

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: February 21, 2023 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: V. Windsor, Chairperson
E. Beard, Vice-Chair
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
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
R. Sonsalla, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: T. Johnson, Director, Learning Services –
Equity & Success
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.

Chairperson Windsor introduced and welcomed the partners who were attending in the audience:

- Daun Frederickson – President, CUPE
- Petra Hoy – 2nd Vice President, CUPE
- Debbie Kabesh – Secretary Treasurer, CUPE
- Cindy Smith – Trustee, CUPE
- Elen Nikas – Member-At-Large, DTA
- Lorrenne Alkema – DPVPA Representative
- John Pavao – DPVPA Representative
- Jim Hope – DPVPA Representative

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Chairperson Windsor also mentioned partners who regretfully could not be in attendance:

- Jennifer Rak – DPAC Chair

Chair Windsor reminded attendees of the question period at the end of the meeting, that questions must relate to items on the agenda, and that speakers will be limited to 5 minutes. If anyone has more to say, they are welcome to submit in writing their presentation and anything extra they wish to add; Trustees will be reading everything that is submitted today. She advised that the purpose of today's meeting is for the Board to listen to questions and input. It is too early in the budget process to provide answers. There is the Public Budget input session on March 7 via Zoom which is dedicated to facilitating discussion and gathering feedback on the public priorities for the 2023/24 school district budget. Any feedback or questions provided tonight will be taken into consideration and be used to guide and inform the discussion on March 7. For access to the March 7th session, visit the school district website to register; you will be sent the Zoom link the day prior to the meeting. The public is welcome to share their priorities for the budget by emailing their questions and feedback to budget@deltaschools.ca before noon on Tuesday, March 7th for consideration.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Trustee Daula/ Vice Chair Beard

THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

ANTI RACISM STUDENT PRESENTATION

Judy Maranda, Assistant Superintendent introduced District Principals Brooke Moore and Satnam Chahal, who provided the Anti-Racism Student Presentation. The key student speaker, Sameer Jaffer, was unavailable to attend the meeting, but provided a presentation on the highlights of the program. Key foundational elements include: the creation of the Anti-Racism website available at Deltalearns.ca/antiracism which provides a practical tool to educate and familiarize users with District initiatives; surveying for staff and at the school level, aimed at guiding the direction of the work being done; creation and implementation of the Anti-Racism Procedure, which provides protocol and guidance for the district. Ms. Moore provided information on the anti-racism teams that secondary schools created, which encourage leadership in the students, and provided the Ministry of Education– K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan, which lays out points of direction for school districts. The fourth initiative was the creation of a video produced by students on anti-racism, which was presented to the Board.

Trustee Dhillon commended the courage and transparency apparent on the students faces in the video. She applauds all the different levels for working on bringing this video forward.

Chair Windsor agreed with Trustee Dhillon and reiterated that the kids did a fantastic job in putting this together. Healthy kids become healthy adults.

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INPUT INTO THE 2023-24 BUDGET

The following provided input for the 2023/2024 Budget:

- a) Daun Frederickson, CUPE Local 1091- CUPE Budget Priorities, see attached
- b) Megan Anderson, Delta teacher – Project Pickle
- c) Chari Jeffs, Parent – Inclusive Learning
- d) Andrea Drake, Parent – Inclusive Learning
- e) REACH Foundation – REACH Budget Priorities, see attached
- f) Ackerley Cooper – Inclusive Learning, see attached
- g) Michelle Tory – Inclusive Learning, see attached

Mrs. Alisa Grant, parent, presented on items not related to the 2023/2024 Budget. Trustee Kanakos called for Point of Order, which was not adhered to, so Trustees left the room temporarily.

All Trustees returned to the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and the meeting resumed.

Chair Windsor asked Mrs. Grant if her items for presentation were in reference to the Amended Budget. Mrs. Grant confirmed that this was the case and Chair Windsor advised that she should speak to this later in the meeting during question period.

Chairperson Windsor thanked the speakers for their input.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Gooch/Kanakos

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of January 10, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Chair Windsor called upon Trustees to report on their activities.

Trustee Muego reported on the following:

- February 1 – attended Film Academy Gala showcase. It was a remarkable showcase, and he is proud of the work they did.
- February 15 – attended the Audit Committee meeting. – reviewed the Audit Committee task and work plan, as well as saw to the re-appointment of the external auditor.
- February 24 & 25 - will be attending BCSTA Provincial Council meeting.

Trustee Kanakos reported on the following:

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- February 1 – attended the Film Academy and was impressed with the variety of talent, and that there was always a place within the academy for each student to reach their potential and their goal.
- February 16 – attended the District Emergency Preparedness meeting. The District, in conjunction with the City and other partners, is well prepared should an actual event happen.
- January 23 & February 1 – visited his liaison schools Annieville and Richardson in the north, and South Delta and South Park in the south.

Trustee Gooch reported on the following:

- January 16 - attended her first Healthy Schools Committee meeting. There were a several presentations on initiatives within the Delta School District such as Digital Citizenship, Preventure – which is aimed at Substance use prevention, Employee Wellness & Active Living. She thanked the dedicated staff, teachers and volunteers for their hard work and making the Delta School District healthier.
- January 21 - attended the Trustee Financial Orientation where we went over the budget process as outlined by the Ministry of Education. She thanked Secretary Treasurer Christ for providing the informative session and thanked her and the Finance Team for their countless hours and dedication to finding every nickel and dime available to the Delta School District.
- February 13 - attended another Healthy Schools Committee meeting. The topics included discussion of what the vision and goal is for the remainder of the year, as well as working on consolidating our resources, policies and information. She thanked all the partners and staff for all their hard work and making the holistic health needs of staff and students a priority.

Vice Chair Beard reported on the following:

- January 16 – finished her liaison school visits, accompanied by Assistant Superintendent Bauman. The highlight for her was visiting Delta Community College and seeing the adult learners.
- January 26 & 27 – attended the BCPSEA AGM as the District Representative. Made important connections with other Trustees.
- February 13 – attended the Audit Committee meeting.

Trustee Daula reported on the following:

- January 16 & 17 – visited her liaison schools, accompanied by Superintended Sheppard.
- January 18 – attended her first Delta Youth Advisory Committee at South Delta Secondary School. It was very exciting and interesting to watch the kids present on student voice and ways to increase school spirit.

Trustee Dhillon acknowledged tomorrow as Pink Shirt Day, and reported on the following:

- January 13 – attended the opening of the new Jarvis Elementary playground.
- January 20 – attended a gala at Reflections Banquet Hall. The purpose was a community effort to dispel mental health issues in the community.

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- January 21 – attended the Trustee Financial Orientation, presented by Secretary Treasurer Christ.
- February 6 – met with Green Teams Canada, which pertains to youngsters who are stewards for the environment and developing programs that train youngsters to become advocates.
- February 11 – attended the Delta Community Foundation – attended as a Trustee representative and as the Grant Committee Chair for the Foundation.
- February 17 – attended Literacy Day at Delta Secondary, which included important conversations on the importance of literacy.

Chair Windsor reported on the following:

- January 11 - attended the English Language Learners (ELL) Consortium where they reviewed the role of the Consortium which is primarily a joint advocacy group of trustees and district staff. Several questions emerged from the discussion including various funding issues, how are ELL learners supported in early learning programmes such as Strong Start as well as a letter writing campaign to IRCC outlining their concerns.
- January 16 – attended the Delta Parent Advisory Committee meeting. Delta staff member, Christina Lussier, gave an interesting presentation on Youth Mental Health in Delta. Christina’s slides and materials are available to trustees upon request. School PAC’s are being encouraged to update their Bylaws and Constitutions and Code of Conduct.
- January 31 – attended the Indigenous Leadership Session at East Delta Hall. Secondary students gathered for a day of Indigenous leadership activities. Rain Pierre of Katzie Nation was the facilitator for the day. Students enjoyed reconnecting with each other and sharing their learning.
- January 31 – attended an Indigenous Pow Wow and dinner for families at East Delta Hall. Troy Derrick shared indigenous teachings and history. Wild Moccasin dancers, Shayama-Priya and David Waterman, first spoke about their regalia and their own journeys and then wowed everyone with their dancing.
- February 17 – attended the CUPE Pro D Day at Seaquam, which was a professional learning day for CUPE Education Support staff. She heard speakers, Dr. Biali Haas, MD, whose topic was Learning to Thrive at Work and Life, and final Dr. Gabor Mate. The organizing committee did a great job!

2022/2023 AMENDED BUDGET

Ms. Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer, presented to the Board the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw Amount.

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Muego

THAT the Board of Education give approval for three readings at one meeting of the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw.

THAT the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$213,662,870 be given three readings and adopted.

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CARRIED

M/S Trustee Gooch/Vice Chair Beard

THAT the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$213,662,870 be given a FIRST reading.

CARRIED

M/S Trustees Dhillon/Daula

THAT the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$213,662,870 be given a SECOND reading.

CARRIED

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Muego

THAT the 2022/2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw in the amount of \$213,662,870 be given a THIRD reading and adopted.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

M/S Trustee Muego/Gooch

THAT the Delta Board of Education re-appoint BDO Canada as its auditor for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

CARRIED

PRIVACY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer presented on the Privacy Policy 23 accompanied by 3 Administrative Procedures.

M/S Trustees Dhillon/Daula

THAT the Board of Education approve the Policy 23 as presented.

CARRIED

FIELD TRIP

In accordance with Administrative Procedure 260, the Board was advised of the following multiple day field trip:

- North Delta Secondary – Field trip to France and Spain from March 15 – 26, 2023.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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Ms. Judy Maranda, Assistant Superintendent, presented the proposed 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 district calendars, as well as an amendment to the 2023/2024 district calendar.

M/S Trustees Gooch/Kanakos

THAT the Board of Education approve the proposed 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 district calendars, and the amendment to the 2023/2024 district calendar.

CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Windsor asked for questions related to items on the agenda, and also encouraged participants to email their questions to questions@deltaschools.ca.

Shawna Edwards – Informed the Board of inappropriate events happening at her child’s school during Black History month. Her concern is that students are not being taught the correct information. Her question is: rather than putting on productions about Anti-Racism, why are we not talking about the history of Canada from all ethnic parts, so that the focus is more on character as opposed to only anti-racism. She feels the teaching curriculum needs to be changed and would like to know when and how this could be implemented into the curriculum.

Chair Windsor responded we are working on it but there is more to be done. The comments have been heard.

Laura Sepke – Commented that her son has no Education Assistant and needs supports but is not getting what he needs. She then stated the schools need more EA’s and counselors need to be in school more than once a week to make it more viable to connect with them.

Sarah Dunston – Has 2 children with Autism/ADHD and advised that support for them has been very hard to receive. She indicated there are not enough support staff to help teachers and that children are losing out on their education because of the lack of supports.

Unidentified Speaker - Asked about space in schools and if there are going to be additional schools built as a result of new residential developments. Superintendent Sheppard advised that Delta still has space to manage predicted growth for the next few years.

Chari Jeffs – Asked Trustees how they are finding innovative ways to come up with money to further fund education.

Chair Windsor advised they are always in touch with elected officials who set the budget, and that Trustees do advocate for extra staff, grants and any money they can obtain from all sources.

Trustee Dhillon advised they are all working within the community to build relationships and find ways to get increased funding. When asked for examples, Trustee Dhillon advised about agricultural initiatives they are using to find creative ways of bringing in funding, but that there are other ways to work with the community to bring in extra supports.

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Jennifer Spears – Asked if the district is allowed to approach outside groups for money, such as fundraising initiatives. She further asked if the District is allowed to approach private groups for funding / donations. She said she would like to see more money to support Inclusive Learning, teachers, as well as the whole gamut of the District.

Chair Windsor advised that the farming community is interested in helping with agriculture development, if that's a possibility. Other organizations have stepped up to offer supports such as the Starfish Backpack initiative.

Pat Nevraumont – Asked the Trustees why they are not allowing people to ask questions about various subjects, why are they not hearing them out and listening to them. Chair Windsor advised that Question Period is included to allow only for questions pertaining to items on the agenda. Mr. Nevraumont then asked about item 7 on the agenda, where there was much discussion around mental health and the possible impact of school based resources.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

March 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Gooch/Dhillon

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of February 21, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 9:16 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer