

SCHOOL DISTRICT 59 (PEACE RIVER SOUTH)
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY-TREASURER

11600 – 7th STREET
DAWSON CREEK, B.C.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.59**

DATE & TIME: January 20, 2010 - 1:03 PM

PLACE: School Board Office – Dawson Creek

PRESENT: Trustees:
S. Berringer-Absent
S. Kampen
J. Clavier-Absent
W. Ezeard
M. Fofonoff
C. Kux-Kardos
R. Powell

G. Slykhuis, Secretary-Treasurer
K. Sawchuk, Superintendent
R. Dennis, Assistant Superintendent
R. Schwartz, Administrative Assistant

Guests: L. Mackay, PRSTA
Dennis Armitage
Ann Sherk

Media: Mathew Bains – Northeast News

Called to order – 1:05 pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: 9.3 – Torch Run

Deletions:

(4995)
MOVED/SECONDED – Kux-Kardos/Kampen
THAT, the Regular Meeting agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPENING PRAYER

The Secretary-Treasurer led an opening prayer.

1.0 ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

R1.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2009

(4996)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2009 be adopted as printed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R1.2 Excerpts from Special Closed Meeting – December 9, 2009

(4997)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Excerpts from the December 9, 2009 Closed Meeting be adopted as printed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 BUSINESS ARISING

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

R3.1 – Teacher Position on FSA's – L. Mackay

Ms. Mackay presented the position the PRSTA and BCTF have on the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing. The PRSTA and BCTF are against FSA testing. Local teachers have expressed additional concerns of the testing being used to rank schools at the local level. Ms. Mackay made a formal request of the Board to honour the request of the parents to withdraw children from writing the FSA test.

4.0 REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

4.1 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report for December 2009 was presented and reviewed.

There were 21 suspensions reported in December. The main suspensions were categorized as:

- 3 for bullying
- 4 for possession, distributing, or being under the influence of a controlled substance
- 12 for fighting

Trevor Kolkea, Vice-Principal at CMS, will be carrying the Olympic Torch into the Encana Centre for the official ceremony and Travis Jones, SPSS graduate, has been a member the torch relay team since December. Travis was also selected to be a torch attendant, ensuring the torch never goes out.

Olympic themed artwork was submitted from various schools and will be displayed at the Art Gallery and set up at the Encana Centre for the torch ceremonies.

(4998)

MOVED/SECONDED - Kux-Kardos/Kampen

THAT, the Board allow the advertisement of the torch run relay to be distributed through the schools in the district.

CARRIED (1 OPPOSED – FOFONOFF)

The Ministry of Education has approved funding for 194 full day kindergarten students for School District #59. The Board will need to determine how to allocate the 194 seats as that total will not cover all eligible kindergarten students.

A working group of teachers, parents, support staff, and administrative staff travelled to Kamloops & Salmon Arm to review a 2 school-1 campus middle/senior school.

Foundation Skills Assessment is a matter of provincial policy and all students are expected to write the tests.

Northern Opportunities has received funding to continue for another 3 years to continue to provide funding for dual credit programs.

Three new StrongStart programs opened at Devereaux, Tate Creek, and Parkland Elementary Schools.

R4.2 School Planning Council List

The Superintendent presented the updated school planning council list.

R4.3 FSA Update

The Superintendent reported that all eligible students are expected to write the FSA tests. Mrs. Sawchuk reviewed what “exceptional reasons” would excuse a student from writing.

R4.4 Bill 33 Update

The Superintendent reported on the latest developments of class size within the District as of December 1, 2009. Three classes were reported being over 30 students.

R4.5 Northern Opportunities Update

The Assistant Superintendent announced that the Northern Opportunities program will be receiving funding for an additional three years. Minimally, School District No.59 will be receiving \$32,400 per year for the promotion and development of dual credit options. The emphasis will be on academic dual credit programs.

Mr. Dennis also reported that since the establishment of the Spectra Endowment Fund (Formerly Duke Energy) over 90 School District No.59 students have received in excess of \$141,000 in bursaries.

R4.6 Students Linking with Soldiers

The Assistant Superintendent has received a request to allow a program in the schools that will link students to soldiers in Kandahar through a pen pal relationship.

The Board discussed the influence and risk students may experience and felt they needed more information as to how the program would be structured.

(4999)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Board accept the proposal which allows students to link with soldiers in Kandahar through a pen pal relationship.

POSTPONED

(5000)

MOVED/SECONDED - Ezeard/Kampen

THAT, the Board postpone the motion to accept the proposal which allows students to link with soldiers in Kandahar through a pen pal relationship to the next regular meeting with a request for more information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R4.7 Reconfiguration Update

The Superintendent reviewed the reconfiguration process along with the research and discussion that has taken place to date.

(5001)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Superintendent Reports on Monthly Report, School Planning Council List, FSA Update, Bill 33 Update, Northern Opportunities Update, and Reconfiguration Update are received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.0 REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

R5.1 Financial Reports

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the financial reports for December.

R5.2 Full Day Kindergarten

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the guidelines the ministry has set for full day kindergarten implementation beginning September 2010. The Ministry has announced 15,000 full day kindergarten seats will be funded province wide. School District No.59 has been allotted 194 seats for September. The district will need to look at identifying priority schools in which full time kindergarten students will be enrolled (up to 194 seats). Currently the district has 270 students enrolled in Kindergarten.

Trustee Kux-Kardos inquired if the District is in a position to financially allow all the Kindergarten seats needed to accept all the students that wish to enrol in full-time kindergarten.

If the Board does not agree to accept the allotted seats for full day kindergarten then full day kindergarten would not be implemented until 2011/12 school year.

(5002)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Board approve to implement full-day kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year based on the allotted 194 seats.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R5.3 Amended 2009/10 Budget & Bylaw

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the amended budget. The budget includes a \$1.3 million transfer from reserves to compensate for the loss of the Annual Facility Grant funding.

(5003)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Fofonoff

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2009/10 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for the 2009/10 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$48,055,430 for the 2009/10 fiscal year be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(5004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Fofonoff

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2009/10 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for the 2009/10 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$48,055,430 for the 2009/10 fiscal year be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(5004)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Board move into the committee of the whole.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(5005)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Fofonoff

THAT, the Board move out of the committee of the whole.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(5006)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Fofonoff

THAT, the Board allows the third reading of the Amended Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2009/10 to occur at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(5007)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Amended Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2009/10 showing the estimated revenues and expenditures for the 2009/10 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$48,055,430 for the 2009/10 fiscal year be read a third time, passed and adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R5.4 HST Rebates

The Ministry of Finance issued a bulletin announcing that on average, qualifying schools, universities and public colleges, and hospital authorities will pay no more provincial HST after harmonization than they currently pay in PST. When the HST is implemented, BC intends to provide rebates of 87% of the provincial portion of the HST for eligible schools.

(5008)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kampen

THAT, the Secretary-Treasurer reports on Financial Reports and HST Rebates are received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.0 DIARY

8.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

9.0 TRUSTEE ITEMS

9.1 BCSTA Update – all trustees

Trustee Berringer was not available to give a report.

➤ 9.1a – NIB Conference

Trustee Berringer will be attending the NIB conference in Prince George on February 5-7, 2010.

9.1b – eLearning Programs

Trustee Kux-Kardos reported on the upcoming eLearning sessions from BCSTA.

➤ 9.2 Spirit of Literacy Events – C. Kux-Kardos

Trustee Kux-Kardos reported on the Spirit of Literacy Event. This event covers a wide variety of topics including literacy, PAC training, wills & estates, etc.

Trustee Clavier joined the meeting via teleconference.

9.3 Parkhill Process – R. Powell

Chair Powell reviewed the presentation the Board presented at Parkhill Elementary on February 6th, 2010.

The Board discussed any new information brought forward from that meeting as well as from the public. There was a written public request to postpone the third reading of the bylaw; however, the Board felt delaying the reading would not be beneficial.

9.4 Proposed School Closure Bylaw (Parkhill) – all trustees

Board Chair Powell called for the third and final reading of the proposed School Closure Bylaw No. 2009-1.

(5009)

MOVED/SECONDED – Kampen/Ezeard

THAT, the Board, as per Board Policy and Regulation No. 2320 – School Closure, wishes to permanently close Facility Number 05959007 known as PARKHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, located at 9700-5th Street, Dawson Creek, BC, effective June 30, 2010, and that School Closure Bylaw No. 2009-1 be read third time, passed, and adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.0 QUESTION PERIOD

A 10-minute question period followed.

11.0 FUTURE BUSINESS

11.1 – Regular Board Meeting – February 24, 2010 (*note change from original calendar*)

ADJOURNMENT

(5010)

MOVED/SECONDED – Ezeard/Kux-Kardos

THAT, the Regular Meeting be adjourned. (3:10 PM)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

(Richard Powell) Chair

(G. Slykhuis) Secretary-Treasurer