

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)

MINUTES of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held at Alexander Park Elementary School, Golden, B.C., **09-09-08**.

Present:	Roberta Hall	Chair
	Sandra Smaill	Vice-Chair
	Dan Soles	Vice-Chair
	Greg Anderson	Trustee
	Betty Lou Barrett	Trustee
	Ron Christensen	Trustee
	Shannon Hood	Trustee
	Jim Jenkinson	Trustee
	Rhonda Smith	Trustee
	Bendina Miller	Superintendent of Schools
	Cameron Dow	Secretary Treasurer
	Members of Senior Management	
	General Public	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:34 hours.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S SMAILL/ANDERSON

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETINGS

3.1 Regular Meeting: 2009.06.09

M/S SMAILL/SOLES

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on 09-06-09 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3.2 Synopsis of In-Camera Meeting: 2009.06.09

Property Matters: The Board received an update on the process for disposing of the Wasa Elementary School site.

Personnel Matters: The Personnel Report – Pending Board Approval was approved as circulated. The Personnel Information Report was received and filed as circulated. The Board received a report on teacher staffing for 2009/10, a grievance pertaining to the placement of Special Education assistance, and the status of Labour Market Adjustment funding.

Student Matters:

The Board was advised of two student suspensions, both from the Golden zone.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 2008/2009 Auditors' Report and Consolidated Financial Statements:

Gordon Green, Smith Green Andruschuk

Mr. Dow introduced Mr. Green, who is the Partner-In-Charge of the District's annual audit, and is in attendance to present his audit report and the review the District's financial statements for 2008/09. Mr. Green indicated that the Auditor's Report is a standard unqualified report and that there are three phases of the audit that are used to develop their opinion: a risk assessment; a review of internal control procedures; and substantive audit procedures. He then provided an overview of the information presented in the statements, related schedules and notes to the financial statements. After responding to questions, Mr. Green expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dow and his accounting staff for their assistance during the audit.

M/S JENKINSON/SOLES

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) accept the Auditors' Report and approve the School District Audited Consolidated Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2008/2009 as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Alexander Park Elementary School Social Responsibility Goal:

Vicci Nelson, Principal
Laurie MacDougall, Teacher

Ms. Morris introduced Vicci Nelson and Laurie MacDougall who had agreed to provide the Board with information on the work being done on the school's responsibility goal. Mrs. Nelson began by stressing that their goal was to teach children specific behavior, specific language and expectations in an effort to help them to begin to independently problem solve and behave appropriately at school. They have been concentrating on helping children to recognize what responsible, respectful, caring, and safe behaviors look like in a variety of settings and the school. This began last year with staff and students writing about 'Our Hopes and Dreams for the New School Year'. Mrs. MacDougall provided details of structures and strategies for determining how they could make hopes and dreams come true at the school. They also provided samples of the students work in the area of behavior expectation posters. The staff has also been working on a social responsibility rubric for student self assessment that will be introduced this year. Other initiatives include developing a repertoire of shared stories and songs, helping the world and others, expanding outdoor play activities, and encouraging leadership by the grade three students. Through this collaboration, the school has created a school social responsibility book which Mrs. MacDougall circulated. The two then summarized where they plan to go from here, with the objective being to work together so that all of their students are at risk of success. The Board Chair thanked Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. MacDougall for their presentation.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES Nil

6. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES

6.1 Policy Development: Nil

7. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

7.1 August 2009 Budget Utilization Summary: Cameron Dow

Mr. Dow advised that expenditures are slightly higher than the estimate but are not out of line with prior years.

7.2 District Literacy Plan: Barbara Morris

Ms. Morris reported that the plan was filed in early July and was pleased with the realization of many of the goals. She referred to a few highlights in the report including the concept of learning communities, the composite

learning index, and information on the community meetings. She also referred to the progress being made on the goals and the inclusion of action plans in this year's report. Ms. Morris closed by drawing attention to the community charts at the end of the report. The Board thanked Mrs. Morris and the Community Literacy Coordinators for their efforts in completing this report.

M/S CHRISTENSEN/JENKINSON

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the District Literacy Plan, as presented.

CARRIED

7.3 2009-2010 Achievement Contract:

Bendina Miller

Mrs. Miller pointed out that there were a number of graphs in the appendices to the report that would be of interest to the Board, but she would not be referring to these in her presentation. She began by providing a synopsis of what we know as a school district by referring to specific data obtained from the Early Development Instrument, the District SMART Write, the District Numeracy Assessment, the Foundation Skills Assessment, the Provincial Exam results, transition and graduation rates. Mrs. Miller then focused on where we want to go as a District. Specifically, she outlined the targets for early learning, writing achievement, reading achievement, numeracy, completion, transition, as well as vulnerability of students. She then reminded the Board that updates to the contract would be forthcoming as we receive the most recent provincial exam results.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation to Mrs. Miller on the time and effort she has devoted to this document.

M/S SMAILL/BARRETT

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the Achievement Contract 2009-2010 as presented.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS

8.1 Learning Leadership Update:

Barbara Morris

Ms. Morris reported that at the end of August the Regional Consortium held two Institutes in Cranbrook. One was on numeracy was called "Out of the Starting Gate: Preparing for a Year of Hands-on, Brains on Mathematics", and was for two groups of teachers of students from Kindergarten to Grade 4, and Grades 5 to 9. There will be a follow-up sharing session on October 23rd. The other was titled "SMARTLearning: One Way to Ignite Brainpower and Differentiate Learning", with sessions designed for Grades 3 to 7 and 8 to 12. We supported our participants through their registration costs.

As well as keynoting the SMARTLearning session in Cranbrook, Susan Close spent August 28th with our Principals and Vice Principals in a session titled "Brain Rules for Smarter Learning", which was a wonderful opportunity for us to catch up with the most recent brain research and its implications to instructional practice.

The "Welcome Back" assemblies were well received in each zone, with the DVD "Red Cars" by Laura Goodrich hopefully reinforcing our School District's culture of optimism. From the "buzz" at each of the events, Ms. Morris believes we are launching into a strong learning year.

As well as this report, she provided a copy of the Early Learning Grant reports which were received in June from the Early Childhood Development Committees. She felt the Board will be impressed by the use of the grants in order to support preschool children, parents, and caregivers with the common goal of improving school readiness.

8.2 District Technology Update:

Paul Carriere

Mr. Carriere provided an update on the following:

1. The Smart Board Seed project which began a year ago has yielded excellent results for our District. The initial project began with the involvement of 10 teachers on the District Technology Leadership Team. There were additional teachers who jumped on board along the way. Additionally, the team supported the acquisition and

use of document cameras in many classrooms. In the current school year we have outfitted another 8 classrooms with Smart Boards and there are 15 additional document cameras in use. The one device that makes all of this technology work is the LCD projector, equipment that used to be on a cart and shared between many classrooms is gradually becoming standard equipment. It is clear from the research that these devices improve student engagement and are an exciting development for teachers.

2. David Levine has provided BCeSIS start up training for secretarial staff, and will be doing training with Special Educators on that module, as well as doing individual user support work across our District.

3. Martyn Bampton has continued to make improvements to the District website, including developing the feature “from the Superintendent”, and continuing to support the District and Schools by developing various aspects of the assessment database.

4. We have had a very smooth summer in terms of our technology infrastructure. Dave Hlady has been working on improving the wireless infrastructure in Kimberley as Selkirk Secondary has had some coverage issues due to building design. The new hardware being implemented will deal with those issues, and has promise for improving our wireless infrastructure across the District.

8.3 B.C. School Trustees’ Association:

Jim Jenkinson

Trustee Jenkinson advised that he will be attending the Provincial Council meeting on October 23 and 24. A request for motions has been sent out and the submission deadline is September 18th. There is an Education Committee meeting on October 22nd which he will also be attending.

8.4 B.C. School Trustees’ Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch:

Jim Jenkinson

Trustee Jenkinson reminded Trustees that the Branch AGM will be sponsored by School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) on September 18th to 20th, and indicated that the agenda and program information has been circulated. Branch elections will be held at that time and he is considering submitting a request to move the Branch AGM to the spring.

8.5 B.C. Public School Employers’ Association:

Sandra Smaill

8.5.1 Recommendation for By-Election:

Trustee Smaill advised that there is a By-Election for a Director vacancy and requested that Trustees contact her with any input by tomorrow. The ballots must be submitted to BCPSEA by September 18th.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Correspondence:

9.1.1 The Honorable Minister Margaret MacDiarmid from S.D. 6 Board of Education:

The Chair referred to the letter to the new Minister, which included an invitation to visit our District.

9.1.2 Heart & Stroke Foundation Letter:

The Chair was pleased to present this letter commending District schools and individuals for the support they have provided to this organization. A copy of the letter will be posted on the District website.

9.2 Calendar of School Board Meetings:

Circulated.

9.3 District Learning Leadership Calendar:

Circulated.

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2009.09.18-20 B.C. School Trustees Kootenay-Boundary Branch AGM, Nakusp
- 2009.10.13 Board of Education In-Camera Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Marysville Elementary School, Kimberley
- 2009.10.13 Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Marysville Elementary School, Kimberley

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Wilson, President of the Golden Teachers' Association asked if the Board has received any information on the Early Learning Initiative from a planning perspective. The Board advised that this is a top priority item on the forthcoming Provincial Council agenda, but there has not been much correspondence to date around this matter. They are surprised that the government is proceeding and it appears that the full day kindergarten will be phased in commencing next September with Early Development Instrument results and space availability being two key factors in determining who will be eligible.

12. ADJOURNMENT

M/S CHRISTENSEN/ANDERSON
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 21:05 hours.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary Treasurer