

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

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

**Absent:** D. Hagen, Trustee

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**21-200 Call to Order/ Chair's Remarks**

Board Chair Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Kerr remarked on recent COVID exposures and ongoing measures to keep schools safe. He urged all eligible persons, including the newly eligible 5-11 age group, to get vaccinated.

Chair Kerr was pleased to report on a recent virtual meeting with Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside to discuss the Board's advocacy for a replacement of Cedar elementary school.

The Board Chair and Vice Chair attended the BC School Trustee Association trustee academy on Dec 3 & 4. This is a valuable opportunity for Trustees to share their work in the service of students throughout the province. Key themes of the academy were addressing policy changes and ensuring that the leadership and experience of current boards can be shared in future.

**21-201 Superintendent's Remarks**

Superintendent Morrow shared his appreciation for the quick pivot of district students, parents and staff in dealing with recent weather events. He has been active throughout the fall in visiting all district schools and has enjoyed meeting students and staff at all levels. District schools are active in their support of local charity drives for the holiday season.

**21-202 Approval of the Minutes**

It was proposed by K. Eddy, seconded by R. Franklin and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2021 are hereby approved as circulated.***

**21-203 Approval of the Agenda**

It was proposed by J. McMann, seconded by S. Briggs and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the agenda is hereby approved as circulated.***

**21-204 Report from the December 7, 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.

**21-205 International Student Programs**

The Manager of International Student Programs, Mercedes Hayduk, presented an update on program activities. The program has rebounded after the travel restrictions imposed in 20/21 and has seen consistent growth over the last 5 years. This year most students are from western Europe due to limited access to vaccinations and ongoing travel restrictions in some countries. The main reasons that students report for wanting to come here are: previous vacations with family, our natural setting and the high quality home stays that the program offers. Students are welcomed as part of our school communities and are involved in a variety of activities.

**21-206 Learning Support Services**

The Director of Learning Support Services, Brenna Ewing, asked the Board to support the funding of three additional learning support teacher positions. Significant increases in demand for learning support services at all levels of school has created a need for additional intervention and support. The Board has received grant funding from the Ministry of Education to support the addition of these positions to the current budget, beginning in the second half of the school year.

It was proposed by S. Wilson, seconded by J. McMann and **CARRIED:**

***THAT the Board support the hiring of staff for the identified positions at a cost of \$168,000 for the second half of the school year.***

**21-207 Board committee appointments for 2022**

Vice Chair Eddy reported that following consultation with individual Trustees that the Board committee appointments will remain the same for 2022 as they were in 2021.

**21-208 Election of BCPSEA provincial council representative for 2022**

Trustee McMann nominated Vice Chair Eddy for the position of BC Public School Employers' Association Representative for 2022. Vice Chair Eddy accepted the nomination.

After calling two more times for further nominations and hearing none, Board Chair Kerr declared that Vice Chair Eddy was elected as the Board representative to the BC Public School Employers' Association for 2022 by acclamation. Trustee Hagen was proposed as the alternate to the committee.

**21-209 Election of BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council Representative for 2022**

Trustee McMann nominated Trustee Wilson for the position of BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council Representative for 2022. Trustee Wilson accepted the nomination.

After calling two more times for further nominations and hearing none, Board Chair Kerr declared that Trustee Wilson was elected as the Board representative to the BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council for 2022 by acclamation. Chair Kerr was proposed as the alternate to the committee.

**21-210 Six-Year Graduation Completion Rates**

Superintendent Morrow shared a summary of recently released data from the Ministry of Education showing the six year graduation completion rate for resident students. Encouraging increases are being seen in all categories. Trustee Franklin acknowledged the work of staff to achieve these promising results and the progress that has been made on the Strategic Plan.

**21-211 Finance Warrant No. 5**

It was proposed by R. Franklin, seconded by J. McMann and **CARRIED:**

*THAT the Finance Warrant No. 5, dated November 30, 2021 be accepted as presented.*

**21-212 Report on the Dec 3 & 4 BCSTA Trustee Academy meeting**

The annual BC School Trustee Association Trustee Academy was convened in person for the first time in two years. Continued support and investment in Indigenous programs and the BC Tripartite Agreement were discussed. Guest speakers and their emphasis on finding opportunities for optimism were a highlight of the program.

**21-213 Report on the Nov 25 meeting with the Minister of Education**

Chair Kerr expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Board for a recent virtual meeting with the Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside to discuss the Board's advocacy campaign for a replacement for Cedar school. He acknowledged the efforts of Ministry staff and MLA Michele Babchuk in coordinating this meeting.

**21-214 Communications Committee**

Chair Kerr requested that the Communications committee draft thank you letters to groups who have responded to and supported the Cedar replacement advocacy campaign including: CUPE 723, CRDTA, CRPVPA, the City of Campbell River, MLA Babchuk and Minister Whiteside.

**21-215 Questions posted in the online meeting were read out to the Board:****Question 1 – Andrea Craddock, President, CUPE Local 723**

“Do we know what interventions are helping to see the positive changes in student outcomes and what is being done?”

Superintendent Morrow responded that resources have been reprioritized to provide additional supports. The proposal that was shared earlier in the meeting by the Director of Learning Support Services should help address more needs.

**21-216 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.