

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)

**MINUTES** of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held via teleconference, **09-11-10**.

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 19:01 hours.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**M/S SMAILL/BARRETT**

**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: 2009.10.13

**M/S SMAILL/ANDERSON**

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) held on 09-10-13 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3.2 Synopsis of In-Camera Meeting: 2009.10.13

Property Matters: The Board received an update on the status of discussions concerning Columbia Valley Elementary and Wasa Elementary Schools.

The Board approved a request to dispose of a used bus to the Columbia Valley Bighorns Football Club.

Personnel Matters: The Personnel Information Report was received and filed as circulated.

Student Matters: The Board was advised of three student suspensions – one from Kimberley and two from Windermere. They also received a report on a recent appeal hearing.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Tutor.com Update:

Barbara Morris

As requested Ms. Morris received additional information from the Kimberley Public Library on the request discussed at last month's meeting. The Library is looking for funding support from the District for this program in the amount of \$1,250 U.S. which represents 50% of the annual fee. They would also like this service publicized through the Kimberley schools. The Library pointed out that there was no comparable virtual tutoring service in Canada. Unfortunately, given the current financial situation, the District is unable to support this program and a letter to this effect will be sent to the Kimberley Public Library.

**6. STRATEGIC AND POLICY ISSUES**

6.1 Policy Development:

Nil

**7. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

7.1 October 2009 Budget Utilization Summary:

Cameron Dow

Mr. Dow advised that expenditures are 0.97% above the estimate but are 0.36% below the prior year's figure.

7.2 2009-2010 Class Size Report:

Bendina Miller

Mrs. Miller advised that a more detailed class size report will be forthcoming from the Ministry later in the school year. She then reviewed the information on the current year's class size averages for the Board.

**M/S CHRISTENSEN/JENKINSON**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) approve the 2009-2010 Class Size Report as presented.

CARRIED

7.3 Pandemic Plan:

Steve Jackson

Mr. Jackson referred to the plan that had been circulated with the agenda pointing out that it was broken into three sections – pandemic prevention, closure of schools in the event of a pandemic, and the process to be followed for re-opening of schools. The plan will be included in the District practices manual.

7.4 March 2010 Board Meeting Date:

It has recently come to the Board's attention that the date of the March Board meeting is currently March 9, 2010 which is during spring break.

**M/S ANDERSON/JENKINSON**

**THAT** the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) reschedule their March 2010 meeting to March 2, 2010.

CARRIED

**8. REPORTS**

8.1 Learning Leadership Update:

Barbara Morris

Ms. Morris reported that over the next two years, Steve Bentley, Stacy DeCosse, Clint Dolgopol, Greg Thygesen and Todd Wilson will participate in the Kootenay/Boundary Leadership Development Program. This program has been designed by the Kootenay-Boundary Chapter of the B.C. School Superintendents' Association to support and develop the capacity of newly appointed principals and vice-principals (appointed within the last 3

years). Their first session on October 16th and 17th was facilitated by Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser, with a focus on leadership mindsets. Feedback from the participants indicates that this will be valuable professional development which will also develop a regional network of Principals and Vice-Principals. This program will use a variety of delivery models, with the next session as an electronic meeting using Elluminate, which Paul Carriere will moderate. In order to facilitate ongoing discussions generated by the first face to face session, as well as a place to share resources, a wikispace has been created for the cohort. As illustrated by our experience in supporting Principals through the BCELC Leadership Development Programs, the whole District benefits from their experience in a leadership program.

On October 19th and 20th Damian Cooper was back at Fairmont for the annual regional middle/secondary school conference. We had 24 participants from our School District. This year's focus was on advanced assessment techniques and unit design, integration strategies and assessments, and school-wide implementation design strategies. Damian's newest resource, Talk About Assessment: High School Strategies and Tools will be very beneficial as secondary school teams continue to implement changes to their practice.

Student Services and the Staff Development Committee took advantage of the October 23rd non-instructional day to sponsor a session on English Language Learners, facilitated by Shary McTighe with Duncan McLeod as the morning presenter. As this is an area where we are developing consistent District practice, it was really helpful to hear about present challenges and successes and great to be able to take advantage of Duncan's expertise.

2010 LegaciesNow held an East Kootenay StrongStart Professional Development session in Cranbrook on November 2nd and 3rd. Seven StrongStart facilitators and coordinators, as well as Shary McTighe and Ms. Morris, attended. The topics were timely and there was lots of time for conversation and networking built in, so facilitators left reenergized with new ideas and connections. In the spring, we are hoping to have a StrongStart session which will include Kindergarten teachers and Principals on the linkage between the Early Learning Framework and the Primary Program.

Forty-four School District staff members have now been trained in Level Two Threat Assessment. On November 5th and 6th Kevin Cameron did a masterful job of reviewing Level One theory and practice as well as teaching us about strategic interviewing of key individuals in the threat assessment process. A more comprehensive look at types of high-risk youth was also presented. Six members of the RCMP participated, as well as a representative from victims services, which is a good beginning for the development of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment protocol. Prior to the Level Two training, Ms. Morris facilitated three orientation sessions for participants who didn't have Level One training, in order to make it possible for them to attend Level Two.

Besides these specific professional development sessions, the interval since the last Board meeting was very busy with initial meetings for groups such as Learning Coaches, Literacy Committees, and SET BC Partners. Ms. Morris believes that people are well-informed and now need time to implement plans.

## 8.2 B.C. School Trustees' Association:

Jim Jenkinson

Trustee Jenkinson advised that the synopsis of the October 23-24 Provincial Council meeting is available through the BCSTA website. The synopsis includes the meeting agenda and the disposition of the 19 motions passed in Vancouver.

The recent funding cuts and increasing costs were the focus of the emergent motions submitted to Provincial Council. The BCSTA Directors and staff were directed to advocate for the following: reinstatement of the current and increased future AFG funding; an HST full exemption or at least a rebate equivalent to that promised to municipalities; additional funds to cover the increased Medical Services Plan costs; full reinstatement to PACs of the \$20/student grants; further clarification and easement of the requirement to dispose of land/property; full funding for the expanded mandate of Boards of Education including new money over-and-above the block for the implementation of full day Kindergarten; a request for a revision of current class size requirements in lieu of recent arbitration rulings; as well as an urgent request to be consulted on the terms of reference for the planned review of Boards of Education/School Districts that was announced in the throne speech. Finally, BCSTA has assigned the Education Committee with the task of convening a public forum on sustaining public education. Trustee Jenkinson has already sent Trustees and Senior Staff an email requesting input during the planning for this forum that has been tentatively scheduled to take place during the April BCSTA AGM in Victoria.

Deputy Minister James Gorman addressed Provincial Council and answered several questions about the recent provincial budget, specifically, the government's challenges and priorities. Seventy percent of the recent provincial budget has been directed towards two ministries - Education and health. It was not surprising to most in attendance that the proposed "new money" to fund full day Kindergarten is equal to the amount clawed back from the AFG. It was surprising that while Mr. Gorman was explaining how constrained the province is when it comes to raising or borrowing money to meet its obligations, the government was announcing their intention to borrow \$500,000,000 to build a retractable roof on BC Place. Trustees were quick to add a late-late emergent motion calling on the government to reverse that decision and to allocate the half billion to Education and Health Care. In response to trustees' questions about the need for predictable funding and requests to have portions of "the block" distributed on a monthly schedule, Mr. Gorman drew attention to the "\$1.5 billion that is held in account by the sixty school districts on any given day". He gave a "heads up" that the government might be considering a distribution system that will be similar to a "debit card" instead of the current schedule of allocation of monies to school districts. The next provincial budget update will be in March, following the Olympics. Mr. Gorman committed to providing BCSTA President with a response to her question about the status of the Transportation Review Committee and whether any planned changes will impact "the block". Several Trustees also "raised the alarm" because they believe that funding for transportation will be eliminated next fiscal year and that Boards will be "given approval" or "forced" to cost recover for bussing. Apparently, at an April meeting, Keith Miller of the Ministry suggested that the government might cut transportation funding entirely and have Boards charge parents the full cost to transport their children. Some trustees believe School Districts are "playing into the government's hands" by charging now. Some districts have sent out advance notices to parents advising them that changes are coming, such as the need to enforce existing policies that require parents to transport their children to schools outside catchment areas. As with parents in this District, the discussions throughout the province have focused on what parents believe is a right, not a privilege, which should be funded adequately through existing taxation.

The Saturday portion of the Provincial Council meeting was broadcast live via Elluminate and several Trustees and senior staff logged in from around the province.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Victoria.

8.3 B.C. School Trustees' Association, Kootenay-Boundary Branch: Jim Jenkinson

Trustee Jenkinson reported that the next KBB meeting is scheduled during the December Academy and the KBB Executive will distribute an agenda soon. This will be the first time that a portion of an Academy Program has been reserved for branch meetings, although it has been common practice at AGM's. Trustees may submit agenda items to Trustee Jenkinson, or directly to the KBB President, Pattie Adams at School District No.10 (Arrow Lakes). Trustees Hood and Jenkinson plan to attend this meeting.

Two of the concurrent sessions at the December Academy will be presented by KBB Trustees and Senior Staff. We hope that these folks will repeat their presentations at future KBB meetings.

In advance of the BCSTA AGM, the KBB motion building meeting will be held in Nelson on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be possible to attend portions of the meeting via Elluminate.

The next KBB AGM will be hosted by School District No. 5 in Cranbrook next September. Again, Trustees may submit ideas, suggestions or questions to Trustee Jenkinson, or directly to School District No. 5 Trustee Bev Bellina who is one of the AGM organizers.

The Education Committee met prior to Provincial Council on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Committee reviewed the BCSTA Board Priorities document, noting the alignment of the priorities to those of our membership.

Communications Director Carolyn Baldrige presented on "Raising the Profile of the Education Committee" and the Board Chair has a copy of the handouts distributed because portions of the strategies suggested might be helpful in our ongoing relationship with the media.

The Education Committee is reviewing sections of the online *Key Work Manual* so that it can be revised and updated in time for the December Academy. I've committed to review the glossary, and would appreciate your suggestions or additions.

There is a renewed BCSTA focus on improving Branch meetings and Branch member interactions.

During a joint meeting with the Aboriginal Education Committee, Trustee Jenkinson raised a concern about an invoice we received from another District for a distributed learning course taken by one of our First Nations

students. The federal government only provides funding up to 1.0 FTE for on-reserve students, however, students not living on reserve can enroll in courses beyond 1.0 FTE and the Province will cover the additional tuition. The Aboriginal Education Committee was already aware of the funding inequity and are now seeking a resolution with both levels of government.

The Education Committee also discussed transportation, the impact of social networking on student achievement, and school planning councils. Trustees can access the Committee's full report on the BCSTA website.

The next Education Committee meeting has been scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver following the December Academy. The focus of that meeting will be planning for the April AGM. Trustees and Senior Management have received an email in response to the Provincial Council motion directing BCSTA to convene a public forum on "sustaining public education". The Education Committee would appreciate suggestions and ideas to assist in the planning of this event.

If the Education Committee is able to complete their planning work in December, a February meeting that usually coincides with Provincial Council may not be required. Most of the Education Committee members planned on attending the December Academy, so re-scheduling will reduce expenses if they do not have to travel to Victoria in February for another meeting. Trustee Jenkinson is the only member of the Education Committee who also sits on Provincial Council, so he will have to accommodate the meeting date preferences of the other Education Committee members.

8.4 B.C. Public School Employers' Association: Sandra Smaill

Trustee Smaill advised that she had nothing to report.

## 9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Correspondence:

9.1.1 Letter of Thanks, Children's Book Centre – TD Bank:

The Chair referred to the letter of appreciation sent to the TD Bank.

9.2 Calendar of School Board Meetings: Circulated.

9.3 District Learning Leadership Calendar: Circulated.

## 10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2009.11.23	Kimberley Zone Trustees' Meeting, TBA
2009.11.24	Golden Zone Trustees' Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
2009.11.30	Policy Committee Teleconference, 4:00 p.m.
2009.11.30	Windermere Zone Trustees' Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
2009.12.3-5	B.C. School Trustees Association Conference, Vancouver
2009.12.08	Board of Education In-Camera Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Invermere Board Office
2009.12.08	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Invermere Board Office

## 11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board sought input from Bob Wilson, GTA President, and Doug Murray, WTA President, on the professional development opportunities being made available to their members. Both spoke very favorably about the direction being taken by the District in this regard, although some of the initiatives are very much a work in progress at this point in time.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S CHRISTENSEN/ANDERSON**  
**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 19:52 hours.

CARRIED

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Chair

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Secretary Treasurer