

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72 (CAMPBELL RIVER), HELD ELECTRONICALLY AT 7:30 PM, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

Present: J. Kerr, Chair; K. Eddy, Vice-Chair; S. Briggs, R. Franklin, D. Hagen, J. McMann and S. Wilson, Trustees; J. Morrow, Superintendent; P. Cizmic, Associate Superintendent; M. Kyle, Associate Superintendent; K. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.

21-162 Call to Order/ Chair's Remarks

Board Chair Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. In his opening remarks Kerr shared that the Ministry of Education recently released K-12 sector guidelines for Boards to use in deciding whether to implement employee vaccine mandates. He emphasized that following the guidelines, there is considerable work to be done before a decision can be made.

He encouraged everyone to view the Cedar school advocacy webpage and submit a letter in support of the campaign.

Kerr further noted that Board members have been very active throughout the past month at a variety of provincial, regional and local meetings.

21-163 Superintendent's Remarks

Superintendent Morrow shared news that: the district was a recipient of an Energy Efficiency award from FortisBC; together with Trustee Briggs he recently met with student representatives from the middle and high schools to discuss student concerns; and the international program is looking for host families.

The upcoming November 1 professional development day is a day of learning for all district staff entitled "Transformation for Social Change" The focus is on incorporating the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

21-164 Approval of the Minutes

It was proposed by K. Eddy, seconded by D. Hagen and **CARRIED:**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2021 are hereby approved as circulated.

21-165 Approval of the Agenda

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by S. Wilson and **CARRIED:**

THAT the agenda is hereby approved as circulated.

21-166 Report from the Sept 28, 2021 Confidential Board Meeting

Vice-Chair Eddy reported general statements of matters discussed in the Board's Confidential Meeting, and in accordance with Section 72(3) of the School Act, reports the following:

1. Various teaching, administrative and support staff changes;
2. Property, legal and financial issues.
3. Returning to the Confidential meeting for the completion of the agenda.

21-167 Campbell River Retired Teachers' Association

Bonni Roset and Barbara Carrie, representing the Campbell River Retired Teachers' Association, made a presentation on a history of the district they have been working on which spans the years 1893-1993. They outlined the project and many interesting stories of the early years in the district. The Association asked the Board to consider financial support for the project.

21-168 Summer School 2021

Associate Superintendent Kyle shared a report on Summer School 2021 prepared by Principal Seán McLaughlin and Vice-Principal Kelly Gage. This year saw 648 student registrations with waitlists for many courses. The elementary level saw many innovative programs. The secondary level had less demand this year.

21-169 Staff vaccine mandate

Board Chair Kerr stated that the Ministry of Education had released guidelines for the K-12 sector to guide the decision making of Boards on whether to implement staff vaccine mandates. He emphasized that the Board will be following the steps to gather data and evidence before making any decisions.

21-170 Framework for Enhanced Student Learning

Superintendent Morrow presented the *Framework for Enhanced Learning* which reports on achievement indicators and outcomes for students in the district. High school completion rates and transitions from one level of schooling to the next were highlighted as areas of concern. Data collected from many sources, including the FSA, helps allocate resources to apply the most effective measures for student success and improvement. He noted that the application of the priorities of the 2019-2023 strategic plan is starting to be reflected in positive student outcomes in some areas including improvements in reading scores and writing scores well above the provincial average. The report also shows areas the district needs to work on, particularly regarding the ongoing disparity between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

21-171 Statutory Right of Way: Mary Point Rd/ Seaford Rd, Cortes Island

Secretary-Treasurer Patrick outlined a request from City West Cable and Telephone Corp. for permission to establish a statutory right-of-way on district property at Mary Point Rd/ Seaford Rd on Cortes Island. The right-of-way is required as part of the Connected Coast project, to provide internet service to rural and remote areas along the coast. As the Chair of Connected Coast, Trustee Franklin recused himself from discussion and voting on the item.

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by K. Eddy and **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

THAT the Bylaw to approve a Statutory Right of Way over Mary Point Road, Cortes Island, Parcel Identifier 009-668-870 be given all three readings at this meeting.

It was proposed by S. Wilson, seconded by K. Eddy and **CARRIED:**

THAT the Bylaw to approve a Statutory Right of Way over Mary Point Road, Cortes Island, Parcel Identifier 009-668-870 is hereby read for the first time.

It was proposed by D. Hagen, seconded by K. Eddy and **CARRIED:**

THAT the Bylaw to approve a Statutory Right of Way over Mary Point Road, Cortes Island, Parcel Identifier 009-668-870 is hereby read for the second time.

It was proposed by K. Eddy, seconded by S. Wilson and **CARRIED:**

THAT the Bylaw to approve a Statutory Right of Way over Mary Point Road, Cortes Island, Parcel Identifier 009-668-870 is hereby read for the third time, passed and adopted.

21-172 Report on the Oct 3 VISTA conference

Trustee Wilson reported on the Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association (VISTA) conference which took place online on October 3. Of note were the keynote speaker on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a COVID-19 update from VIHA medical health officers on the Vancouver Island Health Region.

21-173 Report on the Oct 14 Board Chairs' meeting

Board Chair Kerr highlighted the provincial Board Chairs' meeting which took place on October 14. Matters of interest to all Boards were discussed at this meeting including recruitment and retention of professional staff throughout the province and the recently released Ministry of Education guidelines to explore staff COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

At this meeting the First Nations Steering Committee (FNESC) shared their support for the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) because it is a provincial benchmark and a tool to help counter the racism of low expectations that can be experienced by indigenous students.

21-174 Report on the Oct 15 Ministry of Education Partners' Liaison meeting

The Ministry of Education Partners' liaison meeting took place on October 15. Discussions centred on the question of staff vaccine mandates, implementing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, full-day childcare, seismic school upgrading funding and gathering data to learn who isn't being served in the school system. Board Vice-Chair Eddy requested that Superintendent Morrow share data re graduation outcomes and Adult Dogwood vs Dogwood certificate graduations with Trustees.

21-175 Report on the Oct 22 Student Leadership Committee meeting

Trustee Briggs reported out on the Student Leadership committee meeting she attended on Oct 22 together with Superintendent Morrow. Student representatives from Carihi, Phoenix, Robron, Southgate and Timberline were invited to share their feedback on issues affecting them and their schools. Robron was invited but did not attend.

21-176 Report on the Oct 23 BCSTA Provincial Council meeting

Trustee Wilson shared that major discussions centred on: training for trustees on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, preparing for fall trustee elections, understanding the "Framework for Enhanced Learning" and the continued status of schools as low-risk COVID-19 transmission environments.

21-177 Report on the Oct 25 SD72/City of Campbell River liaison committee meeting

Board Chair Kerr reported that the biannual liaison meeting between School District 72 and the City of Campbell River took place on October 25. Issues of common interest were discussed including construction, bus routes, playing fields and joint use agreements.

21-178 Cedar elementary replacement committee update

Board Chair Kerr noted that CUPE 723 President Andrea Craddock had sent a letter in support of the advocacy campaign to the Ministry of Education as well as union members. The committee has several upcoming meetings with stakeholders. He also encouraged everyone to look at the committee's advocacy page to learn more.

21-179 Remembrance Day Ceremonies

The Royal Canadian Legion has advised that there will be no in person Remembrance Day ceremonies again this year. As in 2020 the Board has purchased wreaths to be placed at the cenotaphs in Campbell River, Sayward and Quadra Island by Legion members on behalf of the Board.

21-180 Questions posted in the online meeting were read out to the Board:**Question 1 – Anonymous**

“Which Trustees attended the October 14 and 15 Board Chairs’ meetings?”

Board Chair Kerr responded that he attended as the Board Chair.

Question 2 – Anonymous

“How will a vaccine mandate help if people can come into contact with the virus in public?”

Board Chair Kerr noted that we take our direction from public health officials and referred everyone to public health guidelines. Trustee Hagen reiterated that there will be further information gathering before any decisions are made on a staff vaccine mandate.

Question 3 – Anonymous

“What options will there be for parents to meet in person with the Board for concerns regarding a vaccine mandate?”

Vice-Chair Eddy referred to the K-12 sector guidelines for vaccination policies which were released by the Ministry of Education on October 22, 2021. The intent of the guidelines is to provide Boards with a roadmap to explore staff vaccination mandates. Step 3 of the guidelines is consultation with employee groups, First Nations and community engagement. The guidelines do not propose a student vaccination mandate. We are still at Step 1, gathering data and evidence.

Question 4 – Anonymous

“Will you be listening to different national health representatives or just public health?”

Board Chair Kerr responded that we take our direction from public health officers on Vancouver Island, in BC and federally. We need to follow established sources.

Question 5 – Anonymous

“Could we bring in another health professional to show another side?” and
“Who will represent teachers and educational assistants who don’t have a voice?”

Board Chair Kerr replied that we take our direction from public health officers and that teachers and educational assistants are both represented by unions and have a voice through their union. Superintendent Morrow reiterated the power of that voice.

Question 6 – Anonymous

“Was it clear in the question to students “Do you feel safe at your school” in the *Framework for Enhanced Learning* whether it was about their schools or COVID?”

Superintendent Morrow responded that students would have had both parts in mind because of when the question was asked.

Question 7 – Anonymous

“Did I understand correctly that the FSA was supported at the Ministry of Education meeting by Indigenous leaders?”

Board Chair Kerr answered that yes, their support was unambiguous.

Question 8 – Anonymous

“Can you share how the Student Leadership Committee was formed with a lens to having representation from many groups?”

Superintendent Morrow responded that the middle and high schools were asked to each nominate two representatives with a lens to a diverse student body.

Question 9 – Anonymous

“Will there be a follow up conversation with the board for parents?”

Board Chair Kerr noted that letters and applications to make presentations can be submitted to the Board. Step 3 of the guidelines in considering a staff vaccination mandate includes community engagement. Trustee Franklin reminded all that Boards have been directed by the Premier of British Columbia to look at an employee vaccination mandate. There is no discussion of a student vaccination mandate. We are considering all emails and other correspondence in gathering information.

21-181 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm.

John Kerr, Board Chair.

Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer.

KWP:nc
October 26, 2021