

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 - BURNABY**

A Public Session meeting of the Board of Education of School District 41 - Burnaby was held in the District Conference Centre 7:07 pm on Monday, January 23, 2017.

**Present**

Trustees Ron Burton (Chair), Meiling Chia, Katrina Chen, Larry Hayes, Baljinder Narang, Harman Pandher and Gary Wong; Superintendent of Schools Gina Niccoli-Moen, Secretary-Treasurer Russell Horswill, Assistant Superintendents Roberto Bombelli, Heather Hart and Wanda Mitchell and Executive Assistant Sandra Brunner.

**Agenda**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Harman Pandher:

*THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Good News**

Larry Hayes presented Good News items from various Burnaby schools, as attached.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Larry Hayes:

*THAT the minutes of the Public Session meeting of January 9, 2017 be approved, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

**Board Chair Report**

Ron Burton expressed the Board's appreciation to parents, students and staff for their understanding and support during the challenges of the recent record-setting snowfalls, cold temperatures and subsequent ice accumulation.

Katrina Chen reminded the audience that the Lunar New Year will be celebrated this Saturday. Many Burnaby schools will be holding celebrations. It is a time to celebrate, but also to support those in need and to respect those with different backgrounds, ethnicity and socio-economic status. Ms Chen wished everyone a wonderful Year of the Rooster.

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Harman Pandher:

*THAT the Board of Education receive and approve the Board Chair Report, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Reader's Theatre

Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools, reported that January 23-27 is recognized as Literacy Week across Canada. Burnaby school students will be participating in activities that celebrate literacy, many of them involving parents and community partners. Students from South Slope Elementary School had planned to share with Trustees tonight some of their initiatives in support of Literacy Week, but will make their presentation at a later date.

### Marsville Colonization Project

Heather Kimmie, Principal of Montecito Elementary School, introduced Holly Lloyd, Head Teacher, and Liz Ward, Teacher, who were accompanied by some of their grade 6-7 students who participated in the Marsville colonization project. Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Ward outlined the ambitious project three-month project that was a true example of collaborative teaching under the redesigned curriculum.

Students Carrie Leung, Ailin Aghazadeh Ghourvali, Melissa Knol, Maia McConnell, Daniel Wang and Ethan Austin explained their part in the project. Organized into various teams the students had: researched the effects of radiation and designed a spacesuit to protect against exposure (they tested it on a robot, not on humans or animals); found a way to generate energy on Mars; solicited international cooperation from well-known heads of state; organized conferences at the United Nations to gather input and suggestions; decided how much food and water to take; designed a safe habitat for the Mars environment and an on-land communication system.

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Gary Wong:

*THAT the Superintendent's Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Correspondence**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Harman Pandher:

*THAT the letter from George Farkas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, regarding the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Ministry of Education, BCPSEA and the BCTF to support the implementation of priority measures while negotiations continue regarding the restored collective agreement provisions, be received.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### Education Committee

It was moved by Harman Pandher and seconded by Larry Hayes:

*THAT the Education Committee Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

### Policy Committee

It was moved by Gary Wong and seconded by Harman Pandher:

*THAT the Policy Committee Report be received, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **District Operations – Administrative Services**

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Larry Hayes:

*THAT the Board receive and approve the Superintendent's District Operations – Administrative Services Report, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### 2017 Trustee Committee Responsibilities

In accordance with the Board's Procedural Bylaw, Ron Burton presented the Trustee Committee Responsibilities for 2017.

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Meiling Chia:

*THAT the Board approve the Trustee Committee Responsibilities for 2017, as presented.*

Carried unanimously.

### BCSTA ATM: Call for Motions

Trustees were informed of the deadlines for the submission of extraordinary and substantive motions to the April 20-23 Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees' Association.

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Gary Wong:

*THAT the Board of Education submit the following substantive motion to the 2017 BCSTA AGM:*

#### *Federal Funding of the Settlement Workers in Schools and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada Programs:*

#### *BE IT RESOLVED:*

*That the BCSTA urge the B.C. Ministry of Education and the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) to request the federal government provide increased, predictable and stable funding to enable boards of education to provide essential support services for immigrant families settling in communities.*

#### *RATIONALE:*

*This motion is needed because budgets in the areas of Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) continue to decrease despite the rising number of immigrants and despite the record influx of Syrian Refugees.*

*We have a responsibility to properly settle immigrant families in our communities. This has a direct impact on student learning both in the K-12 sector and adult language learning. Inadequate settlement services negatively impact parents and families who are dealing*

*with multiple barriers in finding employment and housing, managing health issues including trauma, learning a new language and trying to adapt to a new country.*

*Multiple year reductions in budgets and uncertainty in funding timelines in the areas of SWIS and LINC programs force school districts to cut essential positions and programs that are vital to the successful settlement of students and families in schools and the community. SWIS workers are held in a unique position of trust by families and school personnel because they have both a cultural awareness of the challenges faced by newcomers, and knowledge of the Canadian school system. Language acquisition for adult newcomers, through LINC classes is equally important for successful integration of families in the community.*

*Without meeting the settlement needs of immigrant families, Canadians run the risk of alienating new families and, rather than including them in society, they become culturally isolated and disenfranchised and unable to realize their full potential.*

Carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Harman Pandher:

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 pm.*

Carried unanimously.

Original signed:

Ron Burton  
Chair

Russell Horswill, DBA  
Secretary-Treasurer