
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

TRUSTEES: A. Murphy, C. Dixon, D. Simon, S. Gascon, R. Farrell
STAFF: P. Dubinsky, M. McLellan, A. Davidson
GUESTS: B. White (CUPE), D. Gustafson (CUPE), K. Richards (ALTA), T. Fetters
VIRTUAL GUESTS: C. Young, Becky, M. Martin, S, Valley Voice, Sheri, B. McLeod, JD Mah, Murray, Lucerne, Judith, Viv, J. Kao, Arlene

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

Nil

3. Adoption of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.01.16-1

THAT the Board of Education **ADOPT** the agenda for this January 16, 2024 meeting, as circulated.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.01.16-2

THAT the Board of Education **ADOPT** the minutes from the meeting open to the public on December 19, 2023.

5. Presentations

Nil

6. Superintendent's Report

A. NSS Cirque de Soleil Trip

Superintendent Dubinsky reported that some NSS students had the unique opportunity to attend Cirque de Soleil in Penticton early January. He invited Mr. Gajda, Principal of NSS to give an account of the trip.

Principal Gadja described a successful trip with a lot of help from parent chaperones, great tickets and backstage access. Meals were supported using FFF funding, and the students reported a quality experience on the chartered bus. For most students this was their first time at a show like this. Following

the show the students had an opportunity for Q & A with the group backstage. He reported receiving positive feedback from the hotel and restaurants regarding the students.

Three students from Nakusp Secondary School shared their memorable experiences.

B. Assessment Team Update

Superintendent Dubinsky introduced Principal Mike Hibberson and teacher Katie Oakes, who have been working the last 4 years towards a greater alignment and better practices for reporting and student assessments.

Principal Hibberson stated that a goal has been for assessments to be an integrated part of learning as it helps determine where the students are, their direction, which helps facilities student achievement.

He reported that there are assessment teams in all schools that met with Katie White, District Consultant.

Ms. Oakes explained how the assessments have helped schools communicate student growth through report cards. She explained the value of the Assessment Handbook, and that students are growing accustomed to it, and are setting their goals as they take ownership of their own learning.

Superintendent Dubinsky noted the great work and product that will be helpful to achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan.

7. Trustee, Committee and Organization Reports

8. Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan reported enrollment is down by 5 students and MECC funding had increased by \$160,000 this year. The District has been informed that it will likely receive additional funding this year for new busses but though it has not yet been able to obtain the busses.

Trustees asked for clarification as to what are AFG, CNCP and PEP funding, which are Annual Facilities Grant, School Enhancement Program and Playground Equipment Program capital funds of the MECC.

9. Unfinished Business

A. 4-Day School Week

Superintendent Dubinsky referred the Board to two memos regarding the 4-day week. He described the process of evaluating the possibility of a 4-Day School Week to date, that the Board had received and reviewed various reports and research, the survey, and had met with the Partner Group Advisory to obtain feedback from partner groups.

- Memorandum: Financial Impacts

Referring to the memo, Secretary-Treasurer discussed cost savings that would arise in the areas of utilities, building operations transportation, custodial and possible administration. He noted that 80% of the budget would be unchanged if the District adopted a 4-day school week, and explained that there would be minor impacts to approximately 10% of expenses.

- Memorandum: Reports from SDs 51 and 64

Referring to the memo, Superintendent Dubinsky briefly described the rationales of each School District 51 and 64 when they chose a 4-Day School Week, which included cost savings due to declining enrolment and transportation challenges in those districts. He noted some of the pros and cons indicated by the other districts. When students miss school due to illness/absence, catching up in a 4-day structure is more challenging.

He stated that January 16, 2024 was the target date for staff to receive feedback and report to The Board.

Trustees asked various questions of staff, which were responded to, including:

- Are there plans to have electric busses in the Southern Zone, and how would this effect on the transportation cost impacts indicated in the financial memo? Would reduce costs.
- In consultation with SD51 and 64, did they share concerns such regarding vulnerable students? Yes, but was not a crucial part of the feedback.
- Do SD51 and 64 determined that the 4-day school week structure and determined is best? Both districts have no plans to revisit their structure.

Discussions ensued.

A Trustee made a motion, which was seconded:

THAT the Board of Education discontinue to the motion to investigate a 4- Day week.

Trustees provided various thoughts about the possibility of a four-day school week, and rationales for their intentions to vote about the motion, including:

- There would be less family time for family Monday to Thursday.
- Not all parents can be home with their children on Fridays and the cost of childcare could be a hardship for many families.
- Having Friday off could be a risk for vulnerable students, and many students would rather be at school with their friends.
- During this process, the Board did not develop important specifics such as school start and end times to properly consider the proposal.
- The Board has not sufficiently taken advantage of its own resources including those already in a 4-Day week to evaluate.
- The Board did not adequately explore solutions as to how it might overcome barriers to a 4-Day School week that were brought up.

- There is a strong mandate from the teachers in favour of a 4-day school week.
- The survey was good but wasn't followed up with.
- The financial report was good, but uncertainty in the numbers was noted.
- The concerns raised by families and partners raised in the surveys could be addressed.
- The research about the educational impacts of a 4-Day school week vs a 5-Day school week doesn't show any measured change in educational results.
- There is the idea that giving family time is equal, and though some families might benefit we also have to look at the impact on families who don't have childcare, bussing to childcare, and those issues are being offloading onto those families, and there are no number of simple solutions to this issue.
- A 4-Day Week would provide a better work-life balance and school-life balance.
- Solutions can be found to the cons of a 4-Day school week.

A Trustee also stated that they were open minded to look at options to mitigate concerns, to look at ways to restructure the calendar that isn't the false binary of 5-day week or 4-day week. And if teachers want to look at different, creative ways to improve the calendar, the Board should examine this.

After all Trustees had spoken to the motion, the question was called.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.01.16-3

THAT the Board of Education discontinue to the motion to investigate a 4- Day week.

Superintendent Dubinsky thanked the Board for the time they had invested in an open and transparent process and acknowledged their intentions. Due to this investigation, valuable new questions and conversations have been raised raised about the schools and staff roles.

10. New Business

A. 2023-2024 Capital Plan Submission Bus Addition

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved: 2024.01.16-4

THAT, in accordance with provisions under section 142 (4) of the School Act, the Board of Education hereby approves the proposed additions/amendments to the Board's 2023-2024 Minor Capital Programs submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan revisited the situation with the shortage of busses. While the District has funding for new busses, they have been unable locate or secure any yet this year. If needed, the district

expects that the MECC will approve extending its approvals so that it can purchase the buses in the next government fiscal year.

B. Policies – Secretary-Treasurer McLellan

Secretary-Treasurer McLellan acknowledge that the Board had undertaken significant policy development over the last year.

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

2024.01.16-5

THAT the Board of Education adopt or amend the following policies:

- Policy 120 – Role of The Board & Governance
- Policy 121 – Trustee Code of Conduct
- Policy 125 – Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Policy 130 – Delegation of Authority
- Policy 410 – Role of the Superintendent
- Policy 412 – Evaluation of the Superintendent
- Policy 415 – Role of the Secretary-Treasurer
- Policy 421 – Evaluation of Exempt Staff

C. Policies – Notice of Motion

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

2024.01.16-6

THAT the Board of Education adopt or amend the following policies:

- Policy 321 – Trustee Mission Statement Award

11. Questions from the Public

Nil

12. Next Meeting Dates

- A. Meeting of the Board in Public: February 20, 2024
- B. Meeting of the Board in Public: March 12, 2024

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM