

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

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: December 12, 2023 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: V. Windsor, Chairperson
J. Muego, Vice-Chairperson
E. Beard
N. Kanakos

D. Sheppard, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bauman, Assistant Superintendent
N. Christ, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Duffin, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
J. Maranda, Assistant Superintendent
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services - Education Programs
R. Sonsalla, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Trustees: A. Dhillon
N. Daula
M. Gooch

D. Duff, Director, Facilities & Planning
P. Klassen, Director, Learning Services - Inclusive Learning
A. Mascati, Director of Human Resources
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 First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band 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 Trustee Kanakos / Vice-Chair Muego
THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

Chairperson Windsor introduced the following education partners attending the meeting:

- Claire George – DPVPA
- Daun Frederickson – President, CUPE Local 1091

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- Joanne Gill – 3rd Vice President, CUPE Local 1091
- Elen Nikas – DTA French as a First or Working Language Chair
- Suky Aujla – DTA Member-at-Large (BIPOC)

CAREER TRANSITIONS & APPLIED SKILLS

Neil Stephenson, Director of Learning Services, introduced Ms. Lisa Chapieski, District Coordinator Student Options & Opportunities, who provided the Board with an update and presentation on Student Options & Opportunities.

Ms. Chapieski informed Trustees that over 1 million jobs will be opening over the next few years and explained how that number ties into Career Education and Programs. She provided information on the various Career Education and Career Programs offered to students as they transition through secondary school, including Career Life Education, CLC/Capstone, Youth Work in Trades, Youth Train in Trades, Work Experience, as well as Dual Credit programs. Some of the programs she touched on are as follows:

- The Junior Firefighting Camp – this program saw twice the number of applications this year over last year (62 vs. 30); only 16 students will be accepted.
- The Career & Hiring Fair was a success with 1,000 people attending. All 7 schools participated. Many vendors were hiring and accepting resumes on the spot. It was very beneficial for students as they need to be encouraged to get out into the field to see what it is really like.
- Breaking Stereotypes – they are working hard at breaking stereotypes in careers and talking about such things as Men in ECE and Women in Trades, Educating Staff, Inclusion and Diversity.
- Broadening Perspectives – she is working on getting more information out to provide better awareness of all that is offered through Career Programs. The hope is to increase applications to all programs, including Dual Credit programs.
- District Sessions for Families – this will be focused on helping parents and guardians become career coaches for their teens. There will be a session on January 17, 2024 at North Delta Secondary at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Chapieski also reviewed ways that others can help students, such as participating in the Capstone Presentations, seeing students in action by visiting our partnership sites, and promoting us as a collaborative partner.

Trustee Kanakos commented on the “You Cannot Be What You Cannot See” part of the presentation and enjoyed the information. Vice Chair Muego thanked Ms. Chapieski for the great work she is doing. Trustee Beard enjoyed the diversity and thanked Ms. Chapieski for the presentation. Chair Windsor enjoyed being at the Firefighters Camp and commented on how very exciting a time it was. She also thanked Ms. Chapieski for the presentation.

LEARNING SERVICES PRESENTATION

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Neil Stephenson, Director, Learning Services, provided the Board with an update on new and existing programs in Learning Services, in particular the Math Minds program. He introduced Michelle Jones, Coordinator of Teacher Mentorship, and a grade 6/7 teacher at Jarvis Elementary School. Mr. Stephenson provided an overview of the Math Minds program and explained the framework of it; it believes in good math with teachers being the core of the instruction, and that good teaching is better when partnered with good resources. Ms. Jones provided a background of her 25 years with the District and her journey on getting to where she is now. She spoke about the Math Minds resource, which uses the JUMP Program, and that it is proving to be very helpful. Mr. Stephenson reviewed the process of how the program was piloted at Gray Elementary, and after one year of using it, everyone asked said they would use it again. The program has since become very popular and a total of 8 schools have added the program in 2022/23. At least 75% of teachers in these schools are committed to the program.

Mr. Stephenson also provided information on where our students rank mathematically on a national level. 120 grade 6 students were ranked; at the beginning of the year our students ranked on the 44th percentile nationally. By the end of the year, the same students moved to the 54th percentile nationally. A teacher survey was conducted and confidence in the program has increased in all categories year after year. The two areas that need improvement, however, are for those students who are struggling and for those who are exceeding.

Trustees commented on the benefits of the program and thanked Mr. Stephenson and Ms. Jones for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustee Beard / Vice Chair Muego

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 7, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

POLICY 7 – BOARD OPERATIONS

Nicola Christ, Secretary Treasurer, provided Trustees with the revised Policy 7 – Board Operations for approval. The main change is in the wording regarding Trustee remuneration and how the remuneration is calculated.

M/S Trustee Kanakos / Vice Chair Muego

THAT the Delta Board of Education approve the updated Board Operations (Policy 7), as presented.

CARRIED

2024-2025 CALENDAR REVISION

Judy Maranda, Assistant Superintendent, provided Trustees with the revised 2024-2025 District Calendar. There were two errors on the existing calendar; one being the professional development

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day in October and the other being the Family Day holiday in February. The calendar has been revised to reflect the correct dates.

M/S Trustees Beard / Kanakos

THAT the Delta Board of Education approve the revised 2024-2025 District Calendar as presented.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Vice Chair Muego reported on the following:

- November 8 – Attended the Delta Council and Delta Board of Education Liaison Committee meeting.
- November 9 – Attended the Beach Grove Remembrance Day ceremony, which he found to be very special.
- November 11 – Attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Memorial Park cenotaph where he and Trustee Beard laid the Board of Education wreath.
- November 17 – Attended the Delta Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Awards and had some community outreach.
- November 23 – 25 – Attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy. It was called Guiding a Healing Journey. There were many highlights, including an Indigenous Knowledge Panel highlighting matriarchal elders and their residential school experiences, as well as Inuit author Michael Kusugak and Kevin Lamoureux from the University of Winnipeg who led the audience on a journey leading to the recognition of 215 victims of the residential school in Kamloops.
- November 25 – Attended the Tree Lighting Ceremony at North Delta Centre for the Arts.
- November 27 – Attended the Mayors Sports Summit at the North Delta Centre for the Arts.
- December 12 – Attended the Richardson Elementary school playground opening.

Trustee Kanakos reported on the following:

- November 11 - Attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the North Delta Social Heart, and along with Trustee Dhillon placed the Memorial Wreath on behalf of the Delta Board of Education.
- November 23 – 25 - Attended the BCSTA Trustees Academy. The theme of the Academy was “Healing Journey” which was a continuance of the theme of Indigenous Healing and Reconciliation.
- November 27 – Attended the Mayors Sport Summit, which was also attended by representatives from Delta sports groups, the Mayor and Council, as well as Senior City Administration.
- December 7 - Attended the District Emergency Preparedness meeting. One of the highlights of the meeting was the representation sent by Delta police and fire and the explanation of how they would integrate and work with the District in emergency situations.
- December 12 – Attended the Richardson Playground Opening. Universal access playground.

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Trustee Beard reported on the following:

- November 11 – Attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Ladner cenotaph in Memorial Park along with Vice Chair Muego, and laid the wreath on behalf of the Delta Board of Education.

Chair Windsor reported on the following:

- November 8 – Attended the Sunshine Hills Remembrance Day Ceremony. Students and staff worked hard to put on an assembly that focussed on Peace. She was very impressed with how solemn the students were as the assembly progressed.
 - November 16-17 – Attended the BCSSA Conference. Topics included Six Steps to Getting into Good Trouble at School, Strategies and Resources to Guide you on your Accessibility Journey, and Navigating the Landscape of Racial Issues Through a Personal Lens. She enjoyed the diversity of the topics and the passion of the speakers.
 - November 23-25 – Attended the BCSTA Trustee Academy. Some highlights for her were the introductory performance by students at Imagine High School in Abbotsford who work with an Indigenous band and the school rock band to create original music focusing on Indigenous ways and nature. She found it to be very inspirational! She also enjoyed Inuit speaker, Michael Kusugak, who enhanced her knowledge of the Inuit people by telling his story in a way that had the audience mesmerized.
- The Delta School District was asked to represent urban districts in a panel format on Governance. Topics of question included what to do when a critical incident happens in your district, renewing your strategic plan and, finally, what to do when your district is experiencing a structural deficit. The panel included Vice-Chair, Muego, Superintendent Sheppard, Secretary Treasurer, Christ, and herself. The group were pleased with the response of those in the audience and felt it was a great interactive session.

FIELD TRIP

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

- South Delta Secondary – Field trip to Honolulu, Hawaii from December 26, 2023 – January 2, 2024.

QUESTION PERIOD

No questions relating to the agenda were presented.

Daun Frederickson on behalf of CUPE Local 1091 thanked the Chair and Superintendent for allowing CUPE to attend the BCSSA Conference, and wished everyone a well-deserved and good break.

Claire George on behalf of DPVPA wished everyone a well-deserved holiday.

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Elen Nikas on behalf of the DTA wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Chair Windsor wished everyone a great holiday season and a great break.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

January 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustee Beard / Vice Chair Muego

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of December 12, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: 8:53 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer