



# BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M.  
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

## MINUTES

### IN ATTENDANCE

C. Denesiuk, Chair  
L. Little, Vice Chair  
K. Andrews, Trustee  
W. Huebert, Trustee  
D. E. Jamieson, Trustee  
G. Manning, Trustee  
L. Van Alphen, Trustee

G. Doi, Superintendent of Schools  
F. Regehr, Secretary-Treasurer  
B. Celli, Assistant Superintendent  
R. Shongrunden, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
J. Hickling, Director of Maintenance  
G. Schafer, Director of Instruction  
L. Hauptman, Director of Instruction  
D. Burgoyne, Director of Instruction  
D. Adey, Executive Secretary

J. Guy, Vice Principal, Penticton Secondary School  
T. Robinson, Vice Principal, Penticton Secondary School

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Denesiuk welcomed district staff and representatives of the media.

### 2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Manning/Huebert that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

### 3.0 PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOOLS AND/OR STUDENTS

#### 3.1 Gifted Program

Teacher Shirlene Peters and three students from the gifted program spoke regarding their participation at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC. Shayna Lawrie (grade 7), Adra Greig (grade 7), and Kerrick Lannon (grade 6) were nominated by Ms. Peters to attend the conference designed to build and enhance leadership skills in groups of like-minded, top-rated students from across America and Canada. With the support of their parents, Adra and Shayna attended a one-week

session in June and Kerrick attended another in July. They presented highlights of the conference which included learning about the different types of leadership, goal-setting, famous leaders and their styles, and American history.

Following a number of questions, the students were congratulated on being selected for the conference and being great ambassadors for our district.

### **3.2 Japan Trip**

In late September, sixteen secondary school students from School District 67 traveled to Tokyo and Ikeda, Japan, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of their sister city relationship. The odyssey began with three exciting days in Tokyo and continued with seven more amazing days in Ikeda. The students were immersed in the Japanese culture during their homestays in Ikeda, and throughout the visit, the students were exemplary ambassadors for their community and country. Students Rebecca Roenitz from Summerland Secondary and Mark Theilmann from Penticton Secondary, accompanied by Music Teacher Jim Redding and Vice Principal Jeff Guy, shared some of the highlights from the adventure and thanked school trustees for their support.

Following a number of questions, appreciation was extended to the students and staff for their presentation.

## **4.0 RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS AND GUESTS**

### **5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

MOTION: Little/Van Alphen that the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 2, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

### **6.0 REPORT FROM CLOSED MEETING**

The secretary-treasurer reported on the closed meeting held on October 2, 2006:

1. Received correspondence;
2. Received reports from the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee and the discipline committee;
3. Approved an increase to the bussing transportation contract;
4. Confirmed teaching, excluded, and CUPE staff changes;
5. Received information related to a student;
6. Received information on student suspensions;
7. Received information regarding the annual facility grant and approved that a letter be written to the Ministry of Education;
8. Received information regarding a meeting of the British Columbia Public Schools Employers Association.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Letter from British Columbia Teachers' Federation**

A letter from the BC Teachers' Federation enclosing a "Statement of Concern" from the teachers of British Columbia regarding the general direction of public schooling in the province.

### **7.2 Letter from Department of Finance**

A letter from the federal government's department of finance acknowledging receipt of the Board's letter to the Minister of Finance requesting amendments to the *Excise Tax Act* in order to provide a 100% rebate of the GST payable by school boards.

**7.3 Letter from Princess Margaret Secondary Leadership Class**

A letter from the leadership class advising the annual 10,000 To-Night canned food drive, hosted by both Princess Margaret and Penticton Secondary leadership classes, will take place at Penticton Secondary School on Thursday, November 30, 2006.

**7.4 Summary of Copies of Letters to the Board**

Copies of the letters to the Board listed below are available in the trustee reading file:

- School District No. 38 (Richmond) to the federal government minister of finance requesting a 100% rebate of the GST for school boards/districts;
- School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) to the federal minister of finance requesting a 100% rebate of the GST for school boards across Canada;
- British Columbia Teachers' Federation enclosing a copy of a brief on Education Funding sent to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;
- British Columbia Teachers' Federation enclosing a copy of a brief on Adult Literacy forwarded to the Select Standing Committee on Education;
- School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) to the Union of BC Municipalities supporting the UBCM recommendation that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to review the current school funding formula so that it better reflects the needs of students in remote and rural communities;
- School District No. 57 (Prince George) to the Prime Minister of Canada encouraging the federal government to honour its child care agreement with the provinces;
- School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) to the Minister of Transportation thanking the Minister for the back to school message displayed on highway digital signs and suggesting that a provincial strategy for this be implemented on an annual basis;
- School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) to the Minister of Education regarding the composition of district teams;
- School District No. 22 (Vernon) to the Minister of Education regarding the delay in the annual facilities grant for the 2006-07 program year;
- School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) to the Minister of Education regarding the 2006-07 annual facilities grant funding;
- School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) to the Minister of Education regarding the delay in the approval and release of the 2006-07 annual facility grant funding;
- School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) to the Minister of Education regarding the annual facility grant funds;
- School District No. 37 (Delta) to the Minister of Education regarding the annual facility grant funding;
- School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) to the Minister of Education regarding the annual facility grant;
- School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) to the Minister of Education regarding the uncertainty of the annual facility grant funding for 2006-07;
- The Okanagan Branch of the BCSTA, representing seven school districts, to the Minister of Education to express concern on the delay of the remaining 2006-07 annual facility grant;
- School District No. 63 (Saanich) to the Minister of Education requesting that the government release the balance of the promised 2006-07 annual facility grant funding, and secondly, requesting that the provincial government provide replacement funding for those school fees previously collected under the Ministerial Order;
- School District No. 38 (Richmond) to the Minister of Education regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling on school fees;
- School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) to the Minister of Education regarding the Supreme Court school fees ruling;

- School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) to the Minister of Finance advocating for increased funding for education, health, and social services; and that the Minister look for financial savings by increased collaboration between ministries.

MOTION: Andrews/Huebert that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

## 8.0 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### 8.1 Policy Committee

Trustee Van Alphen reported regarding the policy committee meeting held on October 17, 2006:

#### a. Policy No. 330 – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities/Field Trips

Director of Instruction Schafer reviewed a proposed change to Section 4b of Policy No. 330 regulations which increased from three to four days for trips within B.C. that may be approved by the superintendent. After discussion,

MOTION: Van Alphen/Huebert that Policy No. 330 regulation 4b be amended from three days to four days.

CARRIED

Mr. Schafer also reviewed a modification to the approval form associated with the policy requiring confirmation of a criminal record check for volunteers.

#### b. Draft New Policies No. 460 – Course Challenge for Credit and Policy No. 462 – Course Equivalency

Draft policies 460 and 462 were reviewed by Director of Instruction Hauptman. The policies will establish procedures on course challenge and course equivalency appropriate for the legislation. Following review,

MOTION: Van Alphen/Huebert that draft Policy No. 460 – Course Challenge for Credit and Draft Policy No. 462 – Course Equivalency be approved in principle and circulated to partner groups for 30 days for any suggestions for changes.

CARRIED

#### c. Policy No. 203 – Student Fees

Superintendent Doi reviewed information regarding the background and issues regarding the school fees. A draft letter to parents was reviewed. The letter states the district is reviewing current practices, confirms that some fees may continue to be charged, and that the district will prepare a report regarding school fees before the end of December.

MOTION: Van Alphen/Little that the report of the policy committee be received.

CARRIED

### 8.2 Education Committee

Trustee Manning reported on the education committee meetings held on October 31 and November 1, 2006:

#### October 31, 2006

#### a. District Library Catalogue

Zoe Magnus, Library Technician, demonstrated the INSIGNIA program outlining the instructional benefits as well as the advantages gained in collection development and savings due to increased efficiencies of data entry. Ron

Shongrunden, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, noted that this tool is also available through wireless connection to most schools.

**b. Elementary Report Card**

Dean Bates, District Technology Teacher, and Eugene Smith, District Technology Support, reviewed the development and functioning of the new online district template for report cards. Teacher response to this powerful new tool has been very positive. Garth Schafer, Director of Instruction, acknowledged the significant role played by both Dean Bates and Eugene Smith in the development of the template.

**c. District Progress Report**

Lynn Hauptman, Director of Instruction, presented an overview of the district progress report noting both the changes that have been made to the format as well as those being planned. Brief updates were provided for each of the main goal areas of Social Responsibility, Literacy and Numeracy.

**d. Submission on Adult/Community Literacy (BCSTA)**

Connie Denesiuk, Board Chair, brought forward a submission on Adult/Community Literacy from the BCSTA. Trustees were asked to consider the four questions and to bring feedback to the next education committee meeting. This feedback will be collated by Lynn Hauptman, Director of Instruction, and submitted on behalf of the Board.

**November 1, 2006**

**a. Middle School Presentation**

Representatives of the OSTU, Terry Green, Terry Lindsay, Nancy Wyse, Ken Ireson, Neil McPhedran, Tony Biollo, and Kevin Epp, presented a brief to the Board outlining their concerns related to some of the working conditions at the middle school level. While they expressed support for the standards and quality of our middle schools, they also indicated a level of dissatisfaction – especially with the increased expectations of teachers.

The OSTU requested that an ad hoc committee be established to conduct a review of middle schools so that schools which are already considered good can become even better.

Following the presentation, the committee discussed and received clarification of some of the issues in the report. Superintendent Doi indicated that it would be timely and worthwhile to conduct a review as the middle school concept has been in operation for many years. The committee supported that the district participate in a review of middle schools and that Mr. Doi work with OSTU President Terry Green with regards to establishing the committee.

MOTION: Manning/Jamieson that the reports of both education meetings be received.

CARRIED

**8.3 Finance and Management Committee**

Trustee Little reported on the finance and management committee meeting held on November 1, 2006:

**a. PAC Financial Reports**

The secretary-treasurer distributed and reviewed a letter recently sent to parent advisory councils requesting a copy of the 2005-06 financial report. It is expected each PAC provides this information to their members.

**b. School Fees**

Superintendent Doi reviewed work to date to clarify and where necessary revise practices to comply with the school fees court decision. School staff have been gathering information on student fees that have been assessed and clarifying the rationale for the fees. As this information is being clarified, consideration is being given to changes that will need to occur which could include current financial, educational, and operational practices. The committee was advised a more complete report will be provided at the December 11 regular meeting. This report will include information as to the process for reviewing and/or restructuring the courses and programs for the 2007-08 school year.

The committee discussed issues related to the school fees. The discussion included a commitment to comply with the Supreme Court decision and that for the 2006-07 school year the school district needs to maintain the courses and programs for the second semester which were previously dependent on school fees.

**3. School/Community Connection**

The secretary-treasurer reviewed the School/Community Connection program supported by the Ministry of Education. The submission deadline is April 1, 2007 for a single project in the school district and it was noted this project must involve a partnership with a local government. The committee supported that attempts be made to develop a project for this program involving an expansion of the field development plans at McNicoll Park Middle School.

MOTION: Little/Van Alphen that the report of the finance and management committee be received.

CARRIED

**8.4 Buildings, Grounds, Safety and Transportation Committee**

Trustee Jamieson reported on the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee meeting held on November 1, 2006:

**a. Annual Facility Grant**

The secretary-treasurer reviewed that the funding practices for the annual facilities program have provided a grant for the period April to June 2006 of \$389,310 and that for the period July 2006 to June 2007 is not yet received. Director of Maintenance John Hickling discussed the preparation for the 2006-07 program and reviewed a summary of recommended projects. For the April to June grant, three projects were recommended and following discussion,

MOTION: Jamieson/Little that annual facility grant funding of \$389,130 be approved for expenditure.

CARRIED

The annual 2006-07 AFG projects which include roofing, school painting, upgrade of school sites, and a renovation at Summerland Secondary were also reviewed. A portion of the site work funding is planned to assist with a multi year upgrade of school adventure playgrounds. Following discussion,

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that subject to receipt of funding for the 2006-07 annual facility grant program that projects totalling \$1,306,484 be approved.

CARRIED

**b. Destination Conservation**

The committee was advised funding for a program called Destination Conservation is available to the school district. Mr. Schafer and Mr. Hickling reviewed the district's support of this program in the past and its educational focus to reduce energy and water consumption and waste production. The committee was advised

this conservation program would complement recent energy use reduction in the district that will result from electrical control and lighting upgrades. The committee supported the initiative to work to establish the Destination Conservation program in the district for a three-year period.

**c. Energy Reduction Initiatives**

Director of Maintenance John Hickling reviewed how the district's initiatives to reduce energy consumption are resulting in the district qualifying for federal and provincial energy grants. In recognition of the recently completed school lighting upgrades plus installation of energy efficient thermostats and controls, the district has received \$37,000 with a further \$37,000 to come from the federal government program NRCan. A further \$43,700 grant is expected from Fortis as a result of energy reduction initiatives and the energy efficiency designed into the Penticton Secondary School will result in an NRCan grant of \$60,000.

Secretary-Treasurer noted that in addition to these grants the school district will have an ongoing saving through reduced energy consumption and an added benefit is the reduced energy consumption results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Regehr requested the committee's support to continue the work to find further energy conservation initiatives in the district.

MOTION: Jamieson/Andrews that the Board of School Trustees supports continued initiatives in the school district toward efficient and economic use of energy resources.

CARRIED

MOTION: Jamieson/Manning that the report of the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee be received.

CARRIED

## 9.0 REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

### 9.1 Penticton Secondary School Reconstruction

In providing a report on reconstruction of Penticton Secondary School, the director of maintenance advised a large portion of the south wing of the school has come down without too much disruption for the school. Some footings for the new site have been poured, work on the new electrical vault is continuing, and drilling for the geo-thermal heating and cooling system is continuing.

### 9.2 WCB Rates – 2007

For trustee information, the secretary-treasurer reported that the school district has been advised that the district qualifies for a 30% premium saving in the 2007 WCB rate. Mr. Regehr added a year ago we were ranked in the top five school district sites in BC for safe work site practices although we have not yet been advised of our ranking for this year. Mr. Regehr added this recognition comes from the safety practices and the care of employees for safety, and acknowledged the efforts of all representatives to the safety committee and employees.

## 10.0 REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### 10.1 Student Achievement

#### a. District Goals

Director of Instruction Hauptman provided an update on literacy activities within the district noting common literacy assessments are being used in grades 4 to 7, literacy leaders at secondary schools are looking at assessment for learning at this

level, and a two-day workshop entitled “Opening the Door to Literacy” will be held next week.

Director of Instruction Schafer reported that teachers from 11 districts in the interior are coming together in a network to discuss common numeracy initiatives in their districts.

Assistant Superintendent Celli commented on the high level of enthusiasm experienced at the recent social responsibility workgroup meeting. He added the group is looking at ways to organize and integrate all initiatives which come under social responsibility as well as better data gathering mechanisms.

**b. School Planning Councils Training**

Comments were provided regarding the different format used for this year’s school planning councils training. It was noted the three sessions held on October 24, 25, and 26 were organized by zones and the format received favourable comments from parents. Similar meetings will be held in February.

**10.2 Communication and Access**

**a. Field Trips**

The superintendent of schools reviewed a listing of field trip requests, two of which had been approved by the superintendent pursuant to board policy.

MOTION: Little/Andrews that the following field trip request be approved for funding as per board policy:

- October 20 to 21, 2006, for 16 students from KVR Middle School to compete in the cross-country running provincial championships in Victoria, BC.

CARRIED

MOTION: Van Alphen/Huebert that the following field trip request be approved:

- January 31 to February 6, 2007 for 40 grade 7 and 8 students from KVR Middle and Summerland Middle schools to travel to Quebec City and Montreal for the Quebec Winter Carnival.

CARRIED

MOTION: Jamieson/Manning that the following field trip be approved in principle:

- March 15 to 29, 2008, for 30 students from Summerland Secondary School to travel to England and France.

CARRIED

**b. Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools**

The assistant superintendent reviewed the Minister of Education’s request for policies in the school district and schools that address safe school-related issues and codes of conduct and provided a draft report prepared for the Minister. The review indicates that 10 schools fully meet provincial expectations. All other schools identified one or more measures in which they were only partially meeting the expectations and these are currently being addressed. The final report will be reviewed at a committee meeting prior to the December 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### 10.3 Other Items

#### a. Enrolment

Director of Instruction Burgoyne reported that enrolment as of October 31, 2006 showed a small increase compared to September 30. There are currently 7,164 students or 6,869.932 FTE in the district.

#### b. Bill 33 Consultation

Information regarding school class size and composition consultation meetings was reviewed by the superintendent of schools. Of the 43 classes requiring consultation meetings, only two are reported as class size. All principals have submitted a report to the superintendent confirming these classes are appropriate for student learning and school planning councils have been informed regarding the class sizes and composition. Information has also been provided to the district parent advisory council.

MOTION: Walters/Little that the report on school class size/composition consultation meetings be received and accepted.

CARRIED

### 11.0 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

### 12.0 NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 13.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 13.1 BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

Trustee Little reported the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting held on October 20 and 21, 2006, included sessions on accountability, information from the deputy minister of education, presentation of the audited financial statements, and a number of motions. The synopsis of the provincial council meeting is available in the trustee reading file.

#### 13.2 BCSTA Okanagan Branch Meeting

Trustees were reminded to bring their reports of their attendance at the BCSTA Okanagan Branch meeting held on October 13 and 14, 2006 in Kelowna for inclusion in the trustee reading file.

#### 13.3 BCSTA Trustees Academy

The BCSTA Trustees Academy will be held on December 7 to 9, 2006 in Vancouver.

#### 13.4 Date of Next Meeting

- December 11, 2006, 7:30, p.m., Inaugural and Regular Meeting, School Board Office

### 14.0 TRUSTEE COMMENTS

#### 14.1 Recognition of Student Success

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) extended congratulations to the students and groups for outstanding examples of success as shown on the recognition sheet included with the agenda package.

#### 14.2 Recognition of Student Artwork

Congratulations were extended to the following students from Trout Creek Elementary for their artwork currently on display at the school board office:

- Jennifer Butler – Grade 2
- Jessie Eckhart – Grade 3
- Jessica Hobbs – Grade 3
- Ella Wier – Grade 3
- Kylie Erb – Grade 5
- Jennifer Lukiv – Grade 5

#### 14.3 Trustee Comments

Trustees provided general comments related to district and school activities including their attendance at the DPAC sponsored Club Ed event held for parents. Chairman Denesiuk announced that at the next school board meeting in December, she will not let her name stand for election for the position of chairman. Ms. Denesiuk added that after eight years as chair it is time for a change and acknowledged the dedication of all district employees and parents in their efforts to improve achievement for all students.

#### 15.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Manning/Andrews that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

CARRIED

#### 16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

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**Chairperson**

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**Secretary-Treasurer**