

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE II/III – PLANNING AND FACILITIES/ EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, 2010 April 14

Committee Report to the Board on Monday, 2010 April 19

1. Proposed Amendments to VSB School Closure Policy and Regulations

M. Dale, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, referred to the memorandum entitled “*Proposed Amendments to VSB School Closure Policy and Regulations*” and confirmed the following points:

- o In response to Trustees’ request, it has been determined that it is legally feasible to amend current School Closures policy and regulations to include a minimum two-month public pre-notification process;
- o The minimum requirement for receipt of comments can be extended to 14 calendar days; and
- o A clause can be included that expressly authorizes the Board of Education to require additional consultation in certain circumstances.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the adoption of a pre-notification process of 60 days will immediately generate additional requests for information from school communities. Additional staff resources would be required to handle these requests.

Representatives and Trustees presented their views and concerns as follows:

- o A Trustee stated that the proposed policy provides insufficient flexibility to adjust the consultation process to meet the needs of specific school communities therefore she does not support the proposed amendment for pre-notification; and
- o Several other trustees stated that the proposed pre-notification process has been requested by school communities in order to provide sufficient time to consider the implications of closure proposals.

In response to enquiries, it was noted that the pre-notification is not a list of schools that will be closed, only those that are being considered for closure.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to School Closures Policy (FL) and School Closures Regulations (FL-R) to include a pre-notification process, extend the minimum requirement for the receipt of comments and introduce the expressed authority of the Board of Education to require additional consultation in certain circumstances, as presented in Attachments D and E of this report.

Meeting adjourned at 1800 hours.

_____ { signed by } _____
Allan Wong, Chairperson

Committee II/III Members Present: Patti Bacchus, Allen Blakey, Ken Denike,
Carol Gibson, Sharon Gregson, Jane Bouey,
Ken Clement, Mike Lombardi

District Management Present: Steve Cardwell, Brenda Ng, Laurie Anderson,
Lynn Green, Sonia Hutson, Valerie Overgaard,
Mark Dale, Catherine Remedios; Paul Wlodarczak

Association Representatives Present: Shaun van der Hoop, VSTA
Brin MacIntyre, VSTA
Donna Brack, VESTA
Maria Taddei, VASSA
Dan Graves, VESTA
Darren Mitzel, VEPVPA
Magdalena Kassis, VEPVPA
Jane Morris, PASA
Cathy Hasley, PASA
Joey Lau, CUPE
Julianne Doctor, DPAC
Steve Baker, DPAC