



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12:00 pm, Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
School Board Office

### NOTES

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Present: Jaclyn Miller, Kirsten Van't Schip, Rob Hill, Dale Lawson, Maureen Mason

Also in attendance: Jay Yule (Superintendent), Steve Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer)

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The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Chairperson Miller.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request was made to add "2024 National School Board Association Conference for Public Education Leaders" as item 4.d.

**MOVED: R. HILL**

**SECONDED: D. LAWSON**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda of January 10, 2024, be adopted as amended.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**

#### 2. STANDING COMMITTEES

2.a) Education & Strategic Planning Committee

2.a.i) Interim Strategic Plan & School Growth Plan Report (Presentation)

In their update to the board, A. Burt, K. Brach, J. Johnson, and T. Gaudreau discussed various aspects of the operational plan supporting Learning and Student Support Services. Key points included:

- First student reporting period for 2023-24 showed 56% proficiency in reading, viewing, listening.
- Emphasis on reflective reporting practices.
- Development of assessment strategies for Kindergarten students, involving professionals like a physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, and school counselor.



- Utilization of virtual classrooms for PIE and Texada, focusing on creating masks.
- Ongoing efforts to build connections with the Elder in residence program, along with a successful family welcome-back dinner.
- Progress in building the IEC (Indigenous Education Council) team, with momentum building and regular connections with Tla'amin Nation staff.

2.b) Finance & Facilities Committee

2.b.i) 2023/2024 Amended Operating Grant Information

In the update on the 2023/2024 Amended Operating Grant Information, S. Hopkins reported the following:

- Amended budget is based on actual enrollment, impact on grants is approximately \$200,000.
- A summary of grants was presented.
- In February, the Committee of the Whole will have an updated formal budget based on new information, set to be adopted at the Regular Meeting later in the month.

2.c) Policy Committee

2.c.i) Policy 7 – Board Operations, Section 14: Trustee Remuneration

Trustees reviewed Section 14, which addresses Trustee Remuneration. The policy outlines an annual review conducted every January, taking into account similar increases to those received by unionized and other staff. In the current school year, unionized staff members received a 5.5% increase with an additional 1.25%, resulting in a total increase of 6.75%. Non-union staff, on average, saw a comparable increase.

Throughout the province, different districts employ various methods to determine trustee remuneration, such as aligning the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or tying it to union wage increases. Present stipends align with benchmarks at similarly sized school districts.

A recommendation for an increase of 6.75% was endorsed.

A BCSTA survey on trustee remuneration is available and can be shared in an in-camera meeting, with the caution that this information should not be openly distributed.

2.c.ii) Administrative Procedure 260 – Field Trips & Outdoor Experiences

This procedure has been a two-year work in progress and has been circulated to principals, teachers and CUPE for feedback. It is now ready for implementation, with forms set to be available by the end of the week. While some areas will require changes and involve additional work, the revisions make the process more comprehensive, particularly in clarifying the various classifications of field trips and risk-related considerations. This improved process has been informed by YouthSafe Outdoors and aligns with the approaches taken by other districts.

Feedback was received related to the flow chart that is included in the AP, indicating that it is challenging to read for individuals with vision impairments due to the coloring used.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.a) N/A

**4. OTHER INFORMATION**

4.a) Communications to provide an update on the district logo kickoff (oral)

During the update, K. Payne informed the board that the strategic plan has been formatted and will be available in print the following week. The plan is accessible on the district website in both flipbook and printable formats. The communications team is actively engaged in the district logo kickoff, and initial feedback from staff, gathered through a survey, has been limited. Trustees have been assigned homework, which includes reviewing staff feedback and comments.

In addition, a summary of school district logos from across the province was presented for consideration. Trustees are encouraged to identify any noteworthy elements and provide feedback directly to K. Payne.

4.b) SOGI Bingo

Trustees engaged in a game of Kahoot from the SOGI Bingo game. Plans were made to “Wear the Rainbow”.

4.c) Board Work Plan – For Information

The plan was provided for information.

4.d) 2024 National School Board Conference for Public Education Leaders

Discussion centered around prospective Trustee attendance at a National School Board Association Conference. Some trustees expressed interest in attending, recognizing that additional costs could be covered by the underutilized professional development budget in previous years. A recommendation was put forth, emphasizing the valuable learning opportunities at a national level.

It was underscored that a board motion is necessary for trustee attendance at conferences not affiliated with BCSTA, BCPSEA, and CSBA.

In referencing past experiences, staff noted their participation at an NSBA event and characterized it as an excellent opportunity.

A recommendation was made to allocate resources for trustee attendance at the National School Board Association.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

SH/attachments