

School District No. 48 (Howe Sound)

Minutes of Board Meeting No. 783 held Wednesday, April 9th 2008 at Whistler Secondary-A Community School, Whistler, BC. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Dave Walden, Chairperson
Rick Price, Vice-Chairperson
Andrea Beaubien, Trustee
Lyle Fenton, Trustee
Andrée Janyk, Trustee
Mike Milner, Trustee
Chris Vernon-Jarvis, Trustee
Nancy Edward, Secretary-Treasurer
Rick Erickson, Superintendent of Schools
Linda Arnold, Executive Assistant
John Hall, HSTA President
Joan Paul, Member of the Public
Mark Paul, Member of the Public
Angela Paul, Member of the Public
Luana Avery, Member of the Public

1. **AGENDA**

“THAT the agenda of this meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

2. **MINUTES**

A. **“THAT the minutes of Board Meeting No. 782 held Wednesday, March 12th 2008 be adopted.”**

CARRIED

B. **“THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole - Meeting held Wednesday, March 12th 2008 be adopted.”**

CARRIED

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. **CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS:**

- Change in date for Howe Sound Secondary school visit from April 23rd to April 30th. There is also a change to the Board meeting date from April 23rd to April 30th.
- There will still be and Education Partners meeting on the budget process on April 23rd.

B. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS**

- Student attendance
We have identified a number of students who have taken more than six years to graduate. We are going through the lists and developing alternative plans
- School Planning Councils-Reporting out dates
Information on School Improvement plans, most schools have signed up and there will be two meetings in Squamish and one in Whistler.

- Secondary School Principal Vacancies.
Nolan Cox has been appointed to the Principal position at Pemberton Secondary. We will be advertising for the Principal position at Don Ross Secondary this weekend. Three Vice-Principals will be attending the leadership series, a two year course.

C. **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REMARKS**

- Budget Development Update 2008/09
There is a significant budget challenge this year due to an ongoing reduction in resident student enrollment. Our International student numbers are also down. We have spent several days in meetings with the Finance Committee, District Management, Principals, and our Education Partner Groups
- Clean Energy Bus Purchase Project
Information has been provided to the Ministry of Education re the Project showing the general age of our fleet, the fuel consumption, maintenance costs, excluding fuel.
- Rick Hume is doing an energy conservation program with secondary students in Squamish. The students do energy assessment reviews and come up with a report on the ways the school being assessed may conserve energy. Often they have uncovered good ideas for our use.

4. **RECEIVING DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

None.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

From Special Board Meeting No.781 Wednesday, March 5th, 2008

- A. Benefits of having defibrillators in schools, including equipment, maintenance, and training.

This item was deferred until the next Board meeting.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. The Canadian Education Exchange Foundation requests to be added to the list as an officially approved Exchange Program by School District 48

**“THAT to Board Policy Regulation R 501.9, the
“Canadian Education Exchange Foundation” be
added to the list of “Approved Exchange Programs”.**

CARRIED

- B. Discussion of Enrolment Decline in Elementary Schools
Included with the agenda for Board information is a spreadsheet (page 24) detailing elementary pupil headcounts from 1999 to 2007. This allows us to look at the trends and see a significant decline in enrollment in the district. The largest drops are in our Squamish school.
- C. Letter to the Ministry of Education regarding Funding.
Board Chair Dave Walden presented the idea of sending a letter to the Minister of Education describing our shortage of funds in the District. Trustees also brought up the question of the cost of the carbon tax for the district. In addition comments were made to highlight our specific district concerns, such as in custodial areas and how much it costs to maintain our schools.

“THAT we send a one page letter to the Minister of Education regarding our budget shortfalls.”

CARRIED

- The Board decided to send a copy of the letter to our MLA to show her what we’ve had to cut because of our lack of funding. They also decided to invite her to the Finance meeting on April 16th to actually see how we have to cut our budget.
- The Board also wish to send a copy of the letter to our Education Critic on the Official Opposition.
- The comment was made that we are at a point where we have to make cuts in the budget and reduce service levels and it is putting a bigger load on staff.
- Custodians will struggle with classroom cleanliness. The Board would like to point out to the Minister that we are burning out people and it is especially hard to recruit management positions today.

“THAT the letter be copied to our MLA, BCSTA, other school districts, local partner groups, and the Education Critic on the Official Opposition.”

CARRIED

7. **TRUSTEE ITEMS**

A. BCSTA Update – D. Walden

Board Chair reported that he and two other trustees attended the general annual meeting this past week. Directors were elected and posted on the BCSTA website. A highlight was the presentation by Dr Mary Delagardelle. He discussed the five roles of a school board and the seven areas of performance of a good school board

“THAT we recommend to BCSTA that they bring back Dr. Mary Delagardelle to speak at a future BCSTA meeting.”

CARRIED

8. **COMMITTEES**

A. Finance Committee

“THAT the notes of the March 26th 2008 and March 27th Finance Committee meeting be received.”

CARRIED

“THAT the notes of the March 31st 2008 Finance Committee meeting be received.”

CARRIED

9. **BYLAWS**

10. **ITEMS BROUGHT OUT OF IN CAMERA**

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

All Finance Committee meetings are open to the public if they are not in camera. They are only in camera if they affect labour personnel.

John Hall asked that the letter the Board is sending the Minister of Education be copied to Education Partner groups.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer