

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37 (DELTA)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 7, 2020 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: V. Windsor, Chairperson
E. Beard
D. Boisvert
L. Dixon
J. Dosanjh
N. Kanakos
B. Reid

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
R. Allnutt, Director, Human Resources
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
G. Bonnefoy, Interim Director of Facilities & Planning
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
R. Faust, Director, Finance & Management Services
N. Gordon, Assistant Superintendent
T. Johnson, Director, Learning Services –
Equity & Success
T. Nelson-Trick, Executive Assistant
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services –
Education Programs
K. Symonds, Director,
International Student Programs
C. Tucker, Communications Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Windsor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson Windsor opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations and of all the Hun'qumi'num speaking people who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial, and also offered her respect to all the Elders who have gone before us and to all Canadians who are on the journey of Reconciliation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Boisvert

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended, adding item 8a – BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Alternate Representative Appointment under New Business.

CARRIED

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FARM ROOTS

Mr. Ted Johnson, Director of Learning Services – Equity & Success, introduced Ms. Paige Hansen, District Vice-Principal of Academy & Choice Programs, who provided an update on Farm Roots. The Farm Roots Mini-School is currently in its fourth year and has 24 students enrolled. The site located at Boundary Beach is eight acres, one acre of which is being actively farmed, and has an orchard, two active beehives, and a tree with an eagle’s nest that has been there for 30 years. Ms. Hansen’s presentation highlighted the benefits of the mini-school, courses offered, the ecosystem restoration project in partnership with the City of Delta, community engagement (past and future connections), and where to next. Trustees will be invited to visit the farm and help plant seeds in the Spring when the soil is ready.

PROFESSIONAL LITERACY COMMUNITIES

Mr. Neil Stephenson, Director of Learning Services - Education Programs, provided an update on the Professional Literacy Communities initiative. The initiative began in September 2018, and is a school wide focus on improving student literacy success. There are four Literacy Coordinators that are working with schools and their teams. Mr. Stephenson’s presentation outlined the schools participating, Inquiry-Based Professional Learning, the impacts, ways staff are measuring if it’s working, feedback, and other outcomes.

DELTA TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

Ms. Mahima Lamba spoke on behalf of the Delta Teachers’ Association (DTA) about the personal time and money Delta teachers spend on extra resources and tangible items for their classrooms to help enhance student learning. Ms. Lamba stated that in addition to giving a gift of life long literacy and skills, teachers also bring to the job stocking classes with resources, restoring equipment to help save money, time to mentor other teachers, purchasing furniture, and bringing food in for hungry students, just to name a few. While public recognition is not the goal, she explained this is going unaccounted for in school district budgets and more funding is needed for schools. Since 2015, she indicated BC students have been underfunded by \$1800, and teachers continue to fill the gaps of time and monetary value. This evening Delta teachers shared their “gifts” with the Board in hopes of inspiring Trustees and the community to advocate for more funding for public education.

Chairperson Windsor thanked Delta teachers for all they do creating life-long learners, and thanked Ms. Lamba for her presentation and sharing the concerns of teachers. Trustee Reid added that Trustees are aware of the additional costs and discrepancies, and are also fighting for more funding.

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Chairperson Windsor introduced the following education partner group representatives in the audience:

- Mr. Joe Muego, Chair of the Delta Parent Advisory Council
- Ms. Susan Yao and Ms. Alison Roche, of the Delta Teachers' Association
- Mr. Mike Annandale, representative from the Association of Delta School Administrators.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Reid/Dixon

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 10, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Kanakos reported that he attended a District Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, along with representatives from the school district's Education Partner groups. The committee reviewed the report conducted by Paul Ursich of Ally Emergency Management, and prioritized the recommendations. As a result, the committee is hoping to come out with some next steps.

Trustee Dixon reported that she attended a Healthy Schools Committee meeting, along with Ms. Joanna Angelidis, Director of Learning Services – Inclusive Learning. The agenda was jam packed and she appreciated the excellent content and hard work of the committee. Trustee Dixon also took a moment to thank Trustees and staff for all of their work, and staff at schools who make the Christmas concerts so special for students and their families.

Chairperson Windsor attended Christmas concerts at Ladner, Pinewood and South Park Elementaries. All three were fabulous events, and it was wonderful to see the parents and family members thrilled to be there. Chairperson Windsor is grateful to all of the employee groups for the hard work making these events possible.

AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Nicola Christ, Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update on the current status of the District's work to-date in forming a District Audit Committee. The Delta Board of Education adopted Policy 20 in June 2019 to add this new committee. The main purpose of the committee is to deal with financial reporting, the external audit process, risk management and internal controls and compliance monitoring. Three Trustees were appointed to the committee (Trustees Boisvert, Kanakos and Reid), and Trustee Boisvert was appointed as Chair of the committee. Financial literacy sessions were conducted as part of the Audit Committee policy, and the group discussed the financial statements. Two public members have also been appointed to the committee, Mr. Scott Stoilen of Stoilen Alston & Associates, Chartered Professional Accountants, and Mr. Anthony Lynch, Commercial Mortgage Analyst of the Royal Bank. Next steps will include conducting another session with the two public members to go over the financial statements.

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BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS UPDATE

Ms. Nicola Christ, Secretary-Treasurer, provided a brief introduction of the 2020-21 budget development process and timeline. The initial budget is being developed, led by Ms. Robyn Faust, Director of Finance and Management Services, and her team. Starting later this month there will be input meetings with various departments, consultations with Administrators, and Trustees will be reviewing their priorities. Once all of the input has been gathered from the public input meeting on February 25th, the budget committee consisting of Executive Committee members, one elementary Principal and one secondary Principal, will put together a balanced budget. The budget committee will take into consideration the funding model review, however, it is not known at this point what it will look like, and how it will affect Delta.

Trustee Dixon added that the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) has requested to the Ministry that a draft of the funding model be released. To date it has not been released, and instead there was a one-year delay and four reports were sent out. The Board is looking forward to their meeting with Delta's Education Partners on January 21st to review these four reports. Trustee Dixon noted there will be one further attempt by BCSTA to request that the funding model be released. There is a lot of frustration as school districts move into their budget processes, as there are still unknowns about the model and commitments. The Board will provide updates as they hear anything further, and will work on continued advocacy.

2020-21 BUDGET CALENDAR - UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Item	Board Meetings
Public Board Meeting Consultation with the Public on 2020-21 Budget Approval of 2019-20 Amended Budget	Feb 25 (Tue) 7:30 pm
Ministry announcement of Delta funding for 2020-21	March 13 (Fri)
Spring Break & School Closure	March 16 – March 27
Public release of budget recommendations	April 9 (Thu) afternoon
Special Public Board Meeting Board receives delegates regarding Budget Recommendations	April 14 (Tue) 7:30 pm
Public Board Meeting Adoption of 2020-21 Budget Bylaw	Apr 21 (Tue) 7:30 pm

BCPSEA ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT

M/S Trustees Reid/Boisvert

THAT Trustee Beard be appointed as the Alternate to the BC Public School Employers Association.

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DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

February 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Delta School Board Office
4585 Harvest Drive
Delta, BC

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Dixon/Kanakos

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of January 7, 2020 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:24 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer