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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

**TRUSTEES:** A. Murphy, C. Dixon, D. Simon, S. Gascon, R. Farrell

**STAFF:** P. Dubinsky, M. McLellan, M. Grenier

**GUESTS:** Mark Page (Valley Voice), JD Mah

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**1. Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM.*

We gratefully acknowledge that we live, work and learn on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Sinixt Peoples, and we honour their ongoing presence on the Land.

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that:

**THAT** the agenda for this February 21, 2023, meeting is **ADOPTED**, as circulated.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that:

**THAT** the minutes from the meeting held in public on January 17, 2023, are **ADOPTED**, as circulated.

**5. Presentations**

A. Good News Report

The Good News Report was presented by Trustee Simon.

**6. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dubinsky presented his report, reviewing the current status of the strategic plan consultation and next steps.

## 7. Trustee, Committee and Organizations Report

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## 8. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Financial Report
- B. 2022-2023 Amended Budget

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan gave a presentation about financial results this year, noting that there was spending of various new grants awarded to the District that were not in the original 2022-2023 budget. He then reviewed the draft 2022-2023 Amended Budget, providing explanations of each schedule and statement and responded to questions from Trustees.

The proposed 2022-2023 Annual Budget Bylaw was read in its entirety.

Upon motions duly made and seconded:

**WHEREAS** a Board of Education must approve an Amended Annual Budget Bylaw each year pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412, as amended from time to time;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board of Education for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw having read the bylaw a first time;

**THAT** the Board of Education for School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw having read the bylaw a second time;

**THAT** the 2022-2023 Annual Budget Bylaw go forth to a third reading;

**AND THAT** the Board of Education **APPROVE, PASS** and **ADOPT** the 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw having read the bylaw a third time.

## 9. Unfinished Business

- A. Public Meeting Video Conferencing – Superintendent Dubinsky

Superintendent Dubinsky explained that various improvements had been made to the audio/video setup in the board room, and that other than the issue with audio from embedded videos the sound quality had improved. He also repeated that Board meetings are for conducting the Board's business, and the Board can decide what audio/video options they want to use for Board meetings in future.

- B. 4-Day Week – Superintendent Dubinsky

Superintendent Dubinsky summarized the process to date undertaken by the Board in exploring the possibility of a 4-day week for the parts of the District that currently have a regular, 5-day week. He noted that there are various considerations brought forth by Trustees, parents, staff and others, including:

- The length of school day.
- The potential difficulties in obtaining and affordability of childcare with fewer in-school days.
- Vulnerable children can need a safehaven or place to go each day and potential social emotional hardship for students or parents.
- Interference with school sports or activities.

A Trustee mentioned that the parents' feedback at the NES PAC meeting was that if there was consideration of all these things, then they might be in favour of a 4-day week. Parents were concerned about the effect a four-day week might have on others but not for themselves. Questions raised by parents included the length of days, bussing, longer bus trips for students coming from afar, like from Burton or Edgewood. However, overall, they would be open to explore a 4-day week.

A Trustee mentioned that parents of high-school students expressed at NSS PAC meeting didn't think they were opposed, but there wasn't any strong feeling or direction one way or another.

A Trustee mentioned they had received a letter from a parent who was concerned about the impact on school sports of a 4-day week.

Superintendent Dubinsky stated that any consideration of a 4-day week would be for the 2024-2025 school year, and that District staff are happy to receive any direction from the Board to obtain further information or perform consultation.

A Trustee expressed a concern about the quantity of consultation currently going on. Superintendent Dubinsky noted that calendar would be submitted next March (2024) so there is time to consult before then. Any decision would have to be made prior to that time, for consideration for 2024-2025 year.

Two Trustees mentioned that consideration of a 4-Day week should be considered as a potential tool to achieve the goals of the strategic plan. That it could be an initiative taken based on the consultation done for the strategic plan, with a possible separate consultation could be done later about specific.

The Board agreed to defer further discussion until a later meeting following the adoption of the strategic plan.

## **10. New Business**

- A. 2023-2024 School Calendar Notice – Superintendent Dubinsky

The Superintendent noted that the 2023-2024 draft school calendar has been approved by stakeholders and will be posted on the website to give the opportunity for further feedback. After that, it will be either amended or approved at the March Board meeting.

A Trustee asked if schools will notify parents. First it is published on website, then sent to Principals, who can put in their newsletters.

B. Spring Break – School Board office Closure March 13 – March 24 Inclusive

Notice given of the school board office closure for spring break.

C. Policy Committee

Upon motions duly made and seconded:

**THAT** the Board of Education form a standing Policy Committee for the term of the current Board, to review and develop Board policies.

**THAT** the Terms of Reference and 2023-2024 Annual plan for the Policy Committee are **ADOPTED**, as circulated.

**THAT** any previously formed policy committee of the Board is hereby dissolved.

## 11. Questions from the Public

## 12. Next Meeting Dates

- A. BCSTA Provincial Council: February 24, 2023
- B. Meeting of the Board Open to the Public: March 28, 2023
- C. Meeting of the Board Open to the Public: April 18, 2023
- D. Meeting of the Board Open to the Public: May 16, 2023
- E. Meeting of the Board Open to the Public: June 20, 2023

## 13. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned.*



C. Dixon  
Chairperson



M. McLellan  
Secretary-Treasurer