

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)**

April 21, 2015

PRESENT:	Mr. R. Johnstone	Chair	Agassiz-Harrison
	Ms. C. Ferguson	Trustee/Vice-Chair	Agassiz-Harrison
	Ms. R. Tustian	Trustee	Agassiz-Harrison
	Mr. T. Hendrickson	Trustee	Canyon <i>(via telephone)</i>
	Ms. L. Kerr	Trustee	Hope
	Mr. J. Koopman	Trustee	Hope
	Mrs. H. Stewin	Trustee	Hope
	Dr. K. Nelson	Superintendent of Schools	
	Ms. N. Lowe-Zucchet	Secretary-Treasurer	
	Mr. K. Bird	Assistant Superintendent	
	Mrs. T. McLaren	Recording Secretary	

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:15 p.m. in Boston Bar Elementary-Secondary School, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. The Chair opened by acknowledging that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people.

1. Approval of Agenda

Hendrickson/Kerr

THAT the agenda for the April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) be approved, as presented.

075/15-04-21
Motion for approval of agenda

In view of the length of the agenda Trustee Ferguson made a suggestion that the Board hold a second meeting next week to cover off all the items on the agenda and ensure that this evening's meeting is adjourned by the 10:00PM deadline per Board policy. Trustee Tustian supported the proposal noting the late start to this evening's meeting, and adding that with last minute and late items often being added to the agenda, the Board might want to look at meeting more frequently.

It was commented that the Board move through the agenda as presented and if there is a need to extend the time of the meeting past the 10:00 p.m. deadline, that the Board Chair make the call at that time.

Amendment:

Ferguson/Tustian

THAT in view of the length of the agenda that another meeting be scheduled within the next two weeks.

DEFEATED

076/15-04-21
Motion to schedule subsequent (special) board meeting - DEFEATED

In light of the motion being defeated Trustee Tustian removed from the agenda the items she was to speak to as follows:

Agenda Deletions:

- (i) NSBA Conference Report, item D. under Trustee Reports
- (ii) BCSTA Provincial Council Report, item F4
- (iii) Draft Revised Policy #4045, item G.3
- (iv) Draft Revised Policy #5020, item G4
- (v) Policy Development Committee Report, item H.6

Discussion surrounded concern of policy items at second and third reading being removed from this agenda as the Board may be able to get to them before the 10 PM deadline.

Agenda Additions:

- (i) HSS Field Trip - added to the agenda under New Business, item H.12

Tustian/Stewin

THAT the agenda for the April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) be approved, as amended.

077/15-04-21
Approval of
amended
agenda

CARRIED

2. Approval of Regular Minutes and In-Camera Summary

Stewin/Tustian

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting and in-camera summary of March 3, 2015 be approved, as presented.

078/15-04-21
Approval of
Minutes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Boston Bar Elementary-Secondary School

Principal **Debra Devine**, presented educational highlights on Boston Bar school's greenhouse project highlighting the involvement of the local community as well as individuals from the lower mainland in coming together to help clean up and refurbish the old greenhouse. Global Veggieponics, one of the contributing partners in this project, has proposed to lease the greenhouse for a 3-year period, build and install an aquaponics system and separate hydroponics system, and work with teachers in providing education in sustainable gardens for students and community members. Principal Devine spoke about ideas in introducing a mini trades program with access for all Fraser-Cascade students to get agriculture/horticulture training through Boston Bar school.

C. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

Nil

D. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- **Trustee Kerr** reported on the following:
 - C.E. Barry library relocation project - the books that Coquihalla had wanted are now moved over and entered into the computer system
 - Coquihalla Choir upcoming performance May 3rd at Grace Baptist Church
 - Labour Enhancement Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Personnel Relations Committee
 - Board Strategic Plan Ad-hoc Committee meeting
 - BCSTA AGM
 - upcoming regional stakeholders meeting, April 24th in Langley
- **Trustee Koopman** reported on the following:
 - BCSTA AGM
 - Gifted Committee meeting

- **Trustee Ferguson** reported on her attendance at the following:
 - Harrison PAC meeting
 - Squiala Honouring Ceremony honouring first responders
- **Trustee Stewin** reported on the following:
 - Silver Creek PAC: new playground project, discussions regarding play boxes at Memorial Park and Sixth Avenue Park, and the possibility of getting one for the Silver Creek area
 - BCSTA AGM
- **Chair Johnstone** reported on the following:
 - AEC meetings
 - UFV Trades and Technology Open House
 - BCSTA Conference Call
 - Career & Skills Development in-service at HSS
 - Student Forum
 - Technology Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Seabird LEA negotiations
 - Personnel Committee
 - Budget Advisory Committee
 - AESS PAC meeting
 - BCSTA AGM
 - Morning greeter for AESS P.A.C.E.R. Day

E. REMARKS

1. Superintendent

(a) TRU/SD 78 Welding Program

The Superintendent thanked HSS Vice-Principal, Karl Koslowsky for attending this meeting to speak on the welding program and answer questions from trustees. The Superintendent also thanked Mr. Koslowsky and AESS Principal Patsy Graham for developing the welding program brochure provided in the agenda package. The Superintendent provided an overview of this partnership project between SD 78, SD 73, and Thompson Rivers University, highlighting the following:

- an evening information session for students, parents and community members will be provided with an instructor from TRU. (Date and time to be determined).
- Program costs:
 - tuition \$2,700 per student covered through 1701 funding
 - students pay ancillary fees of approx. \$1,600 - \$1,800 for books, safety equipment, tools, etc.
 - the cost for community members to take the program is approx. \$5,000 (tuition plus ancillary fees)
- \$5,000 grant funding is available from the Ministry of Education to support student transportation and billeting, and additional funding is available through ITA (Industry Training Authority)
- nine letters of intent have been received to date from students interested in enrolling in this program (5 from HSS, 3 AESS and 1 BBESS, with the possibility of 1 from TREC)
- possibility of district bursary for 2 students (\$500 each)

Mr. Koslowsky responded to questions from trustees pertaining to the program length and number of courses, program costs, school site selection, and support for interested students with respect to the Accuplacer test.

Koopman/Kerr

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) approve the TRU/SD 78 mobile welding program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

079/15-04-21
Motion of
approval for
SD 78/TRU
Mobile Welding
Program

Trustee Tustian expressed concern of the manner in which this project was initially introduced and then rolled out without formal Board approval of the partnership and the specific program details.

(b) Career and Skills Training Pilot Project

The Superintendent presented the final report and recommendations from the Career Development Pilot Project 2-day workshop facilitated by Mr. Greg Howard, seconded from the Ministry of Education to support trades transitions around the province, with principals, trustees and senior management, March 10-11, 2015 at HSS. From this workshop the following recommendations were identified:

- further development of existing partnership with UFV (dual credit courses, Maker Day)
- survey of partner groups to ascertain support for local programs
- establishment of a local structure with a District Trades Coordinator, and school-based coordinators with teaching time for both
- establishment of an ad-hoc committee to develop a 3 to 5 year action plan

(c) UFV Trades Open House

The Superintendent reported on the Trades and Technology Open House at UFV on March 5, 2015. All grade 8 Fraser-Cascade students (approx. 120) attended. The Superintendent extended thanks to Principal Graham for coordinating participation at this event and successfully accessing \$4,000 in Yes 2 It funding (Youth Exploring Skills to Industry Training) to cover bussing costs, TOC time, and supplies. Students were able to participate in hands-on trades discovery activities and view the regional skills competition also taking place that day. The goal of this open house was to further students understanding of opportunities available to them in the trades.

(d) SD 78 Student Forum

The Superintendent reported that 47 students participated in the District Student Forum held on March 12th at the Hope Recreation Centre: 15 from HSS; 15 from AESS; 5 TREC; 5 ACE; 5 from BBESS; and 2 from Silver Creek, along with trustees, administrators and teachers. Students commented on 7 questions pertaining to academics, assessment, school calendar/schedule, extra-curricular activities, social connectedness, student/teacher collaboration, and technology, and shared their ideas for changes and improvements. The student feedback will be summarized and provided to principals, trustees and district staff for consideration and action going forward.

(e) Regional Student Forum

The Superintendent reported that 30 students from SD 78 will be attending the cross-district regional student leadership forum "*Pursue Your Passion*" being held on April 29th at the Langley Events Centre.

2. Secretary-Treasurer

(a) Operating Grant Allocations

The Secretary-Treasurer circulated information on estimated operating grants the District will receive for the 2015/16 school year in enrolment-based funding and explained the breakdown in each funding category and the supplement for unique geographic factors. The September 2015 enrolment count funding estimate is \$18,735,346.00 but is reduced by \$113,350.00 representing Fraser-Cascade's share in government's administrative savings directive, leaving a total full-year estimated operating grant allocation to the District of \$18,621,996.00 for the 2015/16 school year.

(b) 2015/16 Budget Presentation

The Secretary-Treasurer presented an overview of the 2015/16 preliminary budget outlining the breakdown of the overall budget to the following categories:

- 79% - Instruction
- 12% - Operations and Maintenance
- 5% - Administration
- 3.4% - Transportation
- 0.6% - Local Capital

Spending occurs in the following:

- 72% - Salaries
- 16% - Benefits (this cost continues to grow)
- 12% - Supplies and Services

Ministry funding based on enrolment accounts for the majority of the budget revenue and the Secretary-Treasurer presented a breakdown of current enrolment per school, as well as enrolment as a district over the past 5 years. It continues to decline, but is starting to level off.

Added costs including hydro increases, teacher pension plan increases, MSP premium increases, and inflation continue to be on-going cost pressures on the budget.

(c) C.E. Barry School

The Secretary-Treasurer provided a verbal report on preparation work for the demolition of C.E. Barry school.

RECESS

At 9:08 p.m. the Chair called for a 5-minute recess.

The meeting re-convened at 9:15 p.m.

E. REMARKS *continued...*3. Assistant Superintendent(a) Culture of Courage

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the Culture of Courage Committee meeting held February 16, 2015 at Boston Bar School and the Committee's discussions on the *Walking Forward* program, availability of local resources, introduction of a new *Healthy Relationships* initiative, and discussions regarding *iCount* an alternative school program for First Nations youth.

(b) The HELP Project Bookmark Challenge

The Assistant Superintendent circulated information on The Help Project bookmark challenge for students in grades K to 6. Information packages about this voluntary contest have been distributed to the schools to have students design a bookmark that depicts the Help Project and helping others in need. The contest runs until May 8th. The Board Chair provided some background on the Help Project website and its resources for students.

(c) Teacher Leadership

The Assistant Superintendent provided an update on meetings of the regional teacher leadership group. These meetings bring together teacher leaders from school districts in Langley, Maple Ridge, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Fraser-Cascade interested in being leaders in their schools. The group meets three or four times per year. Each district is paired up and takes turns presenting to the group. A panel of principals attended the last meeting and answered questions around formal leadership and what it means to be a change agent.

(d) Gifted Committee

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the Gifted Committee meeting held on April 13th. The Committee is reviewing existing District challenges and looking to include a robotics challenge into the current program. Also discussed were some ideas around enhanced programming as part of the regular classroom instruction. The Committee is also looking at creating an online gallery for showcasing a variety of student works including physical art, digital artworks, poetry, and performance arts.

(e) Provincial Assessment Plan

The Assistant Superintendent spoke about his work at the Ministry with Ministry staff and multiple stakeholders in a roundtable working group looking at a re-design of the provincial assessment program.

F. INFORMATION1. Bill 11, 2015 – *Education Statutes Amendment Act*

The Board reviewed and discussed the changes proposed with Bill 11, 2015 – *Education Statutes Amendment Act*.

Tustian/Stewin

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) join with other districts in writing a letter to the Minister of Education and expressing the Board's concerns around loss of autonomy with the introduction of Bill 11-2015: *Education Statutes Amendment Act* and disappointment that boards were not provided an opportunity to hear the intent of this legislation before it was tabled AND FURTHER THAT the letter be copied to opposition critic, Mr. Rob Fleming, Mr. Laurie Throness, MLA (Chilliwack-Hope), as well as BCSTA for circulation to member school boards.

080/15-04-21
Motion to send a letter to Minister Fassbender regarding Bill 11, 2015

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair will draft a letter and e-mail it out to trustees to review and provide input before it is sent.

H. NEW BUSINESS

At 9:50 p.m. the Chair introduced item H2 under New Business - Ross Road Turnout Letter of Support for the Board's consideration. The Chair advised that there was a recommendation that had come out of the last AEC meeting requesting a letter of support from the Board of Education for an on-site meeting bringing stakeholders together to discuss concerns around the safety of students having to cross the highway at Ross Road to catch the school bus.

Hendrickson/Koopman

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) write a letter of support for the AEC in bringing stakeholders together to discuss concerns around the safety of students having to cross the Trans-Canada Highway at Ross Road to catch the school bus.

081/15-04-21
Motion to send letter of support for stakeholders meeting re: Ross Road & Hwy. 1 intersection

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Stewin added that the District of Hope is currently reviewing the Official Community Plan and should be involved in this stakeholders meeting.

5. Operations & Facilities Committee Report**Koopman/Tustian**

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) receive for information the report from the Operations & Facilities Committee meeting held on February 24, 2015, as presented.

082/15-04-21
Motion to receive Operations & Facilities Committee Report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was noted that there is no representation from the Agassiz-Harrison end of the District on this committee.

At 9:56 p.m. the power went out during the Board's discussion on the Operations and Facilities Committee recommendation to maintain the current grade configuration at Coquihalla, Silver Creek, and Hope Secondary for the 2015/16 school year as the addition will not be finished until late December or early January next year. The power came back on at 9:59 p.m.

Koopman/Kerr

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) maintain the current grade configuration for Coquihalla Elementary School, Silver Creek Elementary School and Hope Secondary School for the 2015/16 school year.

083/15-04-21
Motion to maintain grade configuration at COQ, SCE and HSS for 2015/16

CARRIED

12. HSS Field Trip

Kerr/Stewin

THAT the Board of Education for School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade) approve, in principle, the proposed HSS Comparative Civilizations 12 class field trip to Greenwood Island for a tour of the Sto:lo archaeological site on Thursday, May 14, 2015, as presented.

084/15-04-21
HSS Field trip
approval in
principle

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Superintendent was asked to bring forward to the next Board meeting additional information regarding safety precautions for this trip for the Board's review.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: **May 12, 2015**
TIME: **7:00 p.m.**
PLACE: **District Education Office**

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:07 p.m. the Chair called for a motion of adjournment.

Tustian/Koopman

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

085/15-04-21
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Original Signed by
Ron Johnstone

RON JOHNSTONE
Board Chair

Original Signed by
Natalie Lowe-Zucchet

NATALIE LOWE-ZUCCHET
Secretary-Treasurer