



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)
OCTOBER 21, 2014
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, SMITHERS, BC

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, L. Collingwood, J. McIntosh, P. Michell, K. Martinsen, S. Yaremco

Staff: C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools
M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / L. Collingwood

"That the Board meeting move In-Camera."

CARRIED

- The Board returned to Regular session at 7:00pm.

2. OPENING REMARKS

- Chairperson Kearns welcomed our guests. Mr. Kearns noted that our students have had increased opportunities in the trade industries thanks to our partnership with Monster Industries – Kyle Thompson and the NWCC. We would like to thank them both for their assistance and for their support with the HSS shop renovation and equipment.
- Chairperson Kearns introduced CUPE Local 2145 President Barbel Schroeter in the gallery. He invited Ms. Schroeter and her bargaining team to join him to sign the negotiated Memorandum of Settlement between SD54 - CUPE Local 2145. Ms. Schroeter introduced her bargaining team in attendance. She informed the Board that SD54 was fifth district in the Province to ratify the new CUPE agreement. She went on to say that the local collective agreement is a sign that bargaining was done in good faith and respect between both parties and looks forward to have 5 years of good co-operation and respect working together. Trustee Kearns replied that the board and district really appreciate their relationship with CUPE.
- SSS teacher Rick Hubert is in attendance tonight. Mr. Hubert received the Prime Ministers Award for Teaching Excellence recently. Mr. Kearns told the board that he did some research about Mr. Hubert prior to the meeting tonight. Retired Teacher, Joe Galvin said he called Mr. Hubert the "Red Seal Sheet Metal Marvel". After reading the original application, Mr. Kearns said it warmed his heart and then read some of the quotes from the original application. It is not just an award from the Prime minister but it is an award from the parent's student and co-workers. Mr. Hubert was present a gift from the board and spoke a few words. Mr. Hubert said the most special thing was that his co-workers did this. He had never heard of this award prior to him receiving it. The Conference Board of Canada has asked him to come back and speak at their next conference. His goal to change how agriculture is done so we are eating good food.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED/SECONDED S. Yaremco / L. Collingwood

"That the agenda be accepted as presented."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of September 23, 2014; the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes September 23, 2014. There being none, the minutes of: September 23, 2014 and the Synopsis of the In-Camera Meeting minutes September 23, 2014 were declared approved as presented.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Superintendent van der Mark- Sent his congratulations to Mr. Rick Hubert. We have a number of teachers going to present at BCTELA, Ms. Goble , Ms. Monkman and Ms. Devison. We have a lot of teachers doing great work; Plaque was received for the Climate Award – partnership with Village of Telkwa, this shows more and more partnerships developing with business; Trustee Elections, congratulations to those who were acclaimed and congratulations to those that are retiring from the board and finally thank you to everyone who stepped forward to run for the board. This board has been a good example of good governance, thank you from senior admin.

Student Achievement

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives to the board: Mr. Larry Espe, Superintendent of Careers, Trades & Transitions visited our district on October 8 to review what SD54 is doing in the area of trades and concluded with a presentation to our administration and invited guests. Thanks to Monica Strimbold from SSS for rolling things out in the Trades. The HSS transformation has been incredible. All the top of the line equipment has been donated; Ms. Faye Brownlie and Dr. Stuart Shanker returned to the district on Oct 17th and Dr. Linda Kaser, on October 18th to participate in our continued learning series; Dr. Shanker also hosted a community conversation on Friday evening; Flu season is upon us, please look at Northern Health's website for some helpful information on staying healthy this winter.

District Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the district based initiatives to the board: Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid will be again working with the BVTU on the "New Teacher Induction" program; Innovation grants are now being accepted that focus on innovative education practices that support school and district goals for up to \$2,000; NWCC and SD54 have been selected as a finalist for the Smithers Community and Business Awards for 2014 for the work with the college and the EMAP program.

School Based Initiatives

- Superintendent van der Mark presented the school based initiatives to the board: Muheim Memorial hosted the District Soccer Tournament on Oct 4, thank you to all the volunteers who made this happen; Cross country run will take place on Oct 23rd; Walnut Park hosted their annual pie night on Oct 8, thank you to the Walnut Park, District Staff and trustees who helped with this event; Remembrance Day ceremonies will take place on November 10th at all schools; The school district is now on Twitter , please follow us at @sd54BV.
- Mr. van de Mark provided the board with the annual class size update: No specific legislative requirement for classes with more than 3 IEP's. Consultation now part of general obligation of principals and teachers; not limited to students with specials needs. Board must ensure compliance by Sept 30 and maintain thereafter:

Class size max K= 22	Actual =18 ,
Class size max Grade1-3 = 24	Actual =19.6.
Class size max Grade 4-7 = 30*	Actual =23.9
Class size max Grade 8-12 = 30*	Actual = 21.7

* Unless superintendent approves and remedy paid to teacher.

Staffing is based on (K) 22 – (1-3) 24 and (4-12) 30 . We have "2" non-exempt classes over 30 - art 10-12 (32) Pre-Calc 12 (31). Organization of classes and consultation – Consultation will be done twice a year. September and in the spring.

- Learning Improvement Fund has now changed with the addition of the Ed Fund. LIF with Ed Fun total \$420K (20% max allocated to CUPE (70K)) 80% min allocated to the BCTF (\$350k) - More \$\$\$ - Less Flexibility.

Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
 - **SSS** – 14 +/- Grade 10-12 students will travel to Nanika-Kidprice Lake and Surrounding areas for two multi- day canoe excursions. These trips will take place during the period of October 9-12 and October 16-19, 2014. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **HSS** – 13 Grade 8-12 students will travel to Parrott Lake during the period of October 3-5th to take part in a multi-day canoe excursion. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
 - **SSS** – Grade 8-12 Drama students to travel to Prince George attend four productions by Theater Northwest during the 2014-2015. This approval was subject to Ms. Lytle providing travel dates to the SBO prior to departure and the names of students travelling prior to departure; all other requirements have been met.

OPERATIONS

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm provided an overview of the current enrolment – Last year's enrollment was 2189 this year enrollment is expected to be 2074 a -5.3% decrease in enrollment or in money terms approximately \$1 million dollars in revenue. We have a decline in revenue without the decline in services to our students. Staffing and Payroll takes up to 87% of our expenses. In Houston we have seen a -5.7% and in Smithers -5.2% decline and in Telkwa – 3.4% decline. Trustee Farrell asked about split classes in Mr. van der Mark's presentation regarding K/1 class sizes and how they are accounted for.
- Trustee Candidate Forum will be held on October 27, 2014 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

6.a) COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ EDUCATION FORUM COMMITTEE

- Trustee Farrell presented the Community Relations Committee report from the October 7th meeting: The District hosted a number of Professional Development speakers over the last weekend; The district twitter account is now up and running , following us at @sd54BV; the committee received a thank you card from the NWCC School of Exploration & Mining for supporting the EMAP program.
- Trustee McIntosh commented on Dr. Shanker's presentation on Friday night. Dr. Shanker mentioned that a solution to a problem he was encountering was solved by one of our schools! Dr. Shanker was very impressed by the work that is being done in our schools. Trustee Kearns said he was very impressed by the number of parents that came out to the presentation and reiterated that Dr. Shanker said he was very impressed with the work being done here.

6.b) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Chairperson Michell Operations Committee's Report from the October 7th, 2014 meeting; Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid updated the committee on the school calendar date changes: 1st semester end date changed and early dismissal days have also now changed due to the late start up; CUPE signing took place tonight of the new CA; A RFP will be issued shortly looking for an Auditor for a three year period; A response letter to M. Cooke was reviewed and a response letter was approved by the committee; A letter of support for the Friends of the Smithers Library was reviewed and approved; The 2014 – 2015 Capital Bussing plan was reviewed,

MOVED/SECONDED

P. Michell / K. Martinsen

"The committee recommends that the Board approve the 2014-2015 Capital Bussing plan."

CARRIED

- Strike Savings: Secretary Treasurer Margerm updated the committee on the required strike savings report. Mr. Margerm reported that since the committee meeting the report has been filed and the total savings for SD54 equaled \$685K for three weeks of strike and will be returned to the government.
- Superintendent van der Mark provided the committee with an update on the new LIF funds. The total value has increased to \$420,000, 80% of this must be spent on teachers. Administration is working with the BVTU regarding Ed Fund allocation. The committee reviewed a cost proposal for the architecture and design fees for the SBO basement and the Sports Multiplex. The architecture fee for developing plans to renovate down stair to move the LSC over to the Board office will be \$42,500. The architectures fee for the proposed multiplex will be an hourly rate up to \$10K. If multiplex were to go ahead the architectures fee would be 5% of the total build cost.

6.c) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

- Trustee Farrell on behalf of Trustee Chairperson Collingwood, presented the Policy Committee Report from the October 7th, 2014 meeting: Mr. Margerm provided the committee with feedback with regards to the new transportation policy and discussed the idea of fee paying students request . The main concerns were around parent's perception that the school district has a duty to transport students, it is a large inconvenience for parents that both work and the difficulty of getting students to after-school care. It was recommended that the policy stand as is and not to allow an option to fee paying transportation ;
- Policy 1.150 Standing Committees

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / J. McIntosh

“ The committee recommends that the Board adopt the proposed language around allowing the chair, (ex-officio) to vote and make recommendations if quorum is not achieved at a committee meeting.”

Trustee Yaremco asked for clarification about the Chair voting privileges. Trustee Yaremco reminded the Board to keep this in mind when downsizing the board numbers from 7 to 5. Trustee Martinsen didn't think that committee needed a quorum to make recommendations. Trustee Kearns responded to Trustee Martinsen and said the committee had to have quorum to make recommendation as per policy.

CARRIED

- Committee meeting Agenda's and minutes:

MOVED/SECONDED: F. Farrell / L. Collingwood

“ The committee recommends that the District administration post the agenda and minutes to committee meetings to the district website.”

CARRIED

- Policy 6.4620 - Voluntary Donations to Public Education Programs – The committee reviewed draft language for Policy 6.4620 in order to expand on procedures for donation of a controversial or unique nature. This policy will stay with the committee until the next meeting.

6.d) TRUSTEE REPORT

- No trustee reports were submitted this month.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business was submitted this month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- No new business was submitted this month.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1) The September 30, 2014 expenditure summary was included in the Trustees Board Packages.

10. READING FILE

Trustee Farrell had a questions about letter from First Call. Trustee Kearns replied that we had already done what they were asking for through the policy committee.

MOVED/SECONDED: J. McIntosh / L. Collingwood

"That the information contained in the Trustee Reading File be received and filed."

CARRIED

- Mr. van der Mark wanted to extend his many thanks to Bobbie Kingsmill, Nora Kerr and Selena Mill for helping out with this past week's professional development activities.

12. CLOSING REMARKS

- Chairperson Kearns expressed his gratitude to Trustee Martinsen and Trustee Yaremco for their years of service on the Board and expressed that they will be missed by everyone. Trustee Martinsen and Trustee Yaremco were both presented gifts for their years of services with the School District.
- Mr. van der Mark reaffirmed that this board has great governance and the public doesn't understand the governance. We cannot continue on with great work without great leadership from the board.
- Chairperson Kearns wished good luck to Trustee McIntosh, Farrell and Collingwood and all the candidates that are running in the currently municipal election.

12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

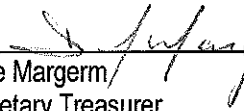
- The next regularly schedule School Board meeting will be held on November 4th, 2014 commencing at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office in Smithers.

13. ADJORNED

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 8.22pm .



Les Kearns
Chairman of the Board of Education



Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer