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 Theatre of Sutherland Secondary at 1860 Sutherland Avenue in North Vancouver, British Columbia on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

PRESENT: J. Thornthwaite, Chairperson
S. Skinner, Vice-Chairperson
H. Back
L. Buchanan
B. Forward
F. Stratton
M. Tasi

A.1. Call to Order

Chairperson Thornthwaite called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

A.2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B Forward
that the June 11, 2009 agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be amended after Item B6 to include the Election of a Chairperson and, if required, a Vice-Chairperson for the balance of the term from July 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

Moved by L Buchanan
that the June 11, 2009 agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be amended to defer Item C3 District Literacy Plan to the Public Board meeting of June 23, 2009; and;

that the agenda, as recommended in the Administrative Memorandum, be reordered as follows:

C.3. Specialty Academy Fee Schedule
C.4. Proposed Revised *Policy 203: Evaluation of Student Achievement and Reporting to Parents*
C.5. Out of Country Field Trips - Secondary
C.6. Election of Chairperson
C.7. Election of Vice-Chairperson
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

A.3. Public Comment Period

The ten-minute comment period is intended to be restricted to items on this evening's Board Agenda. The Chair explained that for this meeting there would be three separate sign up sheets (In Support of Balmoral Closure/Consolidation, In Support of Keeping Balmoral Open, Other Agenda Items) and requested that those wishing to speak should sign on the Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet and that each individual would be limited to one minute.

Prior to introducing the first speaker, Chair Thornthwaite announced that due to her commitments as a Member of the Legislative Assemby, she would be unable to chair the June 23, 2009 Public Board meeting but would maintain her duties as a Trustee until the end of June. Chair Thornthwaite extended her appreciation to her fellow Board members for their support; in addition to John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, Irene Young, Secretary Treasurer; senior staff and stakeholder groups.

A.3. Public Comment Period (continued)

Joyce Griffiths, speaking as a concerned resident of North Vancouver, expressed her distress in the manner the Balmoral debate has been played out in the media.

Rick Mark questioned if fair and effective communication had taken place during the 610 process and felt there had not been sufficient time allotted to the process.

Don Maunders referenced the letter in the June 10, 2009 edition of the North Shore News, finding it hurtful and inappropriate. He noted the Carson Graham community is proud of its diversity, inclusiveness, leadership, dedication and excellence.

Brienne Powers, a Carson Graham graduate, spoke on her experience of being in an overcrowded school and related challenges while attending Argyle.

Carla George, a graduate of Carson Graham, spoke on behalf of the Squamish Nation chiefs and council and their concerns related to the abovementioned letter.

John Hinze, a member of the Balmoral Choice group and author of the letter in the June 10, 2009 edition of the North Shore News, advised the Board that he meant no disrespect to the community. Mr Hinze expressed his concern that the needs of future potential students in the Balmoral catchment area will not be met by one 1100 capacity secondary school.

Peter Ewens, Principal of Handsworth Secondary, spoke on behalf of the Secondary School Administrators in reference to the Balmoral Closure/Consolidation. Given the financial challenges facing the School District, Mr Ewens remarked that the District can no longer sustain Balmoral's operation. Mr Ewens supports an 1100 capacity Carson Graham and the future rebuild of Argyle and Handsworth without the compromise of Balmoral remaining open.

Dawn Burnell, a developmental therapist and parent of a special needs student, spoke on the challenges of the public education system for children with sensory issues and their assimilation into a larger school environment.

Karen Stewart, spoke in favour of Balmoral's closure/consolidation. Ms Stewart requested that the Board vote against the notice of motion regarding the Balmoral action team noting that it is now time to look forward.

A.4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by F Stratton
that the minutes of the public meeting of May 26, 2009 be approved as corrected.
Seconded by B Forward Carried

Correction: Page 8, item C.6. Education & Programs Standing Committee – should read, "Trustee Buchanan, Acting Chair of the *Education and Programs* Standing Committee".

B.1. Student Leadership Council Report

Superintendent Lewis introduced this agenda item noting that representatives from the North Vancouver Student Leadership Council (SLC) had been invited to make a presentation to the Board on the Council's activities during the 2008/09 school year. Superintendent Lewis, introduced members of the Student Leadership Council: Georgia Barnard, Jacqueline Chouinard and Charlotte Kidd and acknowledged the presence in the audience of Nancy Roberts and Tracey Lloyd, SLC Coordinators.

The Student Leadership Council was formed to provide a strong and identifiable student voice within the North Vancouver School District. Representatives from the SLC take part in District committees, District meetings and conferences, including BC Student Voice's annual conference

B.1. Student Leadership Council Report (continued)

held in the Lower Mainland. In conclusion, the presenters expressed the Student Leadership Council's appreciation to the Board for their past and continued support.

Trustees thanked the students for the presentation and their involvement in the School District. In response to a Trustee's question, it was noted that at this year's BC Student Voice Conference, concerns about the portfolio program were directed to the Minister of Education.

Moved by S Skinner
that the Board receive and acknowledge the presentation from the North Vancouver Student Leadership Council.
Seconded by L Buchanan Carried

B.2. Corporate Banking Services

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young explained that a replacement short-term, temporary borrowing resolution was required in order to increase the borrowing limit from $5,550,000 to $7,550,000. This increase is required by the School District to obtain a $2,000,000 Line of Credit to facilitate equipment and technology related purchases and benefit from lower interest rates as compared to the traditional capital lease rates. Under Section 139 of the *School Act* and Section 10 of its regulations, the Board may borrow funds to meet current operating expenses.

Moved by L Buchanan
that the Board authorizes School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) to borrow from the Toronto-Dominion Bank up to a maximum of $7,550,000 for payroll services, employee expense reimbursements, petty cash reimbursements, school funds transfers, letters of credit, and a line of credit.
Seconded by B Forward Carried

B.3. Superintendent's Final Report Regarding the Proposed Closure of Balmoral Secondary and Consolidation with Carson Graham School

Superintendent of Schools John Lewis introduced this agenda item and distributed copies of his written report entitled *Superintendent Report to the Board of School Trustees – Final Report regarding the proposed closure of Balmoral Secondary (June 2012) and consolidation with Carson Graham Scho*ol, dated June 11, 2009. Copies of this report were previously provided electronically to the Trustees and will be posted to the School District website.

Within his report, the Superintendent spoke on past enrolment trends; the dual challenge of aging facilities and financial constraints, the consideration of the closure/consolidation of Balmoral with Carson Graham Secondary in 2007 and the outcome of the process which led to the *Visioning Process* and the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee;* the *Towards the Future for Schools* consultative process; the Ministry's identification of District schools requiring seismic upgrade and in some instances replacement; the District's consultation with the public regarding the possibility of school closures and consolidations since 2003 and, specifically the consultation process regarding the potential consolidation of Balmoral and Carson Graham and closure of Balmoral which was initiated upon the Board's approval on December 9, 2008 of the Carson Graham Capital Project Bylaw No. 114463.

Concluding his report, Superintendent Lewis noted that the potential consolidation of Balmoral and Carson Graham with the closure of Balmoral in June 2012 has been carefully considered and thoughtfully examined. The consultation process has been conducted in accordance with Board Policy and has concluded in a constructive and respectful manner. The Balmoral Response Team and the Carson Graham Response Team have provided perspectives for consideration by the Board of Education and for the North Vancouver School District.

B.3. Superintendent's Final Report Regarding the Proposed Closure of Balmoral Secondary and Consolidation with Carson Graham School (continued)

The Superintendent of Schools noted that there are significant benefits associated with a larger school at Carson Graham which will accommodate the combined Carson Graham/Balmoral student population. These include a safe, new sustainable facility that will enhance the learning and teaching environment; and a reduction in operational costs which will assist in the preservation of much needed resources for the instructional services and program opportunities across the School District and invest in specific initiatives designed to retain and attract students.

The recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education is to proceed with the closure of Balmoral Junior Secondary School, effective June 30, 2012 or upon the completion of the new Carson Graham replacement school, whichever is later, and to request the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer to immediately commence discussions with the Ministry of Education to secure the approval of an increase to the capacity of the Carson Graham Capital Project Agreement from 800 students to 1100 students and the associated funding approval, as necessary.

In response to a Trustee's question regarding design input and a smaller school environment within Carson Graham for grades 8 and 9; Superintendent Lewis noted that the Design Sub-Committee of the Capital Project Steering Committee has been established and will report out on the process of plans.

Moved by L Buchanan
that the Board receive the *Superintendent Final Report Regarding the Proposed Closure of Balmoral Secondary and Consolidation with Carson Graham School*, as presented at this Public Board Meeting on June 11, 2009
Seconded by B Forward Carried

B.4. School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw – Third Reading

Prior to the introduction of this item, Chair Thornthwaite advised that she would recuse herself from the vote on the third Reading of the School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw to mitigate any perception of possible conflict of interest.

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young introduced the third and final reading of the School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw (copy included in the agenda package). The Board adopted the first and second readings of this bylaw at its public meeting held on May 26, 2009.

Secretary Treasurer Young read the full version of the School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw 2012.

Moved by M Tasi
that School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw 2012 be read a third time, passed and adopted this 11th day of June, 2009.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

Though a school closure is a difficult decision, Trustees noted that it was in the best interests of the School District to support the closure of Balmoral and consolidation with Carson Graham and the decision demonstrated the Board's commitment to the communities surrounding the Lonsdale corridor. Trustees acknowledged the work done by the Balmoral Response Team and the Carson Graham Response Team and encouraged all those who have participated in the consultation to continue their contribution to the School District as it moves forward.

B.5. Notice of Motion

At the May 26, 2009 Public Board meeting, Trustee Forward gave notice of his intention to propose the following motion at the Board's June 11, 2009 Public meeting, in the event of the Board's approval of the third reading of the School District No. 44 (North Vancouver) Balmoral Secondary School Closure Bylaw 2012.

Moved by B Forward
that the Board of Education establish a North Vancouver School District Balmoral Research Team to investigate the future use of Balmoral; and

that this committee/team be formed in September 2009 and be tasked with presenting options and a plan beyond June 2012 for Balmoral as a Community Hub and Centre for Educational Diversity and Choice.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

After discussion regarding the intent of the motion and its timing as well as School District resources and support currently in place, the following amendment to the motion was made.

Moved by F Stratton
that the Board refer the following motion to the *Sustaining Schools Working Committee (SSWC)* and that the *SSWC* report back to the Board at its November 2009 public meeting:

to establish a North Vancouver School District Balmoral Research Team to investigate the future use of Balmoral; and

that this committee/team be formed in September 2009 and be tasked with presenting options and a plan beyond June 2012 for Balmoral as a Community Hub and Centre for Educational Diversity and Choice.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

C.1. Supporting our Special Elementary Learners

Trustees received with their agendas the report entitled "*Supporting our Special Elementary Learners*, a Report of the External Consultant – Heather Calder and Working Group", dated February 2009.

Chair Thornthwaite, introduced this item and welcomed Julie Parker, Director of Instruction, Student Services and Ms Heather Calder, consultant and former SD44 Special Education Department Head. Ms Parker and Ms Calder provided background to the report which is the outcome of a working group's inquiry into practices "Supporting our Special Elementary Learners". Based on the working group's research and participant feedback, the following nine recommendations to support special elementary learners and teachers have been made to build on current North Vancouver School District practice:

1. Develop a district in-service plan to support goals for inclusion, differentiated instruction, and assessment for/as/of learning.
2. Facilitate opportunities for collaboration and mentoring among Classroom Teachers, Resource Teachers, SEAs and Administrators.
3. Strengthen the role of the SBRT (School Based Resource Teacher).
4. Review the hiring of Resource Teachers to increase the number that meets Ministry of Education Criteria.
5. Provide a balance of in-class and pull-out support.

6/7. Review SEA (Special Education Assistant) and Resource Teacher support for equality and transparency across (all) schools.

8. Pilot a (non-categorical) Resource Teacher model in selected schools (or in a Family of Schools [FOS]) in the 2009-2010 school year.
9. Establish an Action Plan to implement the recommendation of the working group.

C.1. Supporting our Special Elementary Learners (continued)

Ms Parker and Ms Calder responded to questions from Trustees regarding the increase in the numbers of District students identified with special needs which is partly due to more detailed screening now available; steps being taken to educate and hire specialist teachers; piloting of the service delivery model with no significant costs to the School District in moving forward; explanation of the universal design for learning; the education of and communication with parents and link to the Inclusion Committee; clarification on the gifted program; and linkage of the report to the Board's motion of March 10, 2009 regarding the implementation of a learning centre for autism and related disorders. It was noted that at the recent BC School Trustees' Association AGM, a motion was passed regarding teacher training for special needs students. As well, the Board expressed the hope that there will be an increased awareness by the new Minister of Education as to the need for increased special education funding.

Moved by L Buchanan
that the Board of Education receive the report *Supporting our Special Elementary Learners* and refer it to the Superintendent of Schools for appropriate action.
Seconded by M Tasi Carried

C.2. Artists for Kids Trust – 2009/10 Operating Budget

Trustees received copies *of Policy 105: Artists for Kids Trust* and the Artists for Kids Trust - 2009/10 Operating Budget with their agendas.

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, introduced this agenda item. In accordance with *Policy 105: Artists for Kids Trust*, each spring, the Trust Management Committee is required to recommend a budget of expected revenue and planned expenditures for the following financial year. The estimates of revenue and expenditures for the Artists for Kids Trust presented to the Board are for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Georgia Allison, Director of Financial Services, was invited to the table to present the budget and noted that print sales were very successful this year. Ms Allison responded to a question regarding the savings made in promotions due to the reduction in mass mailings and clarification that the Artists for Kids Studio Art Academy fee will remain at $175 for the 2009/10 year.

Moved by B Forward
that the 2009/10 Budget of the Artists for Kids Trust, as attached to the Administrative Memorandum of June 11, 2009, be approved.
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

C.3. Specialty Academy Fee Schedule

Trustees received with their agendas a copy of *Policy 706: School Fees* and the *Schedule of Elementary School Fees 09/10* for North Vancouver School District.

Superintendent John Lewis introduced this item and advised that Boards of Education may charge fees to students and parents for goods and services provided by the Board in accordance with the *School Act* [s. 82].

The Superintendent noted that the School District is introducing one new specialty academy beginning September 2009. The Digital Media Academy will be offered at Argyle Secondary School for students in grades 11 and 12. Additionally, the Artists For Kids Studio Art Academy at Carson Graham will continue to be offered in 2009-10 for students in grades 10, 11 and 12 and the Hockey Skills Academy at Windsor Secondary will continue at Windsor Secondary School.

C.3. Specialty Academy Fee Schedule (continued)

All three specialty academies have received the approval of the School Planning Councils (SPCs) at their respective school locations and have reviewed and approved the schedule of fees proposed. The Argyle SPC approved the introduction of the Digital Media Academy ($250/2yrs) on April 12, 2009, the Carson Graham SPC approved the AFK Studio Art Academy ($175/yr) on June 3, 2009 and the Hockey Skills Academy ($165/mo) was approved by the Windsor Secondary SPC on May 28, 2009.

Senior staff responded to Trustees' questions regarding school calendaring being meshed with school planning councils' approval, suitability of current academy fee structures in relation to operational costs; the extent of academy fees in other school districts and how they relate to legislated changes by the Ministry; and the cost of advanced placement course fees. Assistant Superintendent Dave Pearce clarified that the monthly hockey academy fee goes toward the support of the hockey instruction specialists as well as rink rental.

Moved by L Buchanan
that the Board receive the Specialty Academy Fee Schedule 09/10 as presented at this Public Board Meeting on June 11, 2009.
Seconded by H Back Carried

C.4. Proposed Revised Policy 203: Evaluation of Student Achievement and Reporting to Parents

Trustees received with their agendas copies of the current and revised versions of *Policy 203: Evaluation of Student Achievement and Reporting to Parents*.

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, introduced this item and advised that the policy has been reviewed and revised to bring it into compliance with the Ministry of Education's *Student Progress Report Order* and the *Provincial Letter Grades Order*.

The School District's Policy Review Committee, which consists of Trustees Forward and Skinner, and representatives from secondary school administrators (SSG), elementary school administrators (AEA), teachers (NVTA), support staff (CUPE), parents (NVPAC), students (SLC) and the District's Executive Committee have reviewed the proposed revised *Policy 203: Evaluation of Student Achievement and Reporting to Parents.*

In response to a Trustee's question regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and its grading system, Superintendent Lewis noted that further exploration will need to be done.

Moved by B Forward
that Proposed Revised *Policy 203: Evaluation of Student Achievement and Reporting to Parents*, included with this Administrative Memorandum of June 11, 2009, be adopted effective June 12, 2009
Seconded by S Skinner Carried

C.5. Out of Country Field Trips - Secondary

Provided for their information, Trustees received in their agenda packages an overview of out of country field trips that are being planned for secondary school students as follows:

- Argyle Secondary School – field trip to the Hawaii, USA (October 10 - 18, 2009)
- Handsworth Secondary School – field trip to New York, New York (November 11 - 18, 2009)

C.6. Election of Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young introduced this agenda item and referenced the decision of Jane Thornthwaite, newly-elected MLA for the North Vancouver-Seymour riding, to step down from the Board of Education to focus on her new role in government. As a result of this decision, an election of a Board Chairperson is required for the remainder of the year's term, commencing July 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009.

The Secretary Treasurer called for nominations for Chairperson. Trustee Forward nominated Trustee Skinner for the position of Chairperson of the Board. There being no other nominations on three successive calls; Trustee Skinner was acclaimed Chairperson for the balance of the term ending November 30, 2009.

C.7. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer Irene Young advised the Trustees that due to the election of Trustee Skinner as Chairperson for the balance of the year's term, an election was required for a new Vice-Chairperson.

On the first call for nominations, Trustee Skinner nominated Trustee Stratton. There being no other nominations on three successive calls, Trustee Stratton was acclaimed Vice-Chairperson for the balance of the term ending November 30, 2009.

C.8. Trustees' Reports

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

1. Meetings attended by Trustees included:
    - Policy Review Committee
    - Education and Programs Standing Committee – bullying; and emotional and social learning
    - Safe and Caring Schools Committee
    - Parkgate Society AGM
    - Public Board meeting
    - Sustaining Schools Working Committee
    - Carson Graham PAC meeting
    - Meeting at Ridgeway
    - NV Parent Advisory Council AGM
    - NV Family Court Youth Justice Committee
    - Trustee Workshop

2. Events attended by Trustees included:
    - Graduation ceremonies at Handsworth, Carson Graham, Seycove, Keith Lynn
    - Swangard Track and Field Meet
    - Artists For Kids "Tributaries Literary" Presentation – students stories
    - People's Powwow – Tsleil-Waututh Nation Culture Centre
    - Dinner for Retiring School District Staff
    - Visit to Ridgeway Elementary – Refuge Garden
    - Awards ceremonies at Windsor, Balmoral
    - North Shore Housing Forum, LMCC
    - Retirement celebration for Linda Watson
    - Montroyal Parent Appreciation Night
    - North Shore Congress

Trustees acknowledged Chair Thornthwaite's contributions to the School District and in her new capacity as MLA look forward to working with her in support of the students of North Vancouver.

Superintendent Lewis then gave a "final report card" on Trustee Thornthwaite which will be included in his next Superintendent's Report.

D. Future Meetings

Future meetings of the Board were noted as follows:

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 7:00 pm	Public Board Meeting	Board Room - School Board Office 721 Chesterfield Ave, N Vancouver

E. Question Period

The Chair called for questions from the public on business conducted during the meeting. The Board and administration responded to questions regarding the following:

- Lisa Cartwright, on behalf of the NV Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC), thanked the Board for coming to a decision under very difficult circumstances. Ms Cartwright wished Chair Thornthwaite the best of luck. Noting that this was her last meeting as NVPAC Chairperson, Ms Cartwright thanked the Board for its support over the years and stated that she looked forward to working with the Board in her new role as Past Chair.

- Linda Watson, President of NV Teachers' Association (NVTA), congratulated Chair Thornthwaite on moving on to the "leg" and thanked her for her service on the Board.

  Ms Watson commented on remarks contained within the *Superintendent Report to the Board of School Trustees – Final Report regarding the proposed closure of Balmoral Secondary (June 2012) and consolidation with Carson Graham Scho*ol.

F. Adjournment

The established agenda being completed, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.

Certified Correct:

Irene Young Secretary Treasurer	Susan Skinner Acting Chairperson, Board of Education
Date	Date