

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37 (DELTA)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 5, 2016 7:30 p.m.
District Administration Building

PRESENT: Trustees: L. Dixon, Chairperson
R. Bennett
N. Kanakos
F. Milat
B. Reid
V. Windsor

D. Turner, Superintendent of Schools
R. Allnutt, Director, Human Resources
D. Annett, Director,
International Student Programs
N. Christ, Director,
Finance & Management Services
F. Geyer, Director, Facilities & Planning
N. Gordon, Assistant Superintendent
J. Hill, Communications & Marketing Manager
T. Nelson-Trick, Executive Assistant
D. Sheppard, Assistant Superintendent
N. Stephenson, Director, Learning Services
J. Strain, Secretary-Treasurer

ABSENT: Trustees: D. Saip

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson Dixon opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations, and all of the Coast Salish peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Milat
THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

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LITERACY UPDATE

Ms. Nancy Gordon, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Dr. Catherine Watson, Literacy Coordinator (Elementary), who provided an update on literacy projects taking place in Education Programs using the Spiral of Inquiry. Dr. Watson highlighted the following areas:

- Scanning – In 2010/2011 staff found there to be lack of continuity around literacy and benchmarks.
- Developing a Hunch – A Literacy Handbook was developed that provided more specifics around programming and benchmarks.
- New Professional Learning – A plan was developed across a three year period that provides Grades 1 & 2 teachers one half day per term to participate in professional learning around the handbook, and collaborate with colleagues.
- Taking Action – Five significant action items:
 - 1) 3 part process – Handbook, resources and professional learning.
 - 2) Staff had the opportunity to be a part of the Ministry of Education's Changing Results for Young Readers Initiative.
 - 3) Co-planning, co-teaching and co-assessing.
 - 4) Barbara Jarvis Foundation – Barbara was a much beloved teacher in Delta who unfortunately passed away. Her husband set up a foundation in her memory, which Barbara's sister contributes to as well. The Foundation was started in 2008/2009 and to date has provided \$160,000 to Delta. Funds are used for resources, speakers, and workshop series for Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers. It is a very special part of the literacy program.
 - 5) In process is the Grade 3/4 Literacy Guide.
- Checking – A survey has gone out to teachers for feedback (positive and negative) which is a critical piece for guiding next steps.
- A challenge has been trying to keep up with changes in staffing, and keeping staff informed.
- In summary, literacy is a work in progress and is ongoing. It is improving student results through teacher knowledge.

Trustee Windsor expressed how proud she is to hear about the work of the Barbara Jarvis Foundation. Barbara was a Kindergarten teacher at Holly Elementary. She is glad to hear the family supports speakers and resources as the teachers are going to benefit, and in turn the students do as well.

Chairperson Dixon thanked Dr. Watson for her presentation, and for the reference to the Spiral of Inquiry.

Ms. Gordon noted the Barbara Jarvis Foundation is being recognized with a Special Recognition Award at this year's District Retirement & 25 Year Event in June.

Mr. Neil Stephenson, Director of Learning Services, thanked Dr. Watson for the countless hours and work she has dedicated to the literacy program.

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TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Mr. Stephenson provided the following update on technology:

- IBM Infrastructure Project – Paul Parsons, Information Technology Services Manager, and his team have worked for the last 3-4 years on infrastructure, and are wrapping up some of the last details. The work that has been done is creating a positive experience.
- Google Apps for Education/Chromebooks – A pilot was started a year ago with 10 teachers and 600 students. The feedback was positive, and Google Apps was launched in September. It is targeted for Grades 4-12 students, and so far 8,999 out of a possible 11,000 student accounts have been created. In September 1,400 Chromebooks were launched. Teacher teams have access to a shared cart (every school has at least 1 Chromebook cart).
- iPad “Documenting Learning” Program – There are currently 1,500 iPads in the district. They are great devices for content creation, and are being used as a documentation tool. 6,000 students have a portfolio on Delta Learns.
- Professional Development – Some funding has been carved out to provide time for teachers to train on Google Apps. Peter deConti, Digital Literacy Coordinator, is doing an unbelievable amount of work and an incredible job to help support and provide professional development for teachers.
- “Maker” Programs – The first Maker Camp was held last Summer, and camps were held throughout the Fall and most recently over Spring Break. The program continues to grow, and has been expanded to North Delta. Staff have learned a lot through the process, and for next year more resources will be used for teaching programs.
- Innovation Toolkit (www.deltalearns.ca/toolkit) – Launched at District Day (February 19th). It pulls together resources to help support teachers. Videos and resources on the new curriculum can also be found in the toolkit.
- Summer BootCamp – Has run the last 2 Summers, and staff are currently talking about this year’s 2-day event which will likely be Google focused again. More information will be provided soon.
- Future Directions – Mr. deConti sent out a survey to staff to collect feedback on where they are with technology use, and what’s needed. Education Programs and Facilities staff are working together to start formulating a plan on the integration of *Bring Your Own Device*.

Chairperson Dixon introduced the following guests in the audience:

- Mr. Aaron Akune, Mr. Ashif Jiwa and Mr. James Johnston, Representatives from the Association of Delta School Administrators.
- Ms. Kathleen MacFarlane, Representative from the Delta Teachers’ Association.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Trustees Kanakos/Reid

THAT the Minutes of the Regular meeting of March 8, 2016 be approved with the following amendments:

- Chairperson be changed to Laura Dixon.
- Add the following paragraph under the Aboriginal Education Review:
Ms. Louise Ahlm, Executive Councillor with Tsawwassen First Nation, thanked the Board for undertaking the study, and was pleased to see there was a recommendation for the pull out program to be examined. Ms. Ahlm feels that all students, Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal, should receive Aboriginal Education together. Going through the public education system wasn't a good experience for her. She is very happy to see that everyone is being educated, but feels that it needs to be done together. There has been a lack of education and communication, but if we all work on it together, it will hopefully pull us all together as well.

CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Trustee Kanakos reported on the following committee meetings and event he recently attended:

- BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Regional Meeting – A number of issues were discussed including next steps for Collective Bargaining, Exempt Staff Compensation, and Health and Wellness of Employees. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Turner, Mr. Strain, Mr. Allnutt and Chairperson Dixon.
- Superintendent's Council Meeting – The meeting started off with members sharing a highlight over Spring Break. As the meetings are usually formal, it was a nice touch to get to know the members of the committee. The focus of the meeting was on the Aboriginal Education Report, and the direction it may go.
- Delta School District Vision Night at Sands Secondary – The event was well attended by all partner groups, staff, administrators, teachers, students, and parents. It was a very constructive night, and the importance of re-visiting the Vision can't be stressed enough. The Vision is seen as a living document. It was a great evening, and Trustee Kanakos thanked Ms. Turner and the staff that organized the evening.

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Chairperson Dixon also expressed how inspiring the Vision evening was, and reported on some important date changes around the budget process. The release date of the draft budget will be moved by one week to Friday, April 15th, as late yesterday the Ministry made a supplemental announcement in terms of funding, and extra time will be needed for the budget committee to review this information. The schedule will now be as follows:

- April 12 – There will be no public Board meeting.
- April 15 – Release of the Draft Budget Recommendations.
- April 19 – Public Consultation on the Proposed Budget.
- April 26 – Approval of the Budget.

Ms. Dianne Turner, Superintendent of Schools, thanked everyone that participated in the Vision session. For those that weren't able to make it, staff will be creating videos and documents.

Ms. Turner expressed extreme appreciation to Assistant Superintendent Doug Sheppard for all of his hard work.

FIELD TRIPS

In accordance with Administrative Procedure 260, the Board was advised of the following multiple-day field trips:

- Sands Secondary – Field trip to New York City, New York from April 12-18, 2016.
- Delta Secondary – Field trip to Anaheim, California from April 13-17, 2016.
- South Delta Secondary – Field trip to New Orleans from April 13-18, 2016.
- Seaquam Secondary – Field trip to Louisville, Kentucky from April 19-24, 2016.
- Burnsvew Secondary – Field trip to Los Angeles, California from April 21-25, 2016.
- Seaquam Secondary – Field trip to Waterloo, Ontario from April 30-May 6, 2016.
- South Delta Secondary – Field trip to Alaska from May 16-23, 2016.
- Delta & North Delta Secondaries – Field trip to New York City, New York from May 18-23, 2016.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

April 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Delta School Board Office
4585 Harvest Drive
Delta, BC

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Trustees Bennett/Windsor

THAT the Delta School Board meeting of April 5, 2016 be adjourned.

CARRIED

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ADJOURNMENT: 8:50 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer