Board of Education Organizational Meeting Minutes

Wednesday,

2. The Year in Review

The Chairperson reported on highlights of the past year.

This current board of trustees began their term with the swearing in last November after a very busy municipal election period that saw Heather Larson, Ken Hamaguchi, David Yang, Donna Sargent, Rod Belleza and Alice Wong elected for a term of four years. We were honored to receive a blessing and words of encouragement from Musqueam Elder Shane Pointe, who performed a blanketing ceremony for the seven of us. The ceremony served to energize and inspire us to look forward to the governance work ahead.

In early December 2023, trustees attended the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Trustee Academy, which provides professional development to boards of education. Also in December, the board received news that Superintendent Scott Robinson had made the difficult decision to leave our district to take up a position with the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association in Victoria. This meant that the board was immediately tasked with deciding on a process to find a replacement, which was no small task. Superintendent Robinson had big shoes to fill. In January, the board appointed PFM Executive Search Firm to conduct the recruitment of the new Superintendent of Schools.

From January to the March spring break in 2023, trustees were provided with orientation sessions and workshops conducted by staff to familiarize themselves with the Strategic Plan and its goals and objectives, including the many initiatives that were already in place from the previous board.

The board also began its governance work by making the following decisions:

- Ratifying the 2022-2025 CUPE 716 Collective Agreement;
- Directing staff to proceed with the recommendations contained in the Equity in Action Project as well as the Aspen Learning Center Program Report;
- Approval of the 2022/23 Amended Budget Bylaw;
- Revisions to Policy Section 700 Facilities;
- Approval of the Capital Bylaw submission to the Ministry for 2023/24;
- The Board also approved a significant new policy 641 and 641R on Enterprise Risk Management; and
- Construction during this time was focused on completing new daycare facilities for James Whiteside, James McKinney, William Bridge and the Mitchell Adult Education Center.

Post spring break, the board met with our MLAs on April 12, 2023

were communicated and the MLAs in attendance reinforced their commitment to advocating for our district. The board and senior staff also met with members of the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition to discuss the need for food security, school lunch and breakfast programs that maintain the well-being of students in Richmond. We agreed to advocate to our local MLAs and MPs for ongoing funding for these programs across the province and nationally.

On April 24, 2023, trustees voted to approve the hiring of Mr. Chris Usih, who was a highly qualified and experienced candidate for the position of Superintendent as the positive outcome of the search process.

A renewed Richmond Project Team agreement was signed and work on the mechanical ventilation project approved by the previous board moved forward toward completion in December 2023. The Board also attended a funding announcement by the Ministry of Education for DeBeck Elementary Scho0009completion in

7. Destruction of Ballots

125/2023 MOVED BY K. HAMAGUCHI AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the ballots for the offices of Chairperson of the Board, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, BCSTA Provincial Representative and BCPSEA Representative be destroyed.

CARRIED

8. Committee Appointments

Trustees were asked to indicate to the Chairperson by November 30, 2023 as to which committees they would be willing to serve on. The appointments will be announced in December 2023, and the committee members will assume their duties for one year.

9. Authorized Signatories

126/2023 MOVED BY R. BELLEZA AND SECONDED BY D. SARGENT:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 38 (Richmond) approve the following signing authorities effective immediately and until they are so changed, shall be the Board Chairperson and Secretary Treasurer except for the issuance of cheques when the required signatures shall be:

Any one of: Board Chairperson Board Vice-Chairperson Superintendent

And any one of: Secretary Treasurer Assistant Secretary Treasurer Manager Financial Services

Such signatures may be affixed by hand, or by cheque-writing facsimile machine in accordance with established Board policy.

CARRIED

10. School Liaison Trustee Assignments

The Chairperson will assign each trustee a group of secondary and elementary schools at the first meeting in December. The assignment shall be one year's duration unless otherwise determined by the Board. Discussion then ensued regarding the duration of trustee assignments.

11. Adjournment

127/2023 MOVED BY D. TABLOTNEY AND SECONDED BY A. WONG:

THAT the Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 7:42 pm.

CARRIED

Following adjournment, the choir from James Thompson Elementary School performed the

H. LARSON Chairperson C. WANG Secretary Treasurer