School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Minutes of the **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, February 26, 2008.

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

A.1. Call to Order

Chairperson Dorais called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Trustee Vinaric sent her regrets.

Moment of Silence

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Chair Dorais requested a moment of silence be observed in memory of Sadie Hardman, the 17 year-old Argyle student who tragically died on February 22, 2008 from injuries received in an early morning accident at Upper Lynn Elementary School. Making reference to Argyle Principal Woodland's comments, Mr Dorais mentioned that "Sadie Hardman was an honour student and an active member of Argyle's student council….Sadie was a good citizen of the school and she will be greatly missed by Argyle staff and students". On behalf of the board, Chair Dorais extended sympathy and condolences to Sadie's family.

A.2. Public Comment Period

The ten-minute comment period is intended to be restricted to items on this evening's Board Agenda. Chair Dorais requested that those wishing to speak to sign on the Public Comment Sign Up Sheet and that each individual would be limited to 2 minutes.

Mary Tasi, who has a daughter in the North Vancouver High Performance Pilot (HPP) program, expressed her pleasure with this alternative program. Her Grade 7 daughter was previously enrolled at Collingwood School in West Vancouver. Ms Tasi is very happy with the program and how well her daughter is doing.

Jon Curleigh, who has two children in the High Performance Pilot Program, commented that the program was outstanding and that his children were doing well and excelling academically.

Six Argyle Secondary students commented on their concerns related to the timetabling change to a "linear timetable" proposed for September 2008. Chair Dorais explained that he wouldn't normally allow the comments since they didn't directly relate to agenda items but given the students' initiative they could proceed. The students presented a petition to Chair Dorais and requested that there be a year's delay in implementing the proposed timetable change.

Superintendent Lewis and Chair Dorais commented that this is a school-based decision with some possible direction at district level.

A.3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by P Heal
that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be adopted.
Seconded by G Diebolt Carried

A.4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by S Skinner
that the minutes of the public meeting of February 12, 2008 be approved as circulated.
Seconded by G Diebolt Carried

B.1. Sutherland Environment Club Presentation

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young presented Sutherland Vice-Principal Adam Baumann and the Sutherland Environment Club's participating students: Jessica Ng, Sze Wing Wong, Michael Heavenor, Andrew Robertson, Chris Hamilton, and Melissa Evans.

Secretary Treasurer Young extended an invitation to the public to visit Sutherland School at its first open house scheduled for March 8, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to view the sophisticated design features of the new facility, the artificial turf field and preview the many exciting programs that will be offered in September.

Sutherland School has had a Student led Environment Club for many years and one of their projects in the past year was to raise the environmental consciousness of students and staff by raising the awareness of the advanced technologies at work in the new Sutherland building. In doing this, the students hoped to enhance the sense of school pride in their new facility.

The Sutherland Environment Club's members presented a slide show that features Sutherland's sustainable design features and energy savings projects. The Secretary Treasurer mentioned that the students' presentation had been well received at the recent Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) conference recently hosted at Sutherland Secondary.

Following the presentation, the students responded to Trustee questions regarding the heat pumps and the ability to pay back the cost in six years as well as the high efficiency lighting. The students have learned a great deal through this project and continue to spread the information on to other Argyle students. Mr Baumann noted how proud he was of the students' work. Chair Dorais thanked the Sutherland Environment Club for their presentation and suggested that they make a similar presentation to advisory groups in both the District and the City.

B.2. School District No 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2007/08

Trustees received with their agendas copies of the Amended Annual Budget, Amended Annual Budget Bylaw and Summaries of Revenue and Expenditures for the 2007/08 Budget Year. Secretary Treasurer Young introduced this topic noting that it is a routine item and that the Board is being asked to adopt an Amended Budget Bylaw for Fiscal Year 2007/08. Section 113 of the School Act provides the authority for a Board to amend its annual budget bylaw. The Amended Budget is the final budget for the 2007/08 fiscal year and includes numerous budget variations that have taken place since the adoption of the 2007/08 Preliminary Budget on May 15, 2007.

In the Amended Budget, the Board has increased its revenue budget by $5 million (3.5%) since the adoption of the Preliminary Budget in May 2007. This increase is mainly due to the allocation of year-end appropriations to the proper accounts and increased investment income of $600,000. Year-end appropriations are necessary to deal with planned expenditures that could not be

completed in the fiscal year and were approved when the Board approved the 2006/07 audited financial statements in September 2007.

Expenditures have correspondingly increased by $5 million, the majority of which ($2.23 million) was allocated to Instruction and to local capital ($1.7 million) for systems and technology projects such as library automation and a new document management system. The balance of the increased expenditures were allocated to District Administration and Operations and Maintenance and reflect the year-end appropriations of the school fund surpluses carried forward from previous years.

Secretary Treasurer Young introduced Georgia Allison, Director of Financial Services, to respond to Trustee questions concerning differences between various salary categories from previous year's actuals and the current budget. Variations were due to approved salary increases and fewer teachers due to declining enrolment. The Secretary Treasurer replied that she would respond directly to Trustees regarding the decrease in the rentals and leases budget.

Moved by G Diebolt
that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08 be read a first time.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

Moved by S Skinner
that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08 be read a second time.
Seconded by J Thornthwaite Carried

The Board unanimously agreed to proceed to a third reading of the bylaw.

Moved by G Diebolt
that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2007/08 be read a third time, passed and adopted the 26th day of February, 2008.
Seconded by J Thornthwaite Carried

C.1. Recommendations for Future Programs of Choice

Trustees received with their agendas copies of the "Report on The Proposal of District Specialty Programs" prepared by Superintendent Lewis for the Board's review. Superintendent Lewis explained that the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee's* mandate is to identify innovative concepts and potential opportunities to sustain schools within the School District as an alternative to the closure of schools.

The membership of the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* includes Trustees Pat Heal and Jane Thornthwaite, and representatives from the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, North Vancouver Teachers' Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389, Student Leadership Council, Elementary School Administrators, and Secondary School Administrators. More recently, the *Committee* has expanded its membership to include representation from both the City and the District of North Vancouver and the North Vancouver Recreation Commission. The Superintendent of Schools, or his designate, chairs the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee*.

The *Sustaining Schools Working Committee's* Terms of Reference are:

- To monitor student enrolment within the School District, to identify trends and to determine the impact of program choices on student enrolment

- To examine the potential for the introduction and expansion of programs of choice to increase opportunities for students and to maintain and increase enrolment

- To identify potential opportunities for sustaining schools in the development of the annual operating budget

- To identify potential opportunities for more efficient and flexible use of facilities within the school district

- To identify and provide opportunities for community consultation and communications initiatives

- To provide progress reports to the Board of School Trustees on a twice-yearly basis.

Within its mandate, the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* called for proposals for potential programs of choice in November 2007. Fifteen submissions for proposal were received by December 21, 2007. These submissions were then evaluated by the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* with observations and recommendations being forwarded to the Executive Committee. After reviewing and considering the recommendations of the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee*, the Executive Committee made further refinements and amendments to the recommendations for submission to the Board.

The Superintendent gave brief highlights of each submission after which the Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions of the Superintendent.

- *Artists for Kids Visual Art Academy* – recommended that the proposed *AFK Visual Art Academy* proposal be approved for implementation at Balmoral and Carson Graham in September 2008 and that the program be examined for implementation at the District level in subsequent years.

- *Beyond Boundaries Outdoor Adventure Program* – recommended that the *Beyond Boundaries Outdoor Adventure Program* proposal be referred back to the 3rd Step Program as the request is really a school based program. Responding to a Trustee question re program funding, Superintendent Lewis clarified that the mandate of the Sustaining Schools Working Committee does not deal with funding. If a program requires funding, it would then go back to the normal process ie funding for a field trip. Decisions regarding funding will be at the budget level.

- *Cycling Academy* – as the program required more development; it was recommended that support be provided to develop Sports Academies, with the intent to advance a *Cycling Academy* in September 2009. At this point, it is not known where the academy will be housed.

- *Digital Media Program* – this proposal was well developed and appears to have much promise for partnerships that will include Career opportunities for students. It is recommended that the *Digital Media Program* be approved for implementation at Argyle Secondary School on a pilot basis for September 2008. Mr Lewis responded to Trustee questions regarding: the possibility of the Artists for Kids carrying the program in the future, the program would be supported by a consistent timetable, digital media courses are currently offered at Argyle.

- *High Individual Performance Program (HIP)* – recommended that the *High Individual Performance Program – HIP Program* (Academy) be approved for implementation at Windsor, Seycove, Balmoral and Carson Graham Secondary schools; supported by the adoption of a specific timetable model. This timetable model is in place at Balmoral and Carson Graham and is slated for implementation at Seycove and Windsor in September 2008. The *Hip Program* is very similar to one currently running at Sentinel Secondary in West Vancouver. Program coordination may need to occur between schools due to limited number of students in the first years of inception. In answer to Trustees' questions, Superintendent Lewis noted: the HIP program would be supported by but not contingent on a consistent timetable.

- *Montessori Program* – recommended a commitment be made to offer a Montessori program at Lynnmour Elementary commencing September 2008 and contingent upon a minimum registration of 20 Grade 1 and 2 students confirmed by April 30, 2008. Responding to Trustee questions, Superintendent Lewis noted that Lynnmour Elementary is centrally located in the School District and that 20 is the average class size for primary which has historically been the break even point for operational costs.

- *Outdoor Explorations 10* – recommended that a study group be established to review and develop an integrated outdoor education program proposal. Superintendent Lewis clarified that the intent is to establish the study group as soon as possible to more fully develop how outdoor education can be supported as a district and integrate the planning with the Environmental Learning Centre. The earliest implementation would be September 2009 but the proposal would first have to come back to the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee*.

- *Scholarship Soccer System (Triple S)* – recommended that a district committee be established to examine sports academies within the School District, at the district level, in partnership with local, regional, provincial or national organizations. In response to Trustee questions, Superintendent Lewis suggested that it would be worthwhile to consider a local/provincial body that would be better experienced in not just the soccer program but the cycling program as well. The earliest implementation would be 2009 with the developed proposal being brought back to the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* in 2008.

- *Sea to Sky Sports Academy* – it was recommended that the program continue at the school level as an activity-based program.

- *Seycove Music Academy* – approval in principle was recommended for the Seycove Music Academy. A district meeting of Secondary School Principals and Music teachers at the earliest opportunity was also recommended to discuss the possible structures for Music Academies within each of the secondary schools. Mr. Lewis noted that the Seycove Music Academy would commence in September 2008. From that experience, a model would then be developed that could be adopted at other secondary schools.

- As the following programs are all based at Windsor House, the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* captured all five programs in one review: *Self-Discovery Program*; *Intensive Self-Discovery Program*; *Adventure Education Program for Tweens and Teens*; *Fine Arts and Media Education (FAME) Prep Program*; *Experiential Learning Program*. The descriptions include expectations for staffing that would be dependent upon enrolment and funding. The *Committee* appreciated the effort taken by the Windsor House Learning Community to describe the various components of the Windsor House Program. It encouraged the use of these descriptions for communicating the elements of the Windsor House Learning Community both within the School District and outside of the School District.

After the program highlights, there was a brief discussion around advertising the programs and the possibility of advertising beyond the North Shore.

Moved by S Skinner
that the Board receive and approve the *Report on the Proposal of District Specialty Programs,* dated February 21, 2008, and attached to this Administrative Memorandum.
Seconded by P Heal Carried

Chairperson Dorais made note of the great deal of work done by the staff and the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee*, chaired by Superintendent Lewis, since the inception of the committee one year ago.

C.2. High Performance Program – Review of Pilot Program

Trustees received with their agendas copies of the "Review of NVSD High Performance Program, Pilot Year Operation, February 2008". Superintendent Lewis introduced the agenda item.

The North Vancouver School District's High Performance Program pilot was introduced in September 2007. The program was established to meet the needs of those students in grades 6-9 involved in elite and/or high level extracurricular performance and athletic training who required a more flexible academic schedule to accommodate their training needs.

Approval for the one-year pilot program was provided by the Board of Education in May 2007 with requirements that a review of the program be undertaken before the end of the 2007/08 school year. An interim update on the operation and progress of the program was provided to the Board at its December 11, 2007 Public Meeting, at which time the Board was advised that the program review would be conducted during the month of February 2008.

Assistant Superintendent Pearce reported that the review was extended to the staff, students and parents through a survey jointly developed by the district staff and the NVTA. The survey included questions on social impacts, staffing levels, homework/school work volume, connections to Brooksbank and Balmoral schools, transportation, facility/resource/equipment suitability, timetable, individualized instruction, student academic success and program improvement suggestions.

Completed surveys were received back from fifteen students, fifteen parents and from both program teachers. The overall responses indicated a number of strengths in the program including the development of individual student plans, easy access to teachers for both parents and students, collaboration time by teachers, thematic approach to instruction, availability of teachers to help students "catch up" after the students have been away at a high performance activity, opportunity to provide cross-curricular instruction, flexible schedule for students and potential for accelerated learning.

The weaknesses mentioned by all three groups were two-fold: more resources should be made available for all grade levels – computer lab, library, more storage space and better access to science labs - and that the small number of students in the program has potential for negative impact on social behaviour.

The review concluded with the recommendation for the School District to continue the High Performance Program on a pilot basis in the 2008-2009 school year. Suggestions included were the continued monitoring and review of the program in order to determine if the High Performance Program should be adopted as a permanent program offering.

Assistant Superintendent Dave Pearce and Mark James, Principal of Continuing Education and Extension Services, responded to Trustees' questions regarding the partnership agreement with Pro Merita and extracurricular activities; enrolment targets; and the areas of student expertise other than dance.

Reference was made to the Board's of May 15, 2007 motion – "that the review of the pilot program before the end of the 2007/08 school year include participation by the Sustaining Schools Committee." Some Trustees indicated that the program needed to go back to the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* for review and recommendation and then to the Executive prior to being presented to the Board for approval. There was discussion about the possible effect that this delay would have on enrolment. It was noted that the High Performance Program would need to be presented again at the March 11, 2008 Public Board meeting to allow sufficient opportunity for student registration. Concern was expressed about the weight being put on the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee.* It was noted that there is a high level of satisfaction with the academic program being offered to the students enrolled in the High

Performance Program and that it is an in-house program offered by the School District and staffed by the School District.

Moved by J Thornthwaite
that the Board immediately refer this pilot operation of the High Performance Program to the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* to review and make recommendations to be referred to the Executive Committee for further review. The investigation of the program by the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* to be informed by the Board's discussion at its February 26, 2008 meeting and that it be brought back to the Board with recommendations as soon as possible.
Seconded by G Diebolt Carried

C.3. North Vancouver Teachers' Association Budget Presentation

Ms Linda Watson, President of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association, along with NVTA Executive members Dan Storms and Petra Willemse made a presentation to the Board concerning 2008/09 budget issues and priorities of North Vancouver Teachers. Copies of "NVTA Priorities for the North Vancouver School District Budget 2008-2009" were distributed to the Trustees.

Budget areas identified in the presentation included:
1) Class Size and Class Composition – is the number one priority for most teachers.
2) Services for Students
3) Furniture and Equipment
4) The Physical Plant
5) Supplies, Materials and Resources
6) In-Service, Professional Development and Curriculum Implementation
7) Other Budget Needs

Chairperson Dorais thanked the North Vancouver Teachers' Association representatives for their presentation. Secretary Treasurer Irene Young committed to sharing the Association's concerns with the budget-tier working committees.

C.4. February 5, 2008 Meeting of the Education and Programs Standing Committee

Copies of the meeting notes from the February 5, 2008 meeting of the Education and Programs Standing Committee were included in the Trustees' agenda.

Trustee Thornthwaite, Chair of the Education and Programs Standing Committee, reported on highlights of the meeting.

C.5. Field Trips – Secondary

The Chairperson gave an overview of field trips that are being planned for secondary school students as follows:
- Argyle Secondary School– field trip to Sacramento, CA (March 12-19, 2008)
- Handsworth Secondary School – field trip to Portland, OR (March 13-15, 2008)
- Handsworth Secondary School – field trip to Australia (March 13-25, 2008)
- Carson Graham Secondary School – field trip to Australia and New Zealand (March 14-30, 2008)
- Handsworth Secondary School – field trip to Japan (April 15-29, 2008)

C.6. Superintendent's Report

At the meeting, Trustees received a copy of the Superintendent's Report dated February 26, 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. *Anti-Bullying Day – February 27, 2008*

   Premier Gordon Campbell has proclaimed February 27 as Anti-Bullying Day to support efforts to end bullying in schools and communities across the province. Everyday is an Anti-Bullying Day in North Vancouver School District. The Board is committed to providing the safest possible learning environments for all its students.

2. *Musical Notes 2008*

   Orange Jam, a strings extravaganza with students from Handsworth, Canyon Heights, Cleveland, Highlands and Montroyal students will take place at 7:00 pm on March 6, 2008 at Centennial Theatre.

   The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will perform with the North Vancouver High School Honour Band and Strings students at Centennial Theatre on April 30, 2008.

3. *Education Week – March 10-14, 2008*

   Education Week in North Vancouver School District will kick off with *Community Report Spring 2008,* an informative and colourful insert in the North Shore News. Highlights of the week include:
   - Sutherland Family of Schools Open House at Sutherland Secondary on March 8, 2008
   - Trustee Reception at Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre on March 10, 2008
   - Launch of the Artists for Kids newest print edition, *Spring Vision*, by Kenojuak at a special reception on March 12, 2008 as well as an outstanding display of First Nations student art on display from March 11-14, 2008
   - Employee recognition of 25-year milestone of employment with the School District on March 13, 2008

4. *Towards the Future for Schools*

   More than 340 people attended the *Towards the Future for Schools* meeting held at Windsor Secondary School on February 21, 2008 to examine the challenges the School District is facing in regards to declining enrolment and the per-pupil funding model. Presentation materials have been posted to the School District's website and "Key Questions" and Answers will be posted in the coming week.

5. *In Memorium – Sadie Hardman*

   On February 22, 2008, Sadie Hardman, a 17-year-old Argyle Secondary student, died after sustaining critical injuries from an early morning accident at Upper Lynn Elementary School.

   On behalf of the Board and the students and employees in North Vancouver School District, as well as the Minister of Education, the Honourable Shirley Bond, the most heartfelt sympathy and condolences have been extended to Sadie's family and friends.

A loss of a student always strikes close to home for everyone in the education community. A great deal of support has been offered to the students of both Argyle Secondary and Upper Lynn Elementary Schools. A celebration of life is to be organized at Argyle Secondary.

C.8. Trustees' Reports

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

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:
   - Education Week planning meeting - final preparation & details
   - BCSTA Metro Branch meeting
   - Windsor and Seycove Families of Schools community meeting
   - *Future of the Region* GVRD. Role of the Region – Economy and Transportation. These dialogues are an excellent avenue for discussion and debate between professionals in the field and community members and are available on the GVRD website. www.metrovancouver.org
   - Recreation Commission meeting
   - meeting with NS Self Employment Program managers
   - NV Chamber of Commerce: A Conversation with the Mayors
   - meeting with Assistant Superintendent regarding a future Education and Programs Standing Committee meeting which will focus on Special Needs delivery
   - meeting at Argyle Secondary re timetable issues
   - DPAC meeting – Food and Beverage workshops
   - Boundary PAC meeting
   - school visits to Fromme Elementary, Lynn Valley Elementary and Argyle Secondary

2. Events attend by Trustees included;
   - North Shore Gymnastics Competition at Windsor School
   - participation in radio show on bullying with Christy Clark on CKNW
   - dinner with organizing group that is bringing a concert band over from Japan in March. On April 2, 2008 at 7:00 pm at Centennial Theatre, this band will perform in a free concert along with some Argyle and Sutherland Secondary students participating.
   - Arranged a choir for the North Shore Candlelight Ceremony put on by the Legions to be held the first Saturday in September
   - Upper Lynn PAC Bingo night

D. Future Meetings

Future meetings of the Board were noted as follows:

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Finance & Facilities Standing Committee Meeting	Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre 810 W 21st St, North Vancouver
Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Board Room , School Board Office 721 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver
Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Finance & Facilities Standing Committee Meeting	Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre 810 W 21st St, North Vancouver
Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	Public Board Meeting	Board Room, School Board Office 721 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver
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

The focus of the Finance & Facilities Standing Committee Meeting will be preparation of the 2008/09 budget.

E. Question Period

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

Superintendent Lewis responded to questions relating to:

- more information on the High Performance Program being provided as quickly as possible to the Sustaining *Schools Working Committee*
- Music Academies - the paying of fees and the ability to apply the financial hardship policy
- Music Academies – the ability of a student taking a music program in a school designated as an academy without being a part of the academy

F. Adjournment

The established agenda being completed, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 pm.

Certified Correct:

Irene Young Secretary Treasurer	Chris Dorais Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Date	Date