

School District No. 48 (Howe Sound)

Minutes of Special Board Meeting No. 780 held on Wednesday, February 27th 2008 at the School Board Office, Squamish, BC. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Present:

Dave Walden, Chairperson
Rick Price, Vice-Chairperson
Andrea Beaubien, Trustee
Lyle Fenton, Trustee
Mike Milner, Trustee
Chris Vernon-Jarvis, Trustee
John Hetherington, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Rick Erickson, Superintendent of Schools
Myrna MacRae, Executive Assistant
John Hall, President, HSTA
Lawrence Tarasoff, Principal, Pemberton Secondary School
Nick Pascuzzi, Principal, Garibaldi Highlands Elementary School
Karen Blow, Schools Accountant
Pam Tattersfield, DPAC Representative
Diane Gould, DPAC Representative

1 **AGENDA**

“THAT the agenda of this meeting be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

2. **BUDGET PRIORITY PRESENTATIONS**

Education Partner Groups Present their Input Regarding Priorities for 2008/09

Howe Sound Teachers' Association

President John Hall advised that the HSTA's budget concerns have not changed from last year and they are still concerned with lack of adequate funding for education, support for Bill 33 students, and teacher librarian time. In addition there are some concerns about the new provincial requirement that students have at least one half hour of physical fitness each day. The scheduling of this requirement may be difficult as well, due to lack of gym space in inclement weather.

The HSTA is supportive of the new budget process which will consider the school and district department budgets and service plans at the same time.

Howe Sound Principals'/Vice-Principals' Association

Nick Pascuzzi and Lawrence Tarasoff spoke on behalf of the HSPVPA, reporting that they did not have any reservations or concerns with the budget development process and noted that there has been good dialogue with staff and the Finance Committee. The HSPVPA is pleased that all school and district service plans will be reviewed at the same time.

A change was suggested on number 3 of the 2007/08 Budget Guidelines which states that schools will review the provision of library services and counseling services with the School Planning Council. The HSPVPA felt that the discussions should not just be on these two items, but should also include all services – ESL, Special Education, Administrative support, etc., applying the same principle at the school level as the district is using for all services at the central and school level.

District Parent Advisory Council

Diane Gould and Pam Tattersfield were in attendance to present their position on budget guidelines and brought up the following items:

Student Learning

- Clarification of the details and what “focus on improving student learning” means, is needed. It would be helpful to know what the accomplishments have been so far.

Reliance on International Program

- The Finance Committee does not rely on the International Education Program when developing the budget. Projections are kept very low and the portion of the revenue that would be represented by the international program should not be used for essential services.

Health/Wellness and Safety

- If funds were targeted for Emergency Preparedness at the school level, this would result in a decrease in the school’s funding. It has been the desire of the Board for the schools to make the decisions which are most appropriate for their own school.
- The Board is committed to continue to work on Emergency Preparedness for the entire District. Some work was started this year and once the Coordinator has recommendations, the next phase will proceed.

Budget Development Process

- February 13th - Consideration of changes to funding allocation to the schools - The Finance Committee did make changes in the way that funding is distributed between the schools which included the removal of extra per pupil funding for French Immersion, changes to special education funding allocation and an increase in per pupil funding for special education in the junior secondary school.
- March 13th – Why is the Finance Committee not reviewing the school service plans with the Principals and District Management? This is a

management function to review the plans presented, it is not consideration of the budget.

- o March 26th – Although the schools are not listed for the review of the district service plans, they are welcome to attend. The difficulty is that these sessions are during Spring Break

3. **LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDARS**

Magy Odorfer provided an overview of the process for the approval of Local School Calendars for 2008/09 and a timeline to be followed. A template and instructions have been provided to schools to ensure consistency and accuracy in the preparation of their Local School calendars. It was noted that there were no exceptional local school calendar options proposed for 2008/2009. Local School Calendars will be presented to the Board for approval on May 14th 2008.

May
agenda

4. **Student Exchange Program**

Two Whistler Secondary students have applied to the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation to participate in a reciprocal international student exchange program. The Canadian Education Exchange Foundation is not one of the approved exchange programs listed in Board Policy 501.9. Before a decision can be made, additional information on the foundation would be required.

Obtain
Info &
Review

5. **QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer