

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: October 12, 2021 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building & Via Zoom

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

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent (*via Zoom*)
N. Gordon, Assistant Superintendent (*via Zoom*)
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
C. Gartry, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (*via Zoom*)
C. Tucker, Director of Communications (*via Zoom*)
J. Maranda, Director, Human Resources (*via Zoom*)
J. Angelidis, Director, Learning Services –
 Inclusive Learning (*via Zoom*)
D. Duff, Director, Facilities & Planning (*via Zoom*)
R. Faust, Director, Finance & Management Services (*via Zoom*)
T. Johnson, Director, Learning Services –
 Equity & Success (*via Zoom*)
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services –
 Education Programs (*via Zoom*)
K. Symonds, Director,
 International Student Programs (*via Zoom*)
C. Bromley, Manager, Information Technology Services
 (*via Zoom*)
S. Labrosse, Executive Assistant (*via Zoom*)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Windsor called the meeting to order at 7:33 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.

Chairperson Windsor introduced the Trustees, and also welcomed the following that were in the audience:

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- Daun Frederickson, President of CUPE Local 1091
- Susan Yao, President of Delta Teachers Association
- Mark Robinson, Principal at Sands Secondary, on behalf of the Delta Principals & Vice-Principals' Association

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Reid

THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Neil Stephenson, Director of Learning Services, reported on department staffing changes and introduced to new teachers, Ms. Megan Sandham and Ms. Joy Fast who are coming to primary learning positions.

Mr. Stephenson shared information on the Early Reading Framework which is being finalized revising the Delta instructional framework for K-7 literacy based on increased consensus from the research community. New resources, such as books, teacher guides, and assessments, have been given to every K-2 classroom which is in line with the research practices.

Mr. Stephenson offered an update on an intermediate grades program called, "Success with Short Text Program." The department expanded this reading and writing program due to the increased interest and are offering professional learning around it.

Mr. Stephenson reported on Numeracy, noting the focus has been around Literacy for the last few years. Math Minds is a comprehensive math program developed by the University of Calgary, focusing on elementary math. The impact on student learning is showing to be very high with foundational concepts, there is also strong evidence of building teacher understanding as well. There will be two school piloting it this year, Gray and Nielsen Grove elementaries. Mr. Stephenson also reported that they are working on district-based assessment tools to help teachers determine where their students are at.

Mr. Stephenson shared that the Ministry is currently seeking public input on a new reporting order, that governs what report cards look like. There has been an interim reporting order for the past 5 years for grades K to 9. The Ministry has given a lot of opportunity for districts to look at different kinds of reporting and now they have a draft reporting order out, which is back to a fairly traditional report card style. There are some small changes, mainly around, no letter grades or percentages for K-9 and a mandated new Provincial proficiency scale. There will be a transition of elementary report cards, in our district, from Silhouette to MyEd. The pilot schools will be Devon Gardens, English Bluff and Cougar Canyon elementaries. They will begin the transition this year. Starting in

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November the reporting committee will begin to revise the report card template based on the new reporting order.

A few other items that Mr. Stephenson shared were:

- The launch of a new website around Powerful Learning Environments, which has been built between the three Learning Services departments. This offers assessment for learning, inclusive practices, and Indigenous ways of knowing.
- There is a return to in-person StrongStart, for six schools in total including Ladner, Heath, Hellings, Jarvis, McCloskey and Chalmers.
- There is a shift towards Microsoft Teams, Mr. Stephenson thanked Peter Deconti for all his hard work.

Trustee Kanakos thanked Mr. Stephenson and commented that there has been a lot of work on literacy over the past seven to ten years and that there have been great strides with literacy and it's nice to see that we are focusing on numeracy now.

Trustee Reid asked what the input has been from parents on the removal of letter grades and percentages for grade 8 and 9 students. Mr. Stephenson commented that he hasn't heard anything negative yet.

ENERGY MANAGER UPDATE

Mr. Maurice Bedard, Energy Manager, shared a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the following topics:

- Energy Conservation Upgrade Projects – The district has continued to convert sites to LED lighting, completing projects at Heath Elementary and Chalmers Elementary. The district has replaced 16 natural gas fire roof top heating units with 16 heat pump natural gas backups roof top heating units which are much more energy efficient and produce less carbon emissions.
- Behavioral Programs – In 2020-21 12 school Green Teams participated in the district's energy conservation program. The Green Team initiative has been launched again this year on September 23. There are 6 schools that have signed up.
- Energy Consumption and Cost Variation Due to COVID-19 – There was a significant increase in natural gas use for the 2019-20 school year mostly due a colder winter and then 2020-21 because of new protocols and procedures put in place due to COVID (ie. leaving doors and windows ajar/open). Mr. Bedard shared his electricity cost comparison and noted that because of reduced operations in buildings there was a reduction in use of electricity. There is an increase in natural gas use, but Mr. Bedard noted the savings in electricity offsets the cost of natural gas.

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- COVID-19 Ongoing Impacts on Energy Use – There have been altered operating hours due to the cohort model including staggered times for building entry and exit, and longer building occupancy hours due to extended custodial sanitizing. Other impacts included an increased amount of outside air being heated during colder months because windows and doors were being left open by building occupants for added fresh air. Changes in building entry and exit patterns to minimize contact risks created an increase in the opening of doors and released heated air out of the building.

Mr. Bedard noted that there is an overall reduction in building operating costs at non-FAES sites and that FAES heating sites saw an increase due to billing agreement changes. Overall, the altered operations due to COVID-19 resulted in reduced electricity use, creating a utilities cost saving at non-FAES heating sites in 2020 and the trend appears to be continuing into 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Reid/Dosanjh

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of September 28, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Laura Dixon shared that the Canadian School Mental Health Network met on October 8, 2021, Dr. Brenda Restoule from Doki First Nation and the Eagle Clan presented. Dr. Restoule is a registered clinical psychologist in Ontario in Anishinabek territory. Her clinical and community development work experience has been almost exclusively with Indigenous population in varied environment. Dr. Restoule spoke to the network about addressing colonial trauma and racism for Indigenous student and family wellbeing. The work involves ensuring these critical values and mindset for students: Hope, Belonging, Meaning & Purpose. Trustee Dixon encouraged people to look at some of her work that is available online and consider attending a future presentation if possible.

Chairperson Windsor shared that she has attended several Board Chairs meetings recently and reported out to Trustees on these meetings.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (*Inaugural*)

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ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Dosanjh/Dixon

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of October 12, 2021 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:18 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer