

School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Minutes of the regular **Public Meeting** of the Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) held in the Board Room of the School Board Office at 721 Chesterfield Avenue in North Vancouver, British Columbia on Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

PRESENT: C. Dorais, Chairperson
G. Diebolt, Vice-Chairperson
P. Heal
S. Skinner
J. Thornthwaite
V. Vinaric

A.1. Call to Order

Board of Education Chairperson Dorais called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and wished everyone a "Happy Earth Day".

A.2. Public Comment Period

The ten-minute comment period is intended to be restricted to items on the evening's Board Agenda. The Chair requested that those wishing to speak should sign on the Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet and that each individual would be limited to two minutes.

There were no public comment requests.

Moment of Silence: Chair Dorais reminded the Board that April 28 is recognized as the Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace and noted that the Canadian flag will be at half mast in Victoria and on all government buildings throughout British Columbia. A moment of silence was observed.

A.3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by V Vinaric

that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be adopted.

Seconded by J Thornthwaite

Carried

A.4. Approval of Minutes

The following corrections to the March 11, 2008 minutes were requested:

Item C.8. – 2008 Provincial Curling Championships at Argyle: clarification that Chair Dorais provided the welcome at the opening ceremonies whereas Trustee Thornthwaite provided welcoming comments at the banquet; and to include the Mother Daughter Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast held at Carson Graham Secondary, missed in the minutes.

Moved by V Vinaric

that the minutes of the public meeting of March 11, 2008 be approved as corrected.

Seconded by J Thornthwaite

Carried

B.1. North American Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future

Superintendent John Lewis introduced this item and welcomed Gary Cotter, North Vancouver Outdoor School teacher, and Colleen Elderton, Eastview Elementary School Principal, who were accompanied by three student members of the North Vancouver Outdoor School Volunteer Youth Leadership group. Mr Cotter introduced Kobe Allerton, Lauren Bilinski and Jenny Strong who

B.1. North American Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future (continued)

attended the North American Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future conference that was held in San Francisco, CA from January 12-15, 2008.

The students gave a presentation to the Board highlighting their experiences at the conference. This international conference involved teams of youth from Mexico, California and British Columbia. At the conference, the teams were consolidated into three interest groups: green buildings – explored what different building materials can be used in place of potentially toxic materials; transportation – looked at the San Francisco transit system and its effect on the environment and the community as well as alternatives such as the bicycle coalition; and waste management – visited Hunters Point, a nearby community that has experienced asbestos poisoning as well as soil contamination.

Kobe, Lauren and Jenny thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the conference. They responded to Trustees' questions regarding how the trip personally impacted them; the environmental impact of the cable cars; the variation of the three R's – Refuse, Reuse, Recycle, ie refuse to use paper bags; and in relation to the North Vancouver Outdoor School – students will have the opportunity to provide input on the Environmental Learning Centre.

Superintendent Lewis and Chair Dorais thanked the students for representing British Columbia and North Vancouver in particular at the conference and for their presentation to the Board.

C.1. Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship

The Board agreed to proceed with item C.2. and complete C.1. when the remaining guests arrived.

C.2. 2008/09 Budget Consultation Update

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young presented this item.

This topic was discussed at the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee meeting of April 1, 2008. In response to a request for feedback, the Secretary Treasurer received 7 responses which were summarized and included with the agenda.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the following changes have been incorporated into the budget tier reports included in the Trustees' agenda package.

1. Increased projected 2007/08 surplus applied to 2008/09 Budget	\$200,000
2. Increase in the number of International Students from 25 to 30	\$ 20,000
3. Increased sales of Math 44	\$ 10,000
4. Increase rental rates to 60% of Recreation Commission rates	\$ 10,000
5. Elimination of water taxi allowance for Indian Arm Families	<u>\$ 14,000</u>
<u>Total Change</u>	<u>\$254,000</u>

As a result of these budget amendments, the School District's total shortfall that must still be addressed to achieve a balanced budget for 2008/09 is \$409,000. The Secretary Treasurer advised the Board that School District expenditures will continue to be monitored for the remainder of the fiscal year with the view to improving the projected surplus of \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million to close the gap. A higher surplus could potentially be facilitated through expenditure savings and/or the distribution of the Ministry of Education's remaining holdback after the May Distributed Learning count.

C.2. 2008/09 Budget Consultation Update (continued)

In regards to suggestion #4 that rental rates be raised to 60% of Recreation Commission rates, Secretary Treasurer Young made reference to last year's motion by the Board to keep the rate increase to 50% of Recreation Commission rates. It was felt that the suggested increase was worthy of more discussion and should be brought forward to the May Board meeting.

In regards to the allowance to Indian Arm families with water only access, Secretary Treasurer Young explained that it was originally intended to be a two-year transitional allowance but was extended by two additional years in recognition of the fact that the Ministry of Education had not completed its review of transportation funding. It is currently not clear if and when the Ministry will resume its review or what impact if any it will have on the School District. Secretary Treasurer Young recommended that the Board should consider eliminating this allowance and that the Indian Arm families be notified immediately of the Board's decision to eliminate the \$1800/per child allowance as a budget initiative.

In closing, Secretary Treasurer Young remarked that there may still be opportunities for savings and assured the Board that they will be kept informed and with the intent to bring the budget bylaw to May's Board meeting.

Superintendent Lewis and Secretary Treasurer Young responded to Trustees' questions regarding public consultation; Tier 3 – International Students and the cost of expansion.

Moved by G Diebolt

that the Board approves the budget proposal to eliminate the \$1800 per child allowance to Indian Arm families with water only access and direct the Secretary Treasurer to notify the families affected by this decision immediately.

that the Board direct the Secretary Treasurer to prepare the budget for the fiscal year 2008/09 incorporating the Budget Tier proposals presented at the April 1, 2008 Finance and Facilities meeting and the additional items noted above that were proposed by participants at the April 1, 2008 Finance and Facilities Standing Committee.

Seconded by S Skinner

Carried

Chair Dorais extended thanks to the budget tier working groups as well as the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer for the work that has been done in the budget preparation.

C.3. Organization of Classes Report 2007/08 – Changes After Report of October 1, 2007

Trustees received with their agendas the Organization of Classes Report Update (2007/08) reflecting changes after the report of October 1, 2007.

Superintendent Lewis presented this item and outlined the requirements of the School Act as it pertains to the Organization of Classes Report.

As required by the School Act Sections 76.1 through 76.8, the approved Organization of Classes Report 2007/08 was submitted to the Minister of Education.

In compliance with the School Act Section 76.4, Organization of Classes – Changes After Date on Report, if the size of a class for any grades 4 to 12 in a school in the school district changes and as a result of the change, the size of the class exceeds 30 students, then the superintendent and principal must ensure that

- (a) in the opinion of the superintendent of the schools for the school district and the principal of the school, the organization of the class is appropriate for student learning, and
- (b) the principal of the school has consulted with the teacher of that class.

C.3. Organization of Classes Report 2007/08 – Changes After Report of October 1, 2007 (continued)

As soon as practicable after the change in the size of a class for any grades 4 to 12 in a school in the school district changes, and as a result of the change the size of the class exceeds 30 students, then

- a) the principal of the school must provide the school planning council with the rationale for the change in the organization of the class
- b) the superintendent of schools must provide the board and district parents' advisory council, if established for the school district, with the rationale for the change in the organization of that class, and
- c) the board must provide the minister with the rationale for the change in the organization of that class.

The Superintendent highlighted the changes if any in each of the secondary schools, noting that no elementary schools experienced greater than 30 changes. Following the report, Superintendent Lewis responded to Trustees' questions regarding Argyle Secondary's semester system vis a vis class organization; the loading of classes greater than 30 with the knowledge that there would be attrition, especially in the senior science and senior math classes; no need to consult with school planning council at Seycove Secondary as there had been no changes since the original report; follow up of class size of 34 in Calculus 12 and Math 10 at Argyle Secondary. In response to a question about a class size remaining at 34, the Superintendent explained that there would be ongoing discussion between the teacher and administration to identify any needed supports.

Moved by V Vinaric

that the Board receive and approve the *Organization of Classes Report 2007/08 – Changes After Report of October 1, 2007*, and direct the Superintendent of Schools to submit it to the Minister of Education.

Seconded by S Skinner

Carried

C.1. Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship (continued from above)

Superintendent Lewis introduced Chris Hough, District Facilitator of Secondary School Apprenticeships. The Superintendent drew the Board's attention to the *North Shore Outlook* article on the Automotive Technician Program that featured Carson Graham student, Chris Parsons.

Although three of the four scholarship winners were unable to attend the meeting, their accomplishments were highlighted. Larissa Grieves, a graduate of Carson Graham Secondary School, completed her apprenticeship in Cooking with much of her training at Milestones Restaurants and is currently enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program at Vancouver Community College. Nick Tonge graduated from Sutherland Secondary School and his Apprenticeship placement was in Antique Furniture restoration. Upon graduation, Nick changed to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) trade and is currently employed by Executive Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Ltd, a North Vancouver based company. Nathan Zuidema, an Argyle Secondary School graduate who found his passion for woodworking in the construction class, has completed his Secondary School Apprenticeship and continues to be employed by Oscar Grann's Furniture Ltd, a company established in North Vancouver in 1962.

Mr Hough introduced Mike Stojanovski, also a Carson Graham graduate, who was awarded the Northshore Auto Mall Scholarship for being top student in the BCIT Automotive Technician Foundation program during his Grade 12 year and is currently employed by AJ Transmissions on the North Shore. Also in attendance was Mike's employer, Jim Baechler. Commenting on Mike's successes, Mr Baechler also highlighted the need for more trades people and encouraged the School District to continue offering apprenticeship programs.

C.1. Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship (continued)

The Superintendent extended congratulations to all of the students and thanked Mike for attending the meeting. When questioned by a Trustee, Mike indicated that he would be willing to speak about the apprenticeship program and his experience to North Vancouver School District students and already has had discussions with Mr Hough. Mike thanked the Board, with special acknowledgement to Mr. Hough's support throughout his secondary school years.

Chair Dorais thanked Mr Jim Baechler for his support in the trades program as well as congratulating Mike on his success in the program.

C.4. Progress Report on Land Disposition

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young introduced this item and provided a progress report on land disposition at the following sites:

Lonsdale and Queen Mary

The Board has organized and hosted 4 community consultation meetings in the past two months to keep the public informed as it progresses through the design development. The project development team has adopted many suggestions made by the various City Advisory committees and through the public input process. It was noted by the Secretary Treasurer that people have been positive with the changes made from the town hall meetings. Secretary Treasurer Young reported that the first reading of the bylaw is targeted for May 26, 2008 and also encouraged the Board to attend the public hearing before City Council on June 23, 2008. As reported by Secretary Treasurer Young, the team members have all been working very hard with tremendous support from the staff of the City planning department.

Argyle and Braemar

James Fox, the President of Wedgewood Ventures has met with neighborhood residents of both Argyle and Braemar surplus land parcels. As a result of concerns raised by neighbors bordering on the Braemar parcel, the Board held a public information session on March 5, 2008 to provide more information behind the Board's decision to sell surplus land including the need to create capital funds to upgrade/renovate or completely replace school buildings.

Monteray

The Board held a public input session on Thursday April 10 as the first step in the community consultation process to discuss options for the disposition of the former Monteray elementary school. The lease with the current tenant, Ecole Internationale Francaise de Vancouver is due to expire in the summer of 2009.

Secretary Treasurer Young responded to Trustees' questions regarding: community acceptance of the sale of surplus Argyle land; a backup plan for the Braemar surplus land; ongoing communication with the District staff and residents.

The Secretary Treasurer reported on a recent meeting that she had with representatives from the Iranian community on the North Shore to discuss their requirements for land to build a community centre. It was noted that the Braemar land parcel is already zoned for community use.

C.5. Chair's Report on the BCSTA AGM

Chairperson Chris Dorais reported on the BC School Trustees Association 104th annual general meeting in Vancouver, which was attended by 392 Trustees, Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers representing School Districts throughout the province. In the BC School Trustees Association elections, Vice- President Connie Denesiuk of Okanagan Skaha was acclaimed president and Michael McEvoy of Greater Victoria was elected vice-president.

C.5. Chair’s Report on the BCSTA AGM (continued)

Delegates at the AGM considered a total of 44 resolutions (copies were distributed to Trustees at the Board meeting), four of which had been put forward by the North Vancouver Board of Education. Thanks to the efforts of Trustees Jane Thornthwaite, Susan Skinner, Ginny Diebolt and Board Chair Chris Dorais, the following four resolutions were carried.

- 1) Urging the Minister of Education to restore the GAAP funding that was redistributed in 2007/08 to fund Distributed Learning and other Ministry budget pressures.
- 2) Urging the Minister of Education to increase the Annual Facilities Grant, which is used to maintain school buildings and has not increased in about 20 years.
- 3) Urging the Minister of Education make public an annual report of the Ministry of Education’s province-wide school building priority listing by age and condition of the facility and to use this listing to determine which capital projects to approve.
- 4) Urging the Minister of Education to resume the transportation study that was intended to form the basis for more equitable distribution of the transportation allocation between school districts.

A Trustee noted that the resolutions carried at the annual general meeting are then prioritized by the BCSTA executive and become their “job description”.

Highlights of the annual general meeting included: keynote speaker Honourable Bob Rae, Ontario’s 21st Premier, on the importance of trustees and local boards of education as the foundations of our democratic institutions and society; presentations by both Carole James, BC Leader of the Official Opposition; and Minister of Education, the Honourable Shirley Bond, who spoke on the early learning programs.

During the annual general meeting, the Board along with Superintendent Lewis and Secretary Treasurer Young had the opportunity to meet with the new Deputy Minister of Education, James Gorman. During the short period of time assigned, the Board highlighted the North Vancouver Outdoor School vision and extended an invitation to Mr Gorman to tour the site; followed up to Chair Dorais’ letter of December 31, 2008 to the Ministry outlining the need for capital funding for alternate schools; and made mention to the need to increase the annual facilities grant.

C.6. April 1, 2008 Meeting of the Finance & Facilities Standing Committee

Copies of the meeting notes from the April 1, 2008 meeting of the Finance & Facilities Standing Committee were included in the Trustees’ agenda.

Trustee Skinner, Chairperson of the Finance & Facilities Standing Committee, reported on highlights of the meeting which focused on preparation of the 2008/09 Budget. It was noted by Trustee Skinner that comments from the group discussion at the April 1, 2008 Finance & Facilities Standing Committee meeting have been addressed in the amended budget tier reports presented at the Board meeting.

C.7. Field Trips – Secondary

The Chairperson gave an overview of field trips that are being planned for secondary school students as follows:

- Sutherland – field trip to Portland, Oregon/Seattle, Washington USA (April 23-26, 2008);
- Keith Lynn Alternate – field trip to the Oregon Coast, USA (April 27 - May 2, 2008); and,
- Keith Lynn Alternate – field trip to Hawaii (May 22-31, 2008).

C.8. Superintendent's Report

At the meeting, Trustees received a copy of the Superintendent's Report dated April 22, 2008 in which the Superintendent reported on items of interest or concern not otherwise covered in the agenda. A summary of the report is provided below.

1. International Baccalaureate Programme

The Superintendent was pleased to announce that the North American office of the International Baccalaureate Organization have officially granted Candidacy Status to Carson Graham Secondary School. The next step will be to complete the Application B process.

2. International Connections

Superintendent Lewis remarked on North Vancouver School District's long-standing tradition to support cross-cultural understanding and the international advancement of education. This spring the School District has hosted a number of delegations from a variety of countries including China, Japan, England and Spain's Canary Islands.

3. Community Consultation

Recently a number of consultations have taken place in the community including:

- *Towards the Future of Schools* meetings at Argyle and Handsworth Secondary Schools - during April, the School District hosted two information and input sessions for the central and western regions of the District. Parents of both elementary and secondary students were well represented at both meetings and written feedback was collected for consideration.
- *Potential sale of Monterey Elementary School Site* – as reported earlier, a meeting was held on April 10th to seek community input with respect to possible future uses of the site.
- *Lonsdale and Queen Mary/School District Administration Offices redevelopment project* – the School District hosted its fourth set of meetings in a series of public consultations on April 15 and April 17th to continue to communicate the evolution of this project. The consultation process will now move to the formal presentation and public hearing on the rezoning request that goes before Council at the City of North Vancouver.

4. Stephen Lewis at Seycove Secondary

On April 2, 2008, Seycove Secondary School was honoured to host Stephen Lewis, former special envoy to the UN Secretary-General. To a Seycove gym filled to capacity, Mr Lewis delivered a personal update to students on the global fight against AIDS and the eight Millennium Development Goals which focus on education, especially, and cutting poverty in half by 2015.

5. Windsor Coach Nikki Carroll Celebrated at Provincial Legislature

As part of the Ministry of Education's "Education Month", Windsor teacher/coach Nikki Carroll joined 15 of the province's leaders in education for recognition at the legislature on March 31, 2008. Named the 2006/07 female coach of the year by BC School Sports, Nikki Carroll's recent achievements as a coach include leading the Windsor Dukes gymnastics team to two consecutive provincial championships, including the 2008 competition held in March in Powell River.

6. District Writing Symposium

The North Vancouver School District is widely recognized for its literacy programs. Many of these programs begin on the initiative and innovation of the District's teaching staff. Recently, Lisa Ottenbreit, the District's Later Literacy Facilitator, coordinated a District Writing Symposium for students in Grades 7 to 12. Over 60 aspiring writers from schools and programs across the School District had the opportunity to attend a full-day creative writing workshop with two local writers, Brendan McLeod, a word artist, novelist and musician, and Jen Sookfong Lee, a poet and author.

C.8. Superintendent's Report (continued)

7. An Innovative Solution

Last summer the School District's Information Technology (IT) department began exploring ways to expand on its Wide Area Network (WAN) bandwidth in order to meet the demands of the district. Through a program developed by Silver Peaks Systems, the School District was able to dramatically improve the performance of various applications. Recently, Silver Peaks Systems hosted approximately 60 technicians from across the Lower Mainland and the Island at Sutherland Secondary.

C.9. Trustees' Reports

Trustees reported on their activities on behalf of the Board as follows:

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:

- Communication Committee meeting
- First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition www.firstcallbc.org
- Sustainability Breakfast: GVRD: BCIT Campus, Vancouver:
"Why aren't we there yet? 20 Years of Sustainable Development"
- Sustainability Breakfast: GVRD: BCIT, Living Buildings
www.metrovancouver.org/sustainability/default.asp
- Recreation Commission Meeting
- Candlelight Committee meeting
- Legacy North Shore: meeting to plan the Imagine BC Regional Dialogue for a June 21/22
Community event <http://sfu.ca/dialogue/imaginebc/>
- Meeting with parent regarding possible future topic of an Education and Programs Standing
Committee meeting on different methods of teaching boys
- Coho Society of the North Shore AGM Breakfast meeting www.cohosociety.com
- Sustaining Schools Working Committee all day workshop
- Meeting with Assistant Superintendent re June Education and Programs Standing Committee
Agenda regarding different Special Needs Delivery models
- Finance & Facilities Standing Committee
- Board of Education In-Camera meeting
- Metro BCSTA meeting
- Education Week Planning Committee debrief
- Board Planning meeting
- Policy Review Committee meeting
- *Towards the Future for Schools* meetings @ Argyle and Handsworth
- Lunch meeting with MLA's re the NVOS Environmental Learning Centre
- Fromme Elementary PAC meeting
- Launch of the 44 Magazine, Argyle Secondary School
- Ross Road PAC meeting
- North Vancouver City Advisory Planning Committee
- Attendance by Chair Dorais, accompanied by Director of Facilities, Ian Abercrombie, to a
half-day workshop at the City of North Vancouver which focused on sustainability for the next
100 years.

2. Events attended by Trustees included:

- Plymouth Elementary "Sharing Student Success & Leadership" event
- Artists for Kids – "Celebrating All We Do" Kenojuak Ashevak print release & printmaking
demos
- Long term Employee Recognition, Mentorship, PAC Reception, LMCC

C.9. Trustees’ Reports (continued)

- BC School Trustees Association AGM
- *Digital Expression Exhibition* at Sutherland Secondary School
- Windsor Secondary School performance of “Oklahoma”
- Artists for Kids “Stories of Our Time” and print release Roy Henry Vickers
- Welcome assembly and farewell reception for guests from Obu High School (Windsor’s sister school in Japan)
- *Roots of Empathy*, Handsworth/Carson Graham forum
- Coho Society of the North Shore: Adopt a Fish family event
- Stephen Lewis presentation; Seycove Secondary School
- North Shore Sports Awards; Park Royal Shopping Centre
- Coaches Recognition Dinner; Windsor Secondary School
- *Voices of Nature* – Eastview Elementary concert rehearsal – a Trustee acknowledged the hard work of Principal Elderton and staff to put on this concert which involves the whole school
- *VIA Still in Motion* at Handsworth Senior Secondary

D. Future Meetings

Future meetings of the Board were noted as follows:

Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Education & Programs Standing Committee Meeting	Sutherland Secondary 1860 Sutherland Ave, N Vancouver
Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Board Room, School Board Office 721 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver
Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Education & Programs Standing Committee Meeting	Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre 810 West 21 st St, N Vancouver
Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Board Room, School Board Office 721 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver

E. Question Period

The Chairperson called for questions from the public on business conducted during the meeting.

Chair Dorais and Superintendent Lewis responded to questions regarding:

- the promotion of trades programs in the North Vancouver School District, is included in the Programs of Choice advertisements in the North Shore News.
- improving the “backyard” of Braemar Elementary
- request to put the BCSTA motions on the School District website
- the challenges surrounding the budget preparation within the confines of Ministry funding; advocacy channels; the role of the BCSTA in regards to funding issues

F. Adjournment

The established agenda being completed, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Certified Correct:

Irene Young
Secretary Treasurer

Chris Dorais
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Date

Date