

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 10, 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  
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  
K. Symonds, Director, International Student Programs  
C. Tucker, Director of Communications  
R. Sonsalla, Executive Assistant

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:

- Petra Hoy – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, CUPE
- Joanne Gill – 3<sup>rd</sup> VP – CUPE
- Kathy Macfarlane – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – DTA
- Jeff Hacker – Member-at-Large – DTA
- Kevin Vasconcelos – DPVPA

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

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- Jennifer Rak – DPAC Chair
- Daun Frederickson – President - CUPE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Trustee Gooch/Daula

**THAT** the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

Karen Symonds, Director, International Student Programs, provided an update on the current status of International Student Programs. As of January 1, 2023 the program has an enrolment of 593 International students – 58 attending in elementary and 535 attending in secondary. The program has been growing steadily and has recovered nicely from the decline during COVID-19. Ms. Symonds provided a presentation outlining some statistical information on the program, including numbers of students at each school.

A number of International students, currently enrolled in Delta, were in attendance and each provided a brief report on where they are from, how long they have been attending in Delta, why they chose Delta, what their most memorable experience was, as well as what their future plans are. The students in attendance were from Iran, Mexico, China, Italy, Germany, Japan, and Slovakia.

Following the presentation, Trustee Kanakos provided a reflection on his families' positive experience with hosting International students, and thanked the students for coming to Canada and choosing Delta.

Chair Windsor thanked the students for attending and sharing their stories, and wished them all the best for their futures.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Daula / Dhillon

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 6, 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

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Chair Windsor called upon Trustees to report on their activities.

Trustee Muego attended the Delta Council / Delta Board of Education Liaison Committee meeting on December 15, 2022. He was pleased to see the collaborative spirit between the City Council and School District. Earlier that day he also attended the Beach Grove Elementary Winter Concert matinee, which was a pleasure to experience. He commended all the hard work from both students and staff.

On January 9 & 10 he visited his liaison schools – Beach Grove, Cougar Canyon, Gibson & McCloskey Elementaries and Delta Secondary. The visits were fantastic, and eye opening to see from a Trustee perspective. He was impressed with how each Administrator's personal style made an imprint on the staff and students, which made for an interesting school culture filled with diversity. He was pleased to see that all of the schools have the Vision 2030 front and center.

Trustee Kanakos attended the District Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on December 8, 2022. On December 13, 2022 he attended the Oratona Dinner at Seaquam Secondary, which was hosted by the 1867 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps "Seaforth Highlanders". The dinner honors troops who fought, were injured, or killed during the battle in World War II. Many of our Delta students are members of the Army Cadet Corps and Air Cadets. On December 14<sup>th</sup> he attended the South Delta Winter Concert, which highlighted South Delta's excellent choir. On December 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the Burnsvew Senior Girls Basketball game against North Delta Secondary and on December 16<sup>th</sup> attended Pinewood Elementary's Winter Concert. He indicated that as a Trustee, one of the most pleasurable experiences is to go into the school, hear the children sing, and see the excitement as they prepare for their Winter Break.

Trustee Gooch attended the Ladner Elementary Winter Concert on December 8, 2022. It was a very well attended event, with every seat in the gym filled. It was heartwarming to see the school community come together and celebrate the holiday season. The holiday concert was comical and memorable, and she thanks all the students and teachers for their hard work and participation.

Trustee Beard attended the English Bluff Elementary Winter Arts Gala on December 8, 2022. This was a different approach to the typical Winter Concert, and she thoroughly enjoyed the way it was presented. The Gala also served as a fundraiser for Deltassist, was well attended by the community and ended up being a successful fundraiser. On January 9, 2023 she visited two of her liaison schools, Seaquam Secondary and Cliff Drive Elementary, along with Assistant Superintendent Judy Maranda. She enjoyed the day and was impressed with the great things she saw in the classrooms. She mentioned how nice it is to be back in the schools.

Trustee Daula attended the Gray Elementary Winter Concert on December 14, 2022. She really enjoyed her time there and mentioned that the concert was well attended. The holiday concert was very emotional and fun.

Trustee Dhillon attended the holiday concert at Neilson Grove Elementary on December 8, 2022 and at Pinewood Elementary on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Both concerts were unique and very enjoyable. She was impressed at how fast the Neilson Grove production came together as 50% of the school was absent just the week before. The Pinewood concert was very impressive due to the variety of musical

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instruments used in the production. There was great energy at both shows, and she mentioned how nice it is to be able to be together in-person again. She also attended the District Youth Action Committee. The conversation was focused on connectedness. She received wonderful feedback from the students and enjoyed participating with them one on one. She is interested in attending more of these meetings in the future. On January 6<sup>th</sup> she enjoyed visiting 3 of her liaison schools, Jarvis and Pinewood Elementaries and North Delta Secondary, along with Superintendent Sheppard. She commented on how each school community is different and that we must be mindful of this uniqueness in our work with each school community. She also attended various Basketball games at the secondary schools. During the games she enjoyed conversing and interacting with parents as a Trustee representative.

Chair Windsor attended the Sunshine Hills Elementary Winter Concert on December 15, 2023. It was very exciting to be in person again after the past few years, and mentioned that the students and staff outdid themselves. On December 19<sup>th</sup> she attended the Guru Nanak Society Food Bank, along with Mayor George Harvie and Councilor Dylan Kruger. She enjoyed being a part of this and grateful to the Society for funding it. On January 5<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Burnsvie Secondary School 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – 50 years of learning. The students and staff were wonderful hosts and she enjoyed the variety of music and dance performances. On January 9<sup>th</sup> she attended the first meeting of the Delta Heritage Fair. The fair this year will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and there will be awards for the top projects. This will tentatively be scheduled for the Discovery Centre next to City Hall. She will keep everyone posted on the event.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Ms. Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer, provided a brief introduction of the 2023-24 budget development process and timeline and indicated this is the second year of the expanded engagement process. Ms. Christ reviewed the meetings, their dates, and the purpose of each meeting. Dates and more information on meetings will be posted on our website, social media, advertising. Our education partners will be contacted also for the purpose of coordinating engagement sessions.

POLICY 1

Mr. Brad Bauman, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Board of Education with a revision to Policy 1 “District Foundational Statements”. The revision reflects the most current District Vision (Vision 2030), the District’s Mission, Values, Key Goals, 2021-24 Strategic Plan Priorities and District logo.

M/S Trustee Kanakos / Vice Chair Beard

**THAT** the revision of Policy 1 “District Foundational Statements” be approved as presented.

CARRIED

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QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Windsor asked for questions related to items on the agenda. No questions were presented.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

February 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Daula / Dhillon

**THAT** the Delta School Board meeting of January 10, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:16 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer