

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 25, 2023 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: V. Windsor, Chairperson
E. Beard, Vice-Chairperson
N. Daula
A. Dhillon
M. Gooch
N. Kanakos
J. Muego

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
D. Duff, Director, Facilities & Planning
J. Duffin, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
T. Johnson, Director, Learning Services –
Equity & Success
P. Klassen, Director, Learning Services, Inclusive Learning
A. Mascati, Director, Employee Services
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services – Education Programs
R. Sonsalla, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: J. Maranda, Assistant Superintendent
K. Symonds, Director, International Student Programs
C. Tucker, Director of Communications

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 Daula / Beard
THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

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Chairperson Windsor introduced the following education partners attending the meeting:

- Sandra Tee – DPVPA representative
- Joanna Macintosh – DPVPA representative
- Joanne Gill – CUPE 3rd Vice President & OHS Officer
- Alison Roche – DTA 1st Vice President
- Kathy Macfarlane – DTA 2nd Vice President
- Elen Nikas – DTA Member at large
- Jeanie MacKay – DTA Professional Development Chairperson

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Joanne Gill, 3rd Vice President and OHS Officer, CUPE Local 1091, provided a presentation on the National Day of Mourning, in recognition of union workers who have been injured and died while on the job. April 28 has been designated as the National Day of Mourning, with the purpose being twofold; to remember and honour those who lost their lives on the job, and to renew our commitment to prevent workplace injuries. Ms. Gill thanked the Board for their time and for providing her with the opportunity to make this presentation.

Chair Windsor thanked Ms. Gill for presenting.

M/S Trustees Dhillon / Vice Chair Beard

THAT the Delta School District lower flags on April 28 in honour of the National Day of Mourning.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Gooch / Muego

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of April 18, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

M/S Trustees Daula / Dhillon

THAT the Minutes of the Special Budget Input Meeting of April 18, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Gooch reported the following:

- April 24 – Visited her liaison schools, Hawthorne and Ladner Elementary, alongside Superintendent Sheppard. She enjoyed participating in an Earth Day assembly and receiving a tour of the school at Hawthorne Elementary. At Ladner Elementary, she had the opportunity to peek at their school garden and beautiful new playground.

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Trustee Muego reported the following:

- April 21 – Attended the 2023 Delta Reading Link Challenge at South Park Elementary. All 15 participating teams finished with close scores. The winning team was Ladner Elementary with an almost perfect score. The winning team will now go on to represent Delta at the Fraser Valley Regional Library Community Challenge on April 27 in Abbotsford.
- April 22 – Attended the City of Delta sponsored Fish release event at Watershed Park which saw the release of 25,000 chum salmon fry into the stream. He was pleased to see that many Delta families attended, as well as various local groups such as Delta Streamkeepers and OWL.

Trustee Dhillon reported the following:

- April 22 - Celebrated Vaisakhi festivities in Surrey. She enjoyed seeing different communities coming out to share in the event. It provided a great feeling of community and diverse culture.

Chair Windsor reported the following:

- April 27 – 29 – Will be attending the BCSTA AGM along with other members of the Board as well as Superintendent Sheppard and Secretary Treasurer Christ. She is looking forward to attending.

ADOPTION OF THE 2023/24 BUDGET WITH ACCUMULATED OPERATING SURPLUS

Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer, provided information regarding the Budget Bylaw, which is being presented for adoption. Ms. Christ advised that on April 18, 2023, Trustees received input from the public on the budget recommendations that were published on April 13, 2023. Based on Trustee deliberations and their motion on April 18, after the Special Budget Input Meeting, a final budget was prepared for approval at tonight's meeting. This final budget includes one additional Peer Support Coordinator position, which will be funded for a one-year period from Reserves and is to be re-evaluated for effectiveness and availability of funding no later than during the 2024/25 budget process. Ms. Christ also stated that two Peer Support Coordinators were included in the 2023/24 Budget, one based on the budget recommendation published on April 13 and the other based on the above-mentioned addition by the Board.

M/S Trustees Kanakos / Gooch

THAT approval be given for three readings at one meeting of the Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

CARRIED

M/S Vice Chair Beard / Trustee Dhillon

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THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total budget bylaw amount of \$217,752,813 for the 2023/24 fiscal year be given a FIRST reading.

CARRIED

M/S Trustees Muego / Kanakos

THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total budget bylaw amount of \$217,752,813 for the 2023/24 fiscal year be given a SECOND reading.

CARRIED

M/S Trustees Dhillon / Daula

THAT the Annual Budget Bylaw specifying a total budget bylaw amount of \$217,752,813 for the 2023/24 fiscal year be given a THIRD reading and Adopted.

CARRIED

Chair Windsor invited Trustees to provide their comments on the adopted budget and process.

All Trustees provided their comments on the budget process, and all agreed that they have arrived at a student-centered budget that has the least possible negative impact on students and classrooms. Trustees were very grateful for the thoroughness, mindfulness, and patience of District leadership as they worked through the budget process. As many Trustees were new to the process, they expressed their appreciation for the guidance of the returning Trustees, and of District staff. Input from the education partners, DTA, CUPE and DPAC, was greatly appreciated, and the feedback provided was well received. Trustees were pleased to be able to respond to the public input and support teachers by offering them an additional Peer Support Coordinator. They recognized what a valuable asset this is to teachers, with benefits felt throughout the wider school staff and student community. Trustees thanked the partners, District staff, and Secretary Treasurer Nicola Christ and her team for their hard work.

2023/24 MULTI-YEAR BUDGET REPORT

Nicola Christ, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2023/24 Multi-Year Financial Report to the Board of Education for approval so that it may be provided to the Ministry of Education along with the 2023/24 Budget before June 30, 2023.

Following the April 25, 2023 Board meeting, this document can be found on the District website.

M/S Trustee Daula / Vice Chair Beard

THAT the 2023/24 Multi-Year Budget Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

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QUESTION PERIOD

Alison Roche, DTA 1st Vice President, commented that she appreciates the amendment to the budget in adding the extra peer support coordinator. She asked about the costing of Teacher Librarian prep time and how it fit into the budget. Secretary Treasurer Christ provided a response on the financial rationale.

Jeanie MacKay, DTA Professional Development Chairperson, commented on her passion for Health & Safety and Professional Development. She thanked the Board for the National Day of Mourning recognition. She also thanked them for the additional funding for Peer Support. Her question was to ask for a third Peer Support position in next year's budget.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Gooch / Muego

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of April 25, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer