changing student needs and events in recent years which have impacted the budget including increased benefit costs, inflationary costs and COVID related expenses. SD72 is one of the few districts in the province which is projecting a small surplus for 2024-2025. The budget development process is responsive and transparent. The final budget will be brought to the board for approval on May 28.

24-85 Superintendent's remarks

Superintendent Manning shared impressions from the professional development opportunity he was able to participate in on May 6. Together with staff from École Phoenix middle school and the We Wai Kai treaty society, he visited local indigenous sites of significance by boat. On May 8 he attended the district careers event co-hosted by SD72 and North Island College. The event was well attended and gave students and parents an opportunity to explore the many dual credit high school pathways leading to post-secondary programs at the college.

24-86 Approval of the minutes of April 30, 2024

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

THAT the minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2024 are hereby approved as circulated.

24-87 Approval of the agenda

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

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as amended.

24-88 Report from the May 14, 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.

24-89 Accessibility committee

Superintendent Manning announced the release of the district's first Accessibility plan. The committee of nine members has developed the plan in response to the *Accessible BC Act*. Team members represent a cross-section of district staff and have personal lived experience or experience supporting someone with physical, developmental or learning challenges. The committee has set priorities for implementing the plan and carrying out the evaluation and monitoring of the district's accessibility measures. The plan and an opportunity to provide feedback is posted on the district website.

24-90 District career programs

Associate Superintendent Kyle introduced Cindy Casson, district career coordinator. SD72 held a career program night at North Island College on May 8 in partnership with the college. Dual credit programs, trades pathways and exploration of available career options were discussed.

24-91 District Parent Advisory Committee workshop May 24, 2024

Board Chair Eddy highlighted a community workshop that the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) is holding at the Sportsplex on May 24. Parents and educators are welcome to join the workshop and explore how to get involved in the work that DPAC does in support of students and parents.

24-92 Presentation of 2024-2025 operating budget proposals

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick expressed his thanks for everyone who has participated in the consultation process leading to the development of the 2024-2025 operating budget. Approximately 20 meetings were held between March and May with partner groups including CRDTA members, CUPE members, Principals and Vice Principals, exempt staff, students, DPAC and Indigenous rightsholders. All raw feedback was shared with Trustees as well as a summary of feedback received. The Board is in a good position with some additions to this year's budget. Choices and priorities are made to align with the strategic plan to improve outcomes for students.

Patrick described the budget proposals in detail explaining the rationale and the funding source. The Board discussed the proposals. Public feedback through the district website is welcome on the proposals until May 23. The final 2024-2025 operating budget will be brought to the board for approval at the May 28 board meeting.

24-93 Finance Warrant No. 10, April 30, 2024

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

THAT the Finance Warrant No.10, dated April 30, 2024 be accepted as presented.

24-94 Questions from anyone present on agenda items for this meeting

Question 1 – Debra Coombes, CRDTA President - Now that the recommendations are made public does it preclude members of staff putting comments through the feedback mechanism?

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that all public feedback, including staff, is welcome.

Question 2 – Andrea Craddock, CUPE Local 723 President – There was conversation about a partial administrative assistant peer mentor. Is it off? Not discussed.

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick responded that the proposal to address issues raised by request but as costs are nominal to address the issues that were raised, it won't be brought as a budget item. We will address this with an as needed mentor process. Three individuals have been identified that can provide this training and will be paid a higher rate when doing so. It is not known how much time is needed yet. Work will be monitored to allow us to identify whether a full-time position is needed.

Question 3 – Andrea Craddock, CUPE Local 723 President – Presentation has me thinking CUPE ideas. Something not addressed that we want is job opportunities for special needs students, in past done in partnership with CRDACL. A previous student is now a permanent CUPE member. There are interested students. When are we going to start offering more opportunities for these students? Are the conversations happening?

Superintendent Manning responded that we are open to this and developing a plan. Associate Superintendent Kyle noted that career programs are for everyone and have partnerships with CUPE.

Question 4 – Andrea Craddock, CUPE Local 723 President – Disheartening that NIC is not prepared to engage in programs around Educational Assistants (Child Care??). I am hopeful that the district will look at creative ways to address this, teachers, whereby students can take this. Early Childhood Education programs.

Superintendent Kyle responded that they are working on it for future years.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Kat Eddy, Chair.

KWP:nc

May 14, 2024

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.