



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



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M.
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

D. Mullin, Vice Principal, Summerland Middle School

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Little welcomed parents, district staff, and representatives of the media.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Denesiuk/Van Alphen that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOOLS AND/OR STUDENTS

3.1 Community School Literacy

Principal Kelly Jones, Queen's Park Elementary, highlighted the school's approach to Community School Literacy from preschooler to adult. It includes four programs as part of a plan to increase school readiness and literacy for students and their parents. Ongoing programs include Books for Breakfast and Ready Set Learn; new programs include Parenting Wisely, One-to-One Literacy, and Writing Out Loud. All programs are designed to bring families to the school with a focus on literacy and school readiness.

using school personnel as well as Okanagan College personnel. Additionally, before and after daycare and Kindercare are offered at the school.

Following a number of questions, Chairman Little extended congratulations to Mr. Jones and school staff for their efforts in building relationships with families.

4.0 RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS AND GUESTS

5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Manning/Andrews that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 12, 2007 be approved.

CARRIED

6.0 REPORT FROM CLOSED MEETING

The secretary-treasurer reported on the closed meeting held on February 12, 2007:

1. Received a report from the finance and management committee;
2. Confirmed teaching, excluded, and CUPE staff changes;
3. Received information and granted approval for the City of Penticton to build a temporary field for one year at Parkway Elementary;
4. Approved requests for teacher leaves of absence;
5. Received information on student suspensions;
6. Received information related to a meeting of the British Columbia Public Schools Employers Association;
7. Approved an organizational plan for 2007-08 district staffing.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter from Citizen

A letter from a citizen, Fred Fedorak, regarding the Penticton Secondary auditorium and north gym.

7.2 Letter from Parents

A letter from parents Collette and Dwight Shanner requesting that the Board be instrumental in insisting that a change be made as to how Summerland students are selected to attend French immersion at the middle school.

7.3 Letter from Parent

A letter from a parent, Charlotte Venkataraman, expressing concern with the school district's selection process for the late French immersion program at Summerland Middle School.

7.4 Letter from Citizen

A letter from a citizen, Dorothy Hennig, opposing the demolition of the Penticton Secondary School gym and auditorium.

7.5 Letter from Catholic Civil Rights League

A letter from the Catholic Civil Rights League requesting the intentions of the school district with respect to its obligation to accommodate freedom of conscience and religion. The attachments mentioned in the letter are available in the trustee reading file.

7.6 Summary of Copies of Letters to the Board

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

- School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) to MP Don Bell supporting the recommendation of the federal standing committee on finance calling upon the federal government to rebate 100% of the GST paid by school boards;
- School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) to Premier Campbell requesting a reconsideration of funding reductions to child care resource and referral programs;
- School District No. 19 (Revelstoke) to the Minister of State for Childcare regarding the cuts to the child care resource and referral programs and the impact of that announcement in their community;
- School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) to Premier Campbell expressing concern and dismay regarding the recent announcement that funding for child care resource and referral programs will be reduced over the coming months;
- School District No. 69 (Qualicum) to Premier Campbell urging the premier to reverse the government's decision to reduce funding of Childcare Resource and Referral programs;
- School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) to the Minister of Education expressing concern regarding the increasing number of multi-grade classes in their schools;
- School District No. 57 (Prince George) to the federal Minister of Finance supporting the federal standing committee recommendation to amend the Excise Tax Act to provide a full rebate on the GST paid by school boards;
- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) to Premier Campbell regarding the government's intention to modify the *School Act* to allow fees for some enhancement programs.

MOTION: Andrews/Denesiuk that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

In response to a trustee request, district staff will meet with the Parents for French executive regarding the selection process for late French immersion and report back to Board in December or January prior to the French immersion registration for 2008-09.

8.0 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

8.1 Education Committee

Trustee Van Alphen reported on the education committee meetings held on February 13, 2007 and March 6, 2007.

February 13, 2007:

a. Rotary Okanagan International Children's Festival

Gordon Osland and Michelle Peters provided an overview of the change in venue and list of performers for this year's Festival which will be held May 24 to 27, 2007. This year's program provides information on curriculum links for each show. Director of Instruction Hauptman will arrange for Michelle Peters to present information to elementary school principals at an upcoming meeting.

b. Transitions and School Completion

The provincial context of school completion and the expanding mandate of public education were reviewed by Superintendent Doi who highlighted district efforts to address transition issues and improve completion rates. Secondary school principals Peter Corcoran, Dave Searcy, and Bill Bidlake described initiatives related to each of these topics currently underway in their schools.

c. School Fees (Planning for 2007-08)

Pete Corcoran, Principal, Penticton Secondary School, presented an overview of school fees at the secondary school level. In response to the school fees ruling,

the potential impact of three different levels of district support – no support, partial support, full support – on school programming was reviewed.

d. Changes to Grad Portfolio Requirement

Recent changes to the grad portfolio requirement were reviewed by Assistant Superintendent Celli. Secondary school principals provided commentary on the likely impact of these changes at the school level.

e. Ministry's ReadNow Initiative

Superintendent Doi reviewed the Ministry's recently announced \$27 million ReadNow initiative. This funding includes \$12 million which will be administered by BCSTA and used to enhance early learning. Trustee Denesiuk provided initial information on BCSTA planning for this initiative.

f. 2007 Summer Leadership Conference

The 2007 Summer Leadership Conference brochure was made available by Superintendent Doi who noted that interest in the conference is growing and registrations are expected to exceed six hundred this year.

March 6, 2007:

a. Accelerated Reader

Ron Olsen, Vice Principal, Columbia Elementary School, presented a supplementary home reading program which encourages students to select novels appropriate to their specific reading comfort zone. This program has resulted in increased library circulation, increased student reading abilities, and increased student excitement about and motivation to read.

b. StrongStart Initiative

The background of the StrongStart initiative and criteria for StrongStart centres were reviewed by Director of Instruction Hauptman. Trustees were advised that the district had submitted an application for a StrongStart Centre based on, among other things, available existing school space and assessed community need (EDI results) at no cost to the family. The StrongStart Centre will offer play-based early learning and demonstrate for parents and caregivers how they can help their children develop language and other prerequisite skills for success in school.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee

Director of Instruction Schafer reviewed the history of the special education advisory committee noting the involvement and support of the OSTU, CUPE, OSPVPA, district staff, and excluded (speech-language) staff in providing sessions to meet the needs and develop the skills of staff working with our students in special education.

MOTION: Van Alphen/Huebert that the reports of both education committee meetings be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Finance and Management Committee

Trustee Manning reported on the finance and management committee meeting held on February 28, 2007:

a. 2007-08 Budget Development

The secretary-treasurer reviewed a calendar of dates for the development of the 2007-08 budget. Since the February board meeting, some dates have been confirmed with partner groups.

b. Penticton Indian Band

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Shongrunden reviewed efforts to provide a fiber connection to the Penticton Indian Band office. Mr. Shongrunden highlighted a summary of the work and discussed the benefits it would provide.

MOTION: Manning/Huebert that the report of the finance and management committee be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Buildings, Grounds, Safety and Transportation Committee

Trustee Huebert reported on the buildings, grounds, safety and transportation committee meeting held on February 28, 2007:

a. Summerland Secondary Entrance

Director of Maintenance John Hickling reviewed progress with the planning of the Summerland Secondary School entrance. The planning has included school students and staff feedback and revisions to initial drawings. The current plans are again being reviewed by the school staff and consultants.

b. Adventure Playground Replacement

Mr. Hickling reported the playground construction contracts at Carmi and Nkwala fields will be awarded shortly. This work will include the replacement of adventure playgrounds at these schools. For all other schools, Mr. Hickling advised work orders are being issued to remove playground equipment with safety concerns. The committee was also informed playground replacements are first planned for Kaleden, Naramata, Trout Creek and Wiltse schools.

c. Penticton Secondary School Auditorium/Gymnasium

At the December 11, 2006 meeting, the Board resolved that if the Penticton Secondary School auditorium is to remain after the new Penticton Secondary School is constructed a proposal must be received by March 31, 2007. Secretary-Treasurer Regehr reviewed a list of criterion that should be confirmed in such a proposal. The committee also discussed a recent letter which recommended the north gym at Penticton Secondary School be saved. The committee reviewed the planning process for the PSS design including the option to save the north gym. The committee supported that a proposal to support the Penticton Secondary School auditorium needs to include a plan which addresses the listed criterion.

MOTION: Huebert/Van Alphen 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**

Director of Maintenance Hickling reported regarding the Penticton Secondary School reconstruction noting the columns are in place for the multipurpose room, the elevator shafts are completed to the third floor, and the erection of the structure steel has begun. The gymnasium area concrete slab is being prepared and this area will become the casting bed for the gym tilt up walls. Work has also begun on the administration area where the library will be located above on the second floor. Mr. Hickling added a power shutdown is scheduled for the school during the spring break to allow work on the electrical services.

9.2 Financial Report

In reviewing the financial report to February 28, 2007 provided in the agenda package, the secretary-treasurer noted the report shows that the final budget of \$55,539,080, as

approved at the February board meeting, is 43% expended. This is consistent for this time of the year.

9.3 2007-08 Budget Development

Mr. Regehr advised the funding announcement from the Ministry is expected this week and advertisements are out announcing the public budget meeting scheduled for April 2, 7:00 p.m., at Queen's Park Elementary School. This meeting is intended to receive recommendations and/or submissions for consideration by the board during the development of the 2007-08 budget. The final adoption of the budget is scheduled for a special board meeting to be held on May 7.

10.0 REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

10.1 Student Achievement

a. District Workgroups (Literacy, Numeracy and Social Responsibility)

Director of Instruction Hauptman reported that the second round of SmartReading demonstration classes has been held with literacy teachers with very positive feedback. Ten teachers will attend upcoming SmartReading pro-d sessions in New Westminster and pro-d will be offered during the summer pro-d sessions. A combined literacy, numeracy, and social responsibility elementary dinner session will be held on April 19.

Director of Instruction Schafer advised that teachers in the Greater Interior Numeracy Network will be reviewing numeracy resources from the Island Numeracy Network. Certified education assistants will meet with numeracy helping teachers on May 3 for a pro-d in-service. A three-day in-service for numeracy teachers may be offered during the summer.

Assistant Superintendent Celli reported that there has been a growing appreciation of the potential to integrate social responsibility work with initiatives in the other goal areas. He also noted that Mary Gordon's (founder of Roots of Empathy) presentation on March 9, 2007 was well received in the community.

b. Early Learning Grants

In January 2007, the Province announced that \$12 million would be provided to the BC School Trustees Association to create a funding initiative to support early learning activities in school districts as part of ReadNow BC. SD67's portion of the monies will be \$164,949. The superintendent advised the mandate of the Board is changing to take a more active role in early learning, from birth to age 5, and recommended that an early learning committee be established, the purpose of which would be to foster literacy and early learning initiatives with families of young children in the SD67 community. Mr. Doi reviewed the objectives and membership of the committee and added it would be chaired by Director of Instruction Hauptman.

MOTION: Denesiuk/Van Alphen that the early learning committee be established as recommended.

CARRIED

Additionally, Mr. Doi advised the district has applied to begin a StrongStart Centre in our community which will benefit families and young children by providing free early learning programs for preschool-aged children attending with their families and caregivers. Next month a community literacy committee which will focus on adult learning will be proposed.

10.2 Communication and Access

a. Field Trips

The superintendent of schools reviewed a listing of field trip requests circulated with the agenda package.

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

- March 8 to 10, 2007, for 15 grade 8 students from KVR Middle School to compete in the provincial girls' basketball championships held in Pitt Meadows; and
- March 6 to 10, 2007, for 15 grade 11 and 12 students from Princess Margaret Secondary School to compete in the senior boys' basketball provincial championships in Kamloops.

CARRIED

MOTION: Huebert/Denesiuk that the following field trip request be approved in principle:

- September 20 to 30, 2007, for one Princess Margaret Secondary School student to attend the Space Camp for the Visually Impaired in Huntsville, Alabama.

CARRIED

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

- January 31 to February 6, 2008, for 25 students from Summerland Middle School to attend the Quebec City Winter Carnival in Montreal, Quebec.

CARRIED

b. Crime Stoppers Presentations

On February 28 and March 1, Serge LeClerc presented his message about making responsible and thoughtful choices to all grade 7 to 10 students. These presentations were sponsored by Crime Stoppers and were enthusiastically received. The assistant superintendent commented that the presentation was extremely well received.

MOTION: Andrews/Manning that a letter of appreciation be written to Crime Stoppers for sponsoring the presentation.

CARRIED

10.3 Other Items

a. Enrolment

The superintendent of schools reported on enrolment noting that enrolment as of February 28, 2007 was 7,088 students (6,795.46 FTE) in the district.

b. Class Composition Report

The superintendent reviewed details on school class size and composition consultation meetings held between February and March 9, 2007. It was noted that 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.

MOTION: Andrews/Denesiuk that the report on school class sizes/composition consultation meetings be received and accepted.

CARRIED

c. Tobacco Ban for Schools

The government has introduced legislation that will prohibit smoking, use of tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco in or on school property. The superintendent advised that the school district will be updating our district policy following the passage of this legislation. Notices have been sent to schools and principals have been asked to provide notice to students that this legislation is pending and changes are expected for September 1, 2007.

11.0 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

12.0 NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 BCSTA Okanagan Branch Meeting

Trustees provided highlights of their attendance at the BCSTA Okanagan Branch meeting held on February 23 and 24, 2007 in Merritt and were reminded to provide reports of their attendance for inclusion in the trustee reading file.

13.2 Date of Next Meeting

- April 2, 2007, 7:00 p.m., public budget meeting, Queen's Park Elementary
- April 16, 2007, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, school board office
- May 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m., special board 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

Students from Carmi Elementary School were congratulated for their artwork currently on display at the school board office:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Mitchell Czinger, Kindergarten | Red and white heart with silver glitter |
| • Cohyn Cutler, Kindergarten | Red and white heart with silver glitter |
| • Taylor Smith, Grade 1 | Snowman on a hanger |
| • Lizzie Moncrief, Grade 1 | Colourful panda bear in pastel |
| • Xylia Kendrick, Grade 2 | Snowman/chalk on violet paper |
| • Abi Lepke, Grade 2 | Snowman on purple paper with felt accessories |
| • Lindsay Kelly, Grade 3 | Tissue red and orange leaves and shapes |
| • Chelsea Lacey, Grade 3 | Tissue red and orange leaves and shapes |
| • Helen Fagerlid, Grade 4 | Happy Easter plastercine chick |
| • Lily Stocker, Grade 4 | Black paper with white macaroni designs |

14.3 Trustee Comments

Trustees provided general comments related to district and school activities. Recognition was also given to Kristie Richards on receiving a gold medal at the world freestyle skiing

championships. Trustees requested that a card be sent to Kristie congratulating her on the gold medal.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Manning/Andrews that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer