



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4:00 pm, Wednesday, November 15, 2023
School Board Office

MINUTES

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Secretary-Treasurer Hopkins.

ELECTIONS:

Chairperson:

J. Miller accepted a nomination by D. Lawson.

Seeing no further nominations, J. Miller was acclaimed to the role of Chairperson.

Chairperson Miller assumed the role of chair and continued with the remaining board elections.

Vice Chairperson:

K. Van't Schip accepted a nomination by M. Mason.

Seeing no further nominations, K. Van't Schip was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson.

BCSTA Provincial Council Representative:

Rob Hill accepted a nomination by K. Van't Schip. D. Lawson declined a nomination by J. Miller.

Seeing no further nominations, R. Hill was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Council Representative.

BCPSEA Representative:

J. Miller was nominated by R. Hill.

Seeing no further nominations, J. Miller was acclaimed as BCPSEA Representative.

PRESENTATION: Elementary ʔayʔajuθəm – K. Peters and C. Piccinin

K. Peter and C. Piccinin, along with students from James Thomson Elementary, provided insights into the ʔayʔajuθəm immersion program and shared details about its history. The group presented a translated poem to the board, which students read aloud in ʔayʔajuθəm.

Expressions of gratitude were extended to the Indigenous Education team. K. Peters and C. Piccinin celebrated the positive impact of the program for students, as the immersive experience led to a transformation in their enthusiasm for learning. The incorporation of singing and drumming revealed diverse personalities and strengths among the students. The growth of the team was emphasized, with a collective effort dedicated to sharing language and culture.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

J. Miller presented prepared remarks and expressed gratitude to the trustees for their dedicated service on the board. She highlighted the diverse strengths of the trustees and acknowledged how their combined abilities have effectively bolstered the district throughout their current term.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED: D. Lawson

SECONDED: R. Hill

THAT the Regular meeting agenda of November 15, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: M. Mason

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

THAT the Regular meeting minutes of October 25, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

STATUS: CARRIED

3. REPORT OF CLOSED MEETINGS

3.a) October 25, 2023 – The Board met in-camera to discuss items which include personnel and property.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

4.a) BCSTA to Premier Eby Re: Recent Meeting to Discuss Disruptions and Protests in School Districts

Trustees discussed the correspondence noting that the district has not seen the same level of disruptions as some other districts.

4.b) BCSTA to Minister Singh Re: Request for the Minister of Education and Child Care's Support for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

MOVED: R. Hill

SECONDED: M. Mason

THAT the correspondence listed in item 4.a) to 4.b) be received.

STATUS: CARRIED

5. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

5.a) N/A

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS' REPORT

6.a) Administrative Procedure 193 – Breastfeeding in Schools

Subsequent to that session, further modifications were made for enhanced clarity, incorporating feedback received, notably referencing the district's visitors administrative procedure. Trustees advocated for the use of gender-neutral language in discussions related to breastfeeding. J. Yule assured that these additional changes would be implemented before the procedure is officially enacted.

6.b) Suspension, Exclusion, and Seclusion Report – September 5, 2022, to October 31, 2023

MOVED: D. Lawson

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

THAT the Superintendent of Schools' Report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

7.a) Month End Financial Report as at October 31, 2023

S. Hopkins reviewed the financial report, highlighting its alignment with the previous year's figures. He indicated that the amended operating grant would be disclosed by the ministry in mid-December, and subsequent updates would be discussed with the board as part of the amended budget process. Trustees sought additional details on the Transportation and Housing expenditure, which showed a significant depletion compared to other budget categories. S. Hopkins explained that the spending was attributed to an unforeseen issue with a school bus, which had not been anticipated during the budget development phase.

MOVED: R. Hill

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

THAT the Secretary Treasurer's report be received as presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.a) Committee of the Whole Report for November 8, 2023

Additional Reference Documents:

- 8.a.i) Indigenous Education Operational Plan
- 8.a.ii) Early Learning, Childcare & Food Security
- 8.a.iii) Communications
- 8.a.iv) Business Services

Trustees celebrated key areas of interest in the operational plan presentations during the November Committee of the Whole. Highlights included:

- Recognition of Indigenous learning initiatives, such as indigenizing math and increasing elders' presence in schools. Transparency in site meetings and the immersion program was acknowledged, along with reported improvements in community communications. Gratitude was expressed to the operations team.
- Emphasis on the centrality of communications in the district, with a primary goal to promote transparency and engagement. The focus is on building communities of collaboration.
- Focus on food programs and ensuring access to healthy food for enhanced learning. Anticipation for the growth of the "Kids in the Kitchen" program was expressed.
- Excitement about the food program's potential to bring people together and promote mental health through healthy nutrition.
- Discussion on indigenizing mathematics, incorporating indigenous story work, and exploring pedagogies to transform the classroom experience. Anticipation for positive impacts on all students and recognition of the crucial work of the Joint Education and Development Initiative (JEDI) committee for public education.

MOVED: R. Hill

SECONDED: K. Van't Schip

THAT the indigenous Education, Early Learning, Childcare & Food Security, Communications and Business Services Operational Plans be received as was presented.

STATUS: CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.a) Strategic Plan Final Design Discussion

K. Payne provided feedback following the Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting and circulated a new version of the print document, noting the need for additional photo work. Comments received included:

- Suggestion to inject student art, poetry, or quotes. Inquiry about whether there was a request for student art or poetry specifically created for the plan, with potential classroom exercises which would potentially delay the release of the printed document.

- Decision to use the existing logo, with a new visual identity to be shared after logo development. Confirmation sought on whether the board was aligned on this.
- Support for the idea of incorporating art and student work in the plan but differentiation from the goal of student engagement. Proposal to include existing art and later initiate a student engagement project after publication.
- Acknowledgment of the opportunity to engage students and families but expressed concern about delaying the publication for a year. Suggestion to consider the idea for the next plan but expedite the current one.
- Suggestion to include pronunciations of Ayajuthem text. Viewed as a good learning opportunity.
- Proposal to involve our own students in photos, and suggestion to utilize the media team to capture local images and build a repository. Consideration given to moving away from stock images.
- Confirmation of plans to swap in art, get printed before the break for delivery in January, and develop a PDF for online sharing. Consideration of the new visual identity after the printing.
- Addressing feedback regarding "Our Commitment" page layout with a larger question about whether to remove it. Support for the new layout and recommendation to leave it in.

QUESTION PERIOD

- Positive feedback on the phonetic pronunciation suggestion, seen as a positive step. A request for the board to consider expanding and clarifying references to "group" and "team" in operational plans, explicitly defining who is included in these terms.
- Echoing the sentiment of the previous comment, expressing a disconnect between the operational plan and staff in the district. Emphasizing the need for engagement with staff, as many are unaware of the operational plan.
- K. Payne summarized planned engagement strategies with staff and considered the need to explore different partnerships and methods of information sharing.
- A question was posed regarding the state of the district's contingency fund/surplus, with a request for information via email. S. Hopkins agreed to share that information.
- Announcement that elementary report cards being moved back by a week due to challenges, including those related to student competencies.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD

No media present at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: D. Lawson

THAT the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

STATUS: CARRIED.



J. Miller
Chairperson



S. Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer

SH/attachments