



## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**12:00 pm, Wednesday, December 13, 2023**  
**School Board Office**

### **NOTES**

---

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 12:01 p.m. by Chairperson Miller.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED: D. Lawson**

**SECONDED: K. Van't Schip**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda of December 13, 2023, be adopted as circulated.**

**STATUS: CARRIED**

#### **2. STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **2.a) Education & Strategic Planning Committee**

##### **2.a.i) Confirmation of Superintendent & Board Evaluations – Discussion**

Trustees reviewed a positive letter of referral for L. Sloan provided by SD5 and agreed to move forward with a facilitated evaluation as described in current board policy. Staff will contact Mr. Sloan to make arrangements and expect that the evaluation will take place in the Spring, ideally around the same time as a scheduled Committee of the Whole, subject to his availability.

##### **2.a.ii) Survey Data Related to Board Governance**

The committee discussed a summary of collated feedback that summarized community and stakeholder feedback that was collected through a survey and used to inform the board's strategic plan. The board considered the use of the survey data in the development of the plan. Trustees considered if the data

could be used as part of the facilitated evaluations, among other data that could help to illuminate the communities feedback on board related and governance.

2.b) Finance & Facilities Committee

2.b.i) Statement of Financial Information

S. Hopkins presented the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for review. Predominantly comprised of Audited Financial Statements (FS), the report also incorporates various schedules. These schedules include, among others, a list of vendors receiving amounts exceeding \$25,000, a consolidated total of spending on vendors who were under that threshold, a detailed schedule of employees earning more than \$75,000 and a consolidated summary of payroll costs. These disclosures are mandated by statutory requirements and will be available to the public on the ministry's website. The SOFI report will be included in the regular board package, accompanied by a motion for approval.

2.c) Policy Committee

2.c.i) Policy 8 Board Committees – Prospective Amendments

Items 2.c and 3.a were discussed as a whole. During the discussion in item 3.a, trustees examined the prospective amendments. S. Hopkins pointed out that certain general housekeeping edits were implemented to align with current practices.

2.c.ii) Policy 9 Board Representatives – Prospective Amendments

Trustees reviewed proposed language outlining a process for "Administrative Committee Representation" and agreed that the language helps to bring clarity to board appointments to administrative committees.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.a) Prospective Committee Structure & Trustee Appointments

Trustees and staff assessed current trustee appointments to both internal and external committees. Currently, the board's standing committees operate within the Committee of the Whole. Trustees approved a new structure for internal and external committees and deliberated on trustee appointments to those committees for the upcoming year. The committee examined each internal and external community committee and reached the following decisions:

- The Indigenous Education Council has been relocated to external committees due to recent *School Act* amendments which mandate Indigenous leadership on the council. The board's TEA with the Tla'amin Nation also mandates the formation of an IEC, and a trustee may be appointed once the council has been established.
- A staff member will be designated to the Northern Ferry Advisory Council owing to the operational nature of the council's work.
- A staff member will be appointed to the Powell River Community Action Team.
- The board will cease appointing a trustee to the Social Action and Planning Advisory as the committee has been inactive for several years.

- Trustee appointment to the District Parent Advisory Council will continue.
- The board will entertain requests for appointments to external community committees as they are received.
- Board policy is clear that trustees in committee appointments are not decision-makers. Committees can make recommendations to the board for consideration and action.
- Trustee appointment to the French Advisory Committee will be discontinued due to the operational nature of the committee following the establishment of an immersion program.
- Labour Negotiations will be removed from the list as appointments only occur during negotiations and are designated to the Board's BCPSEA representative.
- Trustee appointment to the Educational and Curriculum Change Committee will cease due to the operational nature of their discussions. Recommendations from that committee will be presented at the board table.
- After reviewing the collective agreement, it became evident to staff that a trustee appointment was unnecessary for the Joint Management Committee, which primarily deals with operational issues.

Trustees will continue to appoint representatives to internal committees supporting strategic goals, including the Environmental and Sustainability Committee, the Health Committee, and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Committee.

Additionally, the board will continue appointing a trustee to the district Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) committee to offer support in light of the divisive climate in some BC school districts. Furthermore, J. Yule has committed to obtaining the terms of reference for the VCH Local Governance Liaison Committee and presenting them to the board for consideration.

Trustee appointments for the upcoming year will be finalized at the December regular meeting.

#### **4. OTHER INFORMATION**

##### **4.a) Parent Correspondence Regarding Screen Time for Students**

The board engaged in a discussion regarding a letter received from a parent advocating for the restriction of screen time for students during lunch breaks. I. Loveluck highlighted the presence of valid arguments both in favor of limiting screen time and supporting continued brief access during non-instructional periods. Acknowledging the complexity of the issue, the district will consider the parent's request, ensuring broad representation is involved before formulating any recommendations.

Additionally, the board recognized the contractual obligation for teachers to provide 10 minutes of student supervision during non-instructional time. Chairperson Miller confirmed receipt of the parent's letter, and J. Yule committed to investigate the matter, considering best practices, and subsequently report back to the board.

##### **4.b) BCSTA Climate Action Working Group**

Trustees reviewed inquiries from the BCSTA Climate Action Working Group directed to the South Coast Branch. D. Lawson presented a prior response to the Working Group that could serve as a foundation for addressing their latest questions. Trustees expressed their intention to communicate with the working group to ensure awareness of a provincial Governance Climate Action Committee, which may offer additional resources in developing best practices related to climate change for school districts.

In response to the queries, the board will emphasize:

- Identifying organizational and environmental sustainability as a clear priority in strategic plans.
- Ensuring operational plans incorporate learning opportunities about climate change for students, staff, and families.
- Providing mechanisms to identify opportunities for improvement in waste reduction/footprint (e.g., student or staff-led committees, leadership support and development).
- Ensuring policies and procedures are established for capital planning upgrades (solar, lighting, electric vehicles, etc.) to ensure organizational streamlining and effective practices.
- Supporting the ongoing development of sustainable food programs, school gardens, outdoor programs, and other initiatives to connect with and appreciate the natural environment.
- Leveraging media partners and sharing networks to draw attention to climate issues, thereby increasing community awareness and fostering opportunities for partnership.

4.c) Board Work Plan – For Information

Trustees agreed to support the “Wear the Rainbow” and “Pink Shirt Day” campaigns. Trustees will also add SOGI Bingo to an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda. Trustees will be expected to complete SOGI Bingo pre-reading in order to prepare for the game.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

SH/attachments