

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 27, 2022 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

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

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Duffin, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
T. Johnson, Director, Learning Services –
Equity & Success
P. Klassen, Director, Learning Services, Inclusive Learning
J. Maranda, Assistant Superintendent
A. Mascati, Director, Employee Services
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services –
Education Programs
C. Tucker, Director of Communications (*via Zoom*)
R. Sonsalla, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: D. Duff, Director, Facilities & Planning
K. Symonds, Director, International Student Programs

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 an agenda item for moving the lowering of District flags in recognition of Indigenous Presentation for national Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Chairperson Windsor introduced the partners that were attending in the audience:

- Jennifer Rak, Chair of Delta Parent Advisory Council
- Petra Hoy, 2nd Vice President, CUPE Local 1091

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- Daun Frederickson, President, CUPE Local 1091
- John Pavao, President, DPVPA
- Susan Yao, DTA President
- Alison Roche, DTA 1st Vice President

INDIGENOUS PRESENTATION FOR NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

Diane Jubinville, District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Programs, acknowledged that she is on the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations. Ms. Jubinville provided a presentation regarding National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30: she explained what it is and why we have it. She provided a presentation on the Canoe Launch that took place on September 23, 2022. She provided information about what the District is doing on September 29 to recognize this day and thoughts about what people can do for their own journey of reconciliation.

FLYING THE FLAG AT HALF MAST

M/S Trustees Dosanjh / Beard

THAT the Board direct staff at all sites to fly flags at half-mast in recognition of truth and reconciliation on September 29, 2022 and on September 30, 2022.

CARRIED

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

Chairperson Windsor advised World Teacher's Day is held annually on October 5th to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions.

The theme of this year's World Teacher's Day is "*The transformation of education begins with teachers*" with a focus on identifying new ways to recover pandemic-related learning losses and transform educational systems for sustainable futures.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she thanked all staff within our district – educators, support staff, school and district administrators, CUPE 1091 and DTA members – for their outstanding hard work and unwavering commitment to supporting Delta students.

Doug Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools, added to Chair Windsor's comments and shared some of his thoughts on why World Teachers' Day is important to Delta School District.

In support of the Vision for 2030 of being an innovative, inclusive community where all learners belong and everyone soars, one of the strategic priorities is to create *Powerful and Inspiring Learning Environments* to provide all students with opportunities and experiences to thrive and flourish. Across the district, there is continued and amplified engagement around student connectedness and ensuring that every student feels a sense of belonging and engagement in their school. Educators are designing learning to engage students' hearts and minds, for example, using

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place-based learning and diversifying the format and content of education to cater for their learners. It is no exaggeration to say we see this type of innovative teaching each and every day in Delta. Superintendent Sheppard thanked everyone who has chosen to spend their lives supporting and caring for our students and each other every day.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Dixon / Reid

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of June 7, 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Laura Dixon shared her work throughout the month of September:

- September 14 - Science World Sacred Journey Exhibit – found this to be a perfect way to prepare for the launch of Delta’s Wave Warrior canoe on Friday, September 23rd. She highly recommended the exhibit that tells the story of a cultural revitalization through the traditional ocean-going journey canoes.
- September 20 - BGC Hillside ribbon cutting – found the facility to be fabulously renovated and upgraded. It is providing tremendous opportunities for Delta kids to have a safe and fun environment to get an afternoon snack, homework help and incredible technology, complete with a full recording studio with instruments.
- September 20 – DPAC – bid a fond farewell after some 17 years first as a representative, then an executive member and for the last 14 years as their trustee liaison.
- September 23 – Congratulations on the successful launch of the Wave Warrior. As the District strives for parity in graduation rates, she is convinced that cultural revitalization is one of the keys.

Trustee Nick Kanakos reported on a number of events he attended between June and September:

- June– attended the Delta Youth Advisory Council final meeting of the school year on June 16th at South Delta Secondary. He also attended the District Graduation for our Indigenous students and saw the Indigenous canoe for the first time. He attended the District retirement for Assistant Superintendent Nancy Gordon on June 20th, along with senior staff and Trustees. On June 27th, he attended Tsawwassen First Nations Gradation at Tsawwassen Springs. On June 28th, he attended the Burnsvew Graduation at the North Delta Secondary Theatre.

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- September – attended the Board Audit Committee meeting with the financial auditors.

Chair Val Windsor provided her report on her activities in September:

- September 20 – Gibson Walking School Bus - after months of organizing and planning, the Gibson Elementary School “walking school bus” finally got legs and launched the programme. About 30 students and 15 parents met at Delview park to have a treat and then begin the trek to the school. The idea is to get cars away from the school during peak hours – a safety issue – and to enable students to get some exercise and fresh air. This was a joint effort that included school administration, Fraser Health and Delta Police. Our facilities department provided a paved path behind Delview Secondary for the walk.
- September 21 - Rotary International Day of Peace celebration at Tsawwassen Town Centre Peace Pole. This year’s theme is End Racism/Build Peace. Delta students - Adrielle MacFarlane (Grade 10 Burnsvie) and Sameer Jaffer and Tyson Lingham (Grade 12 SDSS) spoke on their work promoting anti-racism in Delta. They presented a powerful message about the importance of the work of the anti-racism committee and how they became involved in the committee.

Southpointe Academy grade 11 student, Sydney Harland, spoke on Peace. Rotary’s Peace Builder Award was presented to Linda Mallard and Anastasiia Vikeu, who is a Ukrainian refugee. Their story is heartwarming and yet filled with anxiety as Anastasiia’s family is still in Ukraine.

Many thanks to Tsawwassen Rotary for continuing their work in promoting Peace.

- September 23 - A dream came true for our Indigenous Education department staff, including Cultural Enhancement Facilitator, Nathan Wilson. The awakening of the Journey Canoe, “Wave Warrior” began at Wellington Point at 8:30 am where the canoe was unveiled, revealing the design and then cleansed with cedar boughs. Three groups of paddlers participated in one of three legs of the journey with the canoe arriving at Deas Island about 11:30 am. The canoe asked permission to come ashore, and permission was granted. The journey canoe has significant cultural importance to indigenous people and speakers Nathan Wilson, Delta School District elder, Rose Guerin and District Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, Diane Jubinville, provided advice and wisdom on this topic. The design on the canoe was created by TFN artist, Victoria Skosswunson Wilson and Musqueam artist, Diamond Point. This was the first artistic collaboration for both artists. After a delicious lunch, the canoe began its return journey to Captain’s Cove where it was transported to the district works yard on Tilbury.

The purchase of the canoe was made possible by donations from Fortis BC, South Delta Rotary and the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC), and an orange shirt day fundraising activity by our Indigenous Education department. Thank you to trustee, Laura Dixon and district staff for joining in the celebration and to everyone who participated in the day. Special thanks to the Indigenous Education department and

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Kunukuwuk, Nathan Wilson. Future canoeists will benefit greatly from participating in the journey canoe programme. This is an important step in the district's journey toward reconciliation. It was an emotional day of celebration and gratitude! Haichka.

Vice Chair Daniel Boisvert shared his activities between June and September:

- June 27 – attended the North Delta Secondary graduation event. He enjoyed witnessing the joyful faces of the graduating students.
- August 27 – attended the opening of the covered sports court in Ladner, located by City Hall. This is a very amazing use of the facility. He found it to be a great place for youth to be.
- September 20 – attend his last Audit Committee meeting. He expressed thanks to the external audit members for participating and recognized the valuable contribution they make in being part of the committee.

Trustee Bruce Reid reported on his activities between June and September:

- June – was able to attend a volunteer dinner hosted by the city. He attended the Graduation for Indigenous students, which was a very emotional and pride filled event. He also attended the Tsawwassen First Nation's open house on June 21 which highlighted their sports field and building. He was also privileged to be able to attend the funeral for TFN Chief Ken Baird. He also attended the farewell for Assistant Superintendent Nancy Gordon and the Graduation ceremony for Seaquam Secondary.
- September – Trustee Reid attended the District Audit Committee meeting on September 20.

Chair Windsor thanked Trustees for their work.

2021-2022 AUDITOR'S REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Nicola Christ, Secretary-Treasurer, submitted the 2021/2022 Audited Financial Statements.

The Financial Statements have been audited by the firm of BDO LLP, Chartered Accountants and have been prepared consistent with the format prescribed in section 95.63(1) of the BC School Act. The Auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion which means that the financial statements present the financial affairs of the District fairly in all material respects, in accordance with s.23.1 of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act of BC. Daniel Boisvert, Chair of the District Audit Committee, provided the Board of Education with the committee's recommendation for approval of the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements.

Secretary Treasurer Christ noted that the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements indicated an overall deficit of just under \$4.5 million which was mostly related to a \$4.95 million deficit in the Operating

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Fund and a small surplus in the Capital Fund. The deficit was the result of planned spending from the District's Accumulated Operating Surplus which, as a result, was reduced from just over \$19 million at the beginning of the year to just over \$14 million at the end of the year. The planned spending enabled the District to support a more gradual COVID transition period with continuance of key COVID support services being provided to a number of key areas in the District, including Inclusive Education, and Facility Services.

The Financial Statements must be forwarded to the Minister of Education by September 29, 2022.

Ms. Christ thanked the Financial Services team for their hard work, and in particular the Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Jonathan Duffin and the Director of Finance, Linda Hives.

Mr. Boisvert thanked BDO LLP for doing the audit and in particular, Brian Szabo and Kayan Yu for their work on the audit.

Ms. Windsor asked for Trustee comments.

Trustee Kanakos added one point regarding the Multiyear Accumulated Surplus report. It is new this year and provides for long term planning for unexpected events in the future.

Trustee Reid commented as a member of the Audit Committee that the current Board has done well at managing finances so that our district hasn't suffered as other districts may have. Also, while we've seen increases in Provincial funding, we still don't get as much as we need. He would like to see education receive increased funding. He recognized that we are able to do great things in our District due to funds received from International students but that we shouldn't be as dependable as we are on these sources of income, as we should have funds coming from Provincial government.

M/S Kanakos/Boisvert

THAT the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the District Audit Committee with respect to the approval of the 2021-22 consolidated Financial Statements.

AND

THAT the 2021-2022 Auditor's Report of the Delta School District be accepted.

AND

THAT the consolidated Financial Statements as at June 29, 2022, and the related notes to the Financial Statements, as audited by the firm of BDO LLP, be approved.

CARRIED

FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING REPORT

Under the Ministry of Education's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Policy Statement, as revised on July 6, 2020, Boards will create an Enhancing Student Learning Report by September 2022 to review and report on progress of the Strategic Plan.

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Doug Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools introduced Assistant Superintendent Brad Bauman who presented a brief overview of the highlights of the final draft Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report for Board of Education approval.

Mr. Bauman presented his power point presentation to show what the District has done to date and highlighted key data related to the District's Strategic Plan goals. A brief summary of areas for further growth was also shared. Mr. Bauman noted that the Board will receive updates on our progress on the Strategic Plan goals later in the school year.

Trustee Dixon Laura expressed her pleasure at how things are going and appreciates the report on progress. She asked the question as to why the Ministry wanted to switch from looking at 6-year graduation rates to 5-year graduation rates. Mr. Bauman advised that it allows us to be more strategic in working with students who we know are struggling, to assist them in graduating on time. Trustee Dixon commented about the FSA data being misused and she does not support the way it is being administered currently. She would like to see something else being used instead.

Trustee Kanakos commented that he liked the new change in numeracy focus and thanked Mr. Stephenson for his work with this.

M/S Trustees Kanakos / Dosanjh

THAT the Board of Education approve the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Report as presented.

CARRIED

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT

Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer, presented an adjustment in the Board Meeting schedule, that the Inaugural meeting on November 1, 2022, be moved to November 8, 2022.

CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

Justyna Axelson, parent at Cliff Drive, asked how we will arrive at the goal for numeracy; what will the process be.

Assistant Superintendent Bauman responded that we have a numeracy team. Learning Services Directors Neil Stephenson, Patrick Klassen and Ted Johnson work together with their teams to build resources for teachers. Pilot programs showed significant increase in outcomes and proved to be very effective. Ms. Axelson responded to this in asking if there is room for PAC's to encourage their parents to participate in the program. Mr. Bauman and Mr. Stephenson responded that the participating school have engagement with their parents, but the program is currently focused on supporting teachers. The program is expanding at different stages; positive feedback has been received from parents thus far. Mr. Bauman advised that the reports are focused on last year, and there will be more to share as we move forward.

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Chair Windsor commented that it is fair to say that DPAC would be interested when we get to that point and for Ms. Axelson to reach out to Mr. Bauman if she would like further information.

Maria Rilidczak, a Tsawwassen resident, asked Secretary Treasurer Nicola Christ if she has the numbers that relate outstanding school year per student. Nicola responded that it's not a usual statistic, but we could provide it at a later date as it is not available today.

Samanta Palomino, Tsawwassen parent whose child attends school in Ladner asked about data collection as it pertains to students with Level 1, 2 or 3 funding, and are these children being considered for data collection. Trustee Dixon recommended that she provide an outline of her concerns in a memo to the Board so that they can have appropriate staff compile the data she is requesting. Assistant Superintendent Bauman advised that extensive data is available, but it is difficult to get individual student data. Chair Windsor thanked Ms. Palomino for her question.

Daun Frederickson, CUPE President, thanked Principal Diane Jubinville and her department for inviting her to join the Wave Warrior launch. It was a pleasure to be a part of this.

Susan Yao, DTA President, reiterated what Ms. Frederickson said.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

October 11, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Boisvert / Dosanjh

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of September 27, 2022 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:57 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer