

School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)

Minutes of a Board Meeting No. 803 held on Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 at the School Board Office, Squamish, BC. The meeting commenced at 3:30 pm.

Present: Dave Walden, Chairperson
Rick Price, Vice Chairperson
Andrea Beaubien, Trustee
Christine Buttkus, Trustee
Laura Godfrey, Trustee
Chris Vernon-Jarvis, Trustee
Rick Erickson, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer
John Hetherington, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Scott Stanley, Director of Human Resources
Rose MacKenzie, Director of Instruction
Magy Odorfer, District Principal
Ian Kent, Vice President, Sea to Sky Principals'/Vice Principals' Association
Nick Pascuzzi, Past President, Sea to Sky Principals'/Vice Principals' Association
John Hall, President Howe Sound Teachers' Association
Linda Arnold, Executive Assistant

1. **AGENDA**

MOVED/SECONDED **“THAT the agenda of this meeting be approved.”**
CARRIED

2. **PRESENTATIONS FROM EDUCATION PARTNER GROUPS REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE PLANS AND BUDGETS FOR 2009/10**

- Dave Walden welcomed the meeting participants and noted the letter attached to the agenda that Nancy Edwards had sent to our Education Partner Groups, asking them to suggest guidelines to be used by the Board as they develop their services plans for 2009/10.
- Also attached to the agenda was a copy of the Budget Guidelines for 2008/09 and an email response from Shannon Schaefer, CUPE Local #779 President. The email response from CUPE entitled Budget 2008/09 Surplus feedback, requested the Board use unrestricted budget surplus funding primarily to support student learning and also to consider use of budget surplus funding to cover reduction/layoffs in the Custodial Department and the four hour reception position at the School Board Office.
- John Hall, President of Howe Sound Teachers' Association distributed a handout with recommendations to School District No. 48 for the 2009/10 Budget Development. The Chair noted that it will be considered at the Board Meeting next week.
- John stated that although he is distressed by government funding decisions, he is encouraged by the intentions that the Board has made to set education priorities to support all learners and he commends the goals of the Board.

- He reiterated the need for professional development of teachers, the importance of continuing to improve class size and to act on the issue of fully funded public education in BC. He urged the Board to ensure that the needs of special education students be met in a timely way.
- John Hall asked that the Board review administration costs in SD 48 as the province average is 3.2%, and the average in SD48 is 4.4% . Trustee Rick Price asked for an explanation of this figure and John Hetherington responded. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, John Hetherington stated that there is a direct correlation between the percentage spent on administration and the number of students in the district. He offered to provide a copy of the 2008/09 Annual Budgeted Operating Expenditures by Function, provided by the Ministry of Education to meeting participants, to further explain the correlation.
- The Board Chair thanked John Hall for his presentation.
- Ian Kent and Nick Pascuzzi thanked the Board for this opportunity to present their budget considerations. Nick stated that STSPVPA's first priority is to maintain and continue to focus on student learning, which is already in the Board's guidelines, as is supporting programs of choice for students. They would like to encourage improvement in the level of support services in the schools, as they are seeing more students in need of these services. It was noted that it is becoming more difficult to find qualified special education teachers.
- Ian Kent continued that they want to see ongoing support to Student Centered Leadership, as decisions made closest to the location where students receive the services, are best. Nick noted that they also want to see continued focus on class size and composition and that the Board has clearly demonstrated their desire to keep class sizes at a level that allows students to learn in a positive environment. The STSPVPA representative also stated that they would like to see development of a District Succession plan and the provision of continuing professional learning opportunities for staff.
- Nick Pascuzzi commented that it would be helpful to receive additional funding to pay for large ticket items such as shop machines.
- Nick also noted that schools were progressing with their own emergency response plans, coordinating with the District plan. To do emergency preparation effectively it needs to be funded and it is a fairly high cost item.
- Andrea Beaubien responded to the STSPVPA request for funding of large ticket items by stating that the Board had put \$50,000 into a large equipment replacement fund from a small surplus mainly tied to International Education funds. Andrea also queried the money that schools receive for professional development. John Hall commented that there is a Pro D rep at each school who manages the account at that school. Nick noted that the school also has staff development funds and that sometimes the Pro D rep and the school work together to cooperate on funding Pro D days.
- Rick Erickson queried the principals regarding increase of Library time, and whether they were proposing to the Board that we have a minimum. Nick replied that they were looking for a broader response, that, after staffing is in place, the money left over has been decreasing for other areas.
- Chris Vernon-Jarvis suggested the Success Foundation as a good place to look for equipment, if they were provided with a tax receipt.

- Rick Price commented on the 2nd bullet under Organizing for Learning with regard to class size, stating that if the Board focuses on class size that it means setting some kind of standard and then funding is taken away from school-based funding. Nick replied that they would like school based decisions including some parameters decided by the Board and then put the funding in place to adequately meet those parameters.
- Dave Walden thanked the STSPVPA representatives for their presentation and noted that there was no representative from DPAC at the meeting.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer