

BOARD MEETING

Monday, 2008 October 06

The Board of Education of Trustees of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) met in the Board Room in the Education Centre at 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia, on Monday, 2008 October 06, at 1900 hours.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

C. Hansen, in the Chair

A. Blakey	S. Gregson
C. Gibson	A. Wong
E. Gregory	S. Wong

ALSO PRESENT:

C. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools
B. Ng, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Anderson, Associate Superintendent-Continuing & International Education
M. Dale, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer-Facilities
J. Duprey, Legal Counsel
L. Green, Associate Superintendent-North Area
S. Hutson, Associate Superintendent-Centre Area
R. Krowchuk, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer-Finance
S. Lamb, Director-Technology and Information Services
G. Little, Associate Superintendent-South Area
V. Overgaard, Associate Superintendent-Learning Services
P. Wlodarczak, Associate Superintendent-Human Resources
C. Remedios, Director of Instruction
C. Caparas, Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

I. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Moved by C. Gibson, seconded by S. Gregson, that the minutes of the 2008 September 15 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

II. MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATING

A. Reports

1. Meeting of 2008 September 22

Trustee E. Gregory, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee, presented the report of the 2008 September 22 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The Board considered the following items from the report:

- a) Standing Committee Orientation Session
- b) District Review Report

Moved by E. Gregory, seconded by C. Gibson, that the minutes of the report of the 2008 September 22 meeting of this Committee be received

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



B. New Business

1. Class Size and Composition Report

E. Gregory, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, introduced this item.

C. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, referred to a memorandum dated 2008 October 01, **Organization of Classes – School Act, Section 76 Report**. He summarized the Board's responsibilities with regard to the reporting requirements provided for under Section 76.3 of the *School Act*. He confirmed that he had received and reviewed the Principal's reports for the proposed organization of all classes. On the basis of these reports, C. Kelly verified that the proposed organization of classes is in compliance with the class size provisions and is, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

It was noted that on or before 2008 October 15, the Board must, at a public meeting of the Board, accept the report or instruct the Superintendent of Schools to revise the report. If the Board instructs the Superintendent of Schools to review the report, the Superintendent must revise the report accordingly and submit the signed revised report to the Board and District Parents' Advisory Council, on or before 15 days from the date of the public meeting. The Board must then review the revised report within 7 days of receiving it.

In response to Trustees inquiries staff provided clarification regarding the:

- the timeline for placement of additional 17 FTE positions to address class size situations;
- the process of consulting with teachers regarding organization of classes;
- district's goals and provisions for improving class size and composition issues in the long term; and
- the rationales provided by secondary principals for class organizations above 30 students.

Some Trustees commented that:

- feedback from stakeholder groups about the class size and composition report should be considered;
- concerns regarding inadequacy of teaching resources are not addressed in the report;
- decisions regarding organization of classes must be made at the school level;
- the report needs to address concerns regarding insufficient resources for English as a Second Language (ESL) programs;
- district staff's efforts in developing the report and providing this to Trustees in a timely manner are appreciated;
- while the legislative requirements imposed by the Ministry of Education involves a huge amount of work for district staff and schools to be completed at a relatively short period of time, the value of the report seems questionable; and
- the report is a useful document for promoting the district's advocacy efforts respecting class size and composition issues.

Following a lengthy discussion, no revisions to the report were considered.

A vote was taken on the following motion:

Moved by E. Gregory, seconded by S. Wong, that the Class Size and Composition Report dated 2008 October 01 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education on or before 2008 October 15.

CARRIED

For: C. Hansen, E. Gregory, S. Wong, C. Gibson
Against: A. Wong, A. Blakey, S. Gregson

Trustee E. Gregory left the meeting.



III. PLANNING & FACILITIES

A. New Business

1. Neighbourhoods of Learning Pilot

Moved by A. Blakey, seconded by A. Wong that a Planning and Facilities Committee meeting be held within two weeks of the Board meeting of 2008 October 06 to begin discussions of issues arising from the Neighbourhoods of Learning Pilots at General Gordon Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary, and Strathcona Elementary.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Funds Allocated to Parent Advisory Councils for Playgrounds

A Trustee requested district staff to prepare a report for Trustees consideration regarding the provincial gaming grant incentives for playgrounds in schools and how such funding would affect district schools.

IV. EDUCATION & STUDENT SERVICES

A. New Business

1. All Day Kindergarten / Junior Kindergarten

Trustee Gibson, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, presented a report dated 2008 October 1 from the Stakeholder's Focus Group for All Day Kindergarten/Junior Kindergarten. This report was prepared in response to a request from the BC School Trustees Association that districts and Boards respond to a number of questions related to the early learning agenda and all day and junior kindergarten programs. Trustee Gibson reviewed the report which included responses to the following questions:

- 1) How might the provision of full-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten benefit your community?
- 2) What challenges would your school district face in implementing full-day kindergarten/pre-kindergarten programs?
- 3) What are your thoughts on whether full-day kindergarten/pre-kindergarten should be optional or mandatory?
- 4) What are the main messages that BCSTA should provide the government regarding full-day kindergarten/pre-kindergarten on behalf of boards of education?

This item was received for information.

V. PERSONNEL & STAFF SERVICES

A. Reports

1. Meeting of 2008 September 17

Trustee C. Gibson, Chairperson of the Committee, presented the report of the 2008 September 17 meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The Board considered the following items from the report:

- a) Introduction to Board Standing Committee
- b) Staffing and Enrolment Numbers
- c) On Line Teaching Postings

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2. Matters Arising from the Report

a) Staffing and Enrolment Numbers

A Trustee commented that he would like the Committee to include this item on the next agenda for further discussion of the processes involved.

In response to a Trustee inquiry, the Superintendent of Schools noted that it remains the district responsibility, administratively, to be clear and consistent in the district's administrative processes. He stated that he has established his own task force within his senior administrative team, and with representation of school administration from secondary and elementary schools.

3. Moved by C. Gibson, seconded by S. Wong, that the minutes of the report of the 2008 September 17 meeting of this Committee be received

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. FINANCE & LEGAL: None

VII. REPORTING OF PRIVATE SESSION ITEMS: None

VIII. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. Trustee Gibson reported:

- o that there is a meeting of the BCSTA Metro Branch on 2008 October 08 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Burnaby. All Trustees are invited to attend.
- o on the various community events that she had attended relevant to the Vancouver district. These events included:
 - the Community Policing Day held at the South Vancouver Community Policing Centre;
 - the Community Bridging Event held at Trout Lake Park which focused on Aboriginal activities within the community; and
 - FireFighters Without Borders Hand Over Ceremony at the Seaforth Armoury

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- A.** C. Kelly acknowledged and welcomed Ivet Bell of Kitsilano Secondary School as the 2008-2009 President of the Vancouver District Student Council.
- B.** C. Kelly advised that a group of students from the district and several others in the Lower Mainland are in the Education Centre to participate in an exercise of designing secondary schools as a learning environment. They are being closely guided with facilitators. G. Little, Associate Superintendent has played an integral role in the organization of this activity, which is sponsored by the BC School Superintendent's Association (BCSSA).

X. NEW BUSINESS/ENQUIRIES

- A.** In response to a Trustee inquiry regarding difficulties faced by the Abbotsford School District in teaching the controversial new Social Justice 12 course, staff clarified that none of the district schools are offering the course at this time. The actual curriculum was approved and distributed in August 2008 and due to time limitations, the course cannot be introduced in time for the new school year.

XI. QUESTION PERIOD OF PUBLIC BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

In response to inquiries from the audience, staff clarified that:

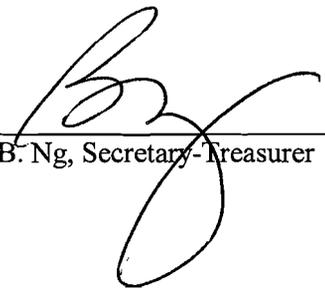
- they are not aware that the rationale used for the report on the organization of classes was developed by the BC Public Employers Association (BCPSEA); and
- with regard to the status of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 grievance regarding class size and composition issues, they understand there is a provincial grievance that is being managed through BCPSEA and that is proceeding in November 2008.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. Gibson, seconded by S. Wong, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 2105 hours.


B. Ng, Secretary-Treasurer


C. Hansen, Board Chairperson