

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

A Public Session meeting of the Burnaby Board of Education was held in the Board Room at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

Present

Trustees Baljinder Narang (Chair), Ron Burton, Meiling Chia, Larry Hayes, James Wang and Gary Wong; Superintendent of Schools Kevin Kaardal, Secretary-Treasurer Greg Frank, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Gina Niccoli-Moen, Assistant Superintendents Roberto Bombelli and Heather Hart and Executive Assistant Sandra Brunner.

Agenda

It was moved by Larry Hayes and seconded by Ron Burton:

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried unanimously.

The amendment added an Addendum to the District Operations – Superintendent’s Report.

Good News

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Ron Burton and seconded by Larry Hayes:

THAT the minutes of the Public Session of March 12, 2013 be approved, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Board Chair Report

Chair Baljinder Narang commented on the Ministry of Education's announcement of an increase in the base per pupil funding of \$116. While the Board welcomed this announcement, most districts in the province, including Burnaby, would still be facing significant funding shortfalls for 2013/2014. Ms Narang called on the Ministry of Education to reverse its decision to redirect \$15 million from school district operating grant funding to support other funding commitments such as capital projects and the BC Public School Employers' Association.

Ms Narang highlighted a forum to be held at the Michael J Fox Theatre on March 28. *You Can Play Burnaby* takes the form of a panel discussion with gay/lesbian athletes sharing their stories of how homophobic and chauvinistic attitudes in the locker room negatively impacted their lives.

It was moved by Baljinder Narang and seconded by Ron Burton:

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

Carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

District Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge

Superintendent of Schools Kevin Kaardal outlined the background to the District Grade Public Speaking Challenge that had originated in 1983. Literacy Program Consultant Ben Pare presented an overview of the Challenge. Goldin Joghataie (Marlborough), Elyse Willan (Lyndhurst) and Erika Yu (South Slope) who placed third, second and first respectively, gave their speeches on the theme of *It Starts Here*.

School Calendar Conversation

Mr. Kaardal presented a report on the school calendar for 2013/2014. As a result of changes by the Ministry of Education to the School Act and School Calendar Regulation, school districts are now allowed to plan their own calendars outlining days in session, vacation days, school start and end dates. Districts must consult on the calendar and ensure a minimum number of hours of instruction are delivered.

Chairs and Superintendents have met and discussed the possibility of achieving a common school calendar with common winter and spring breaks. Staff have also

engaged in conversations with community and district partner groups. A public forum was held on February 21 and electronic surveys were available for community and staff input from February 4 to March 4.

Following those conversations staff recommend a one-year pilot of a common school calendar for 2013/2014.

It was moved by Ron Burton and seconded by Larry Hayes:

THAT the Superintendent's report be received, and the Board approve the adoption of a pilot one-year common school calendar, including a two-week spring break, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Correspondence

It was moved by Ron Burton and seconded by Larry Hayes:

THAT the letter from Maryann Manuel, Acting City Clerk, forwarding a copy of the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy, be received and referred to the Youth and Community Services Committee.

Carried unanimously.

District Operations – Administrative Services

It was moved by Ron Burton and seconded by James Wang:

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

Carried unanimously.

Question Period

Mr Kaardal responded to a question from the floor.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ron Burton and seconded by Meiling Chia:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Carried unanimously.

Original signed by:

Baljinder Narang
Chair

D. Greg Frank, C.A.
Secretary-Treasurer