

**School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48 (SEA TO SKY)**

Minutes of a Board Meeting No. 801 held Wednesday January 14, 2009 at the School Board Office, Squamish, B.C. The meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Dave Walden, Chairperson  
Andrea Beaubien, Trustee  
Christine Buttkus, Trustee  
Laura Godfrey, Trustee  
Rebecca Barley, Trustee  
Chris Vernon-Jarvis, Trustee  
Rick Erickson, Superintendent  
Nancy Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer  
Louise Pelletier, Executive Assistant  
Rick Hume, Director of Facilities & Services  
Terrill Paterson, Member of the Public  
Dorothy Gregg, Vice-President, CUPE Local 779  
John Hall, President, Howe Sound Teachers Association (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)  
Magy Oderfer, District Principal (arrived at 6:05 pm)  
Rose MacKenzie, Director of Instruction (arrived at 6:10 p.m)

Dave Walden welcomed members of the Public.

1. **AGENDA:**  
**MOVED/SECONDED**  
**“THAT the agenda of this meeting be approved.”**  
CARRIED
2. **MINUTES**  
**MOVED/SECONDED**  
**“THAT the minutes of Board Meeting No. 800 held Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 be adopted.”**  
CARRIED
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - A. **CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS:**
    - Dave Walden noted that Committee appointments had been made although he is still seeking interest for the ‘Five District 2010 Committee.’ Andrea Beaubien advised that she would consider this Committee but would like to see a calendar of meetings prior to making this commitment.
    - Nancy Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer has sent an email to principals and trustees regarding Valentine luncheons for staffs. Dave Walden advised that this luncheon was in lieu of the Christmas luncheon (held in previous years) and the intent of the luncheons is to show our Board’s appreciation to staff for

their hard work on behalf of the District.

- BCSTA New Trustee Academy – February 26-27, 2009 – Dave Walden commented that all Board members have indicated their attendance.

**B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS**

- Rick Erickson summarized the development of the Board's "Vision, Mission, Core Values" (Board Policy 100.1) Noted it was developed in March 2007 as the previous version had not been reviewed for some time and, as a result Dallas Cristofoli, former Superintendent had worked with focus groups to develop new Mission and Core Value statement.
- B.C. College of Teachers (BCCT) – Rick Erickson handed out the B.C. College of Teachers' brochure "Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia" and noted the main points. Members include all teachers in British Columbia, Principals, Vice-Principals, District Staff including superintendents. Rick Erickson commented that the B.C. College of Teachers' web site was very informative.
- District Education Plan – development is in progress
- District Education Technology Plan – development is in progress
- School District No. 48's Education Partner Roundtable – Student Learning includes representation from the Board, parent groups, CUPE, STSTA, STSPVPA, Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent. Rick Erickson explained that the groups met from time to time to provide opportunities for bringing forth recommendations to the Board.
- Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is administered to grade 4 & 7 students next month. January is practice month with the tests to be administered in February. FSA results will be available by March 31<sup>st</sup>. In the past, results were provided the next school year. Ministry's response is to try and make sure information is brought back in a timely manner.
- School District No. 48 Website  
Rick Erickson commented on the Emergency Preparedness section of the School District 48 website. When there are anticipated problems with weather or transportation issues that impact schools, information will be included on our web site.

Rick Erickson commented on the two presentations by Juanita Coltman and Magy Odorfer that he had attended outlining progress on implementing the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. He reminded the Board that the Enhancement agreement is a 'living' document and the District is committed to it's implementation.

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

- **School District No. 48 Name Change Update**  
Nancy Edwards confirmed the official documentation has been received from Shirley Bond, Minister of Education regarding School District No. 48 name change to (Sea to Sky). She advised changes have now been made to items such as stationery. She further advised that the name change would not appear immediately on existing larger assets such as buses and vehicles – the name change will be included on new vehicles and busses as they are replaced.
- **2008/09 Bus Approvals table**  
Nancy Edwards confirmed that the School District has received approval to replace two school buses as part of the 2008/09 Capital budget. Included in the District Capital Plan each year are items such as renovations to schools and replacement of school buses. Our buses are inspected regularly and if the inspection report shows the bus is in need of replacing we include it in our annual application. Both of the recent approvals are for the Pemberton/Whistler area.
- **Whistler Spirit Pass Program**  
Nancy provided an overview of the Whistler Spirit Pass program that provides lift passes for Whistler/Blackcomb at a lower cost. One of the criteria to be eligible in the program is the need to be working for someone in the Whistler Community. In the past our District has been able to have this offered to our employees throughout the District. Last year the Chamber advised it would be the last year this initiative would be offered to all three communities and from now forward it would be offered only to employees working in Whistler. This was communicated to our staff in a memo last Fall. Many of our employees outside the Whistler area contacted the Chamber of Commerce expressing their dissatisfaction with this change and in turn the Chamber confirmed that all three communities could participate in the Whistler Spirit Program for one more year only. Nancy suggested that our Board representative, along with staff, request a meeting before the end of this season and explain to the Chamber that they would like all employees in all communities to be eligible.

- Power Smart Program  
Rick Hume presented information regarding the BC Hydro Power Smart program, noting we have been Power Smart partners since 2002 and that during this time there have been significant power upgrades to our schools. He is interested in the District continuing to participate in Power Smart programs. One of our commitments, if the board is in favor, is the signing of a partnership agreement with BC Hydro. This partnership would consist of an Energy Management assessment done with officials from BC Hydro. After an Energy Management Assessment, we would be able to bring results back to the Board with recommendation(s) for future action(s).

Rick Hume explained that after the assessment is done, one part of the program allows the opportunity to hire an Energy Manager. BC Hydro advises they will fund an Energy Manager for our district and larger districts are doing that now. We would first find out what the assessment is and bring it to the Board before proceeding further.

Rick Hume advised that he has worked with students on similar programs in the past and may be able to have students involved in assessing their own school buildings.

#### 4. **RECEIVING DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

##### A. John Hall, President, Teachers' Association

John Hall distributed a sample of the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) test inviting individuals to take it for themselves and see what students are experiencing. John Hall noted there were several different versions. John referred to a copy of the press release of December 14<sup>th</sup> and explained that the BCTF had a province wide vote regarding the administration of FSA and marking by teachers.

John went onto report the unions' position of not agreeing with the way the Fraser Institute was using the results. When results are treated simplistically there is a simplistic answer. Ranking of schools is not an appropriate use of data or materials but there has been no movement to take that away from Fraser Institute or to qualify data. BCTF is calling upon Boards of Education to request that the Ministry of Education conduct FSA tests on a random basis. John provided a handout of why the Union felt this was a good idea and an important item for Boards to support .

Andrea Beaubien requested clarification - if the Board was being

asked to recommend that FSA only be administered randomly and not be identified with schools then, we are only changing the ranking from ranking of schools to ranking of School Districts?

John Hall advised that his understanding was if random testing was done then ranking could not occur.

Andrea Beaubien commented that she felt the ranking could still happen. We can't determine what the Fraser Institute does with the results.

John Hall felt there had to be some means to take this out the hands of the Fraser Institute. If the results are meant to be a review of education, there isn't an issue. Teachers understand parents like other sources of objective information to give a picture of what is happening in their child's classroom. Last year tests were administered in February and results were back in March - John heard three comments from parents discussing results with student's teachers. He felt that the results were not used well by parents. Schools don't formally get test results at the time parents receive the results unless they get copies from parents. Schools get results in the fall.

Rebecca Barley asked for an explanation of a comment in the press release - "future based on one test?"

John Hall offered that the school's future is based on the one test. The idea is to extend that and say what if your whole future was based on one test. He believes that we can measure results in the province in different ways. The information has been used in ways that it was not meant to be. Complete elimination is not the goal.

Laura Godfrey acknowledged that the BCTF asks that the tests be administered on a random basis. If done that way, what type of data would there be made available to PACS?

John Hall offered that the Union feels that the FSA is very weak data. Report card data is much richer and reflects what is actually going on in a child's life.

Laura Godfrey noted that FSA results & student satisfaction reports are the only things made available to Committees in the schools, so if FSA was no longer available, parents would be left with only student satisfaction survey results.

John Hall clarified that some schools use other results such as student achievement tests.

John Hall was asked what the impact of the proposed change to random testing would have on the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement which uses FSA results in the baseline data.

John Hall commented that this is about a province wide action by BCTF – it is not aimed at what is happening in local schools. FSA was data we had at the time but the Teachers Association is saying we don't have a rich piece of data across the province and need to look at finding better ways to uncover this information.

Dave Walden thanked John Hall for his presentation

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

From December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting

- A. "Superintendent's Report on Student Learning Achievement"  
Magy Odorfer, District Principal, handed out version 2.0 of the "Superintendent's Report on Student Learning Achievement". Magy Odorfer provided an overall review of the document including background and key highlights. She noted that version 2.0 had changes since version 1.0 and walked through the document noting the changes.

Magy reported that the Superintendent's Report on Student Learning Achievement is a new requirement of the Ministry of Education and this is the second year it is in place. She highlighted information in that document noting the six year Dogwood completion success rate had increased by 3%.

In summary Magy commented there are trends developing. Some of the work in our district focusing on student success is working.

Rebecca Barley noted no percentages for Aboriginal Ed Provincial results and Magy committed to putting that together.

Magy commented on the need for attention on the six year Dogwood as it is about graduating. The District needs to work on the Aboriginal six year Dogwood completion rate. Plans in place such as the alternative "RAP" program should assist in bringing these rates up.

District staff offer professional development to give teachers strategies in the areas of reading and implementing new math curriculum. The District is also looking at expanding programs of choice. The report shows that programs the Board has supported are making a difference. Supporting leadership development, forums for Principals and Vice-Principals are taking place on a monthly basis to discuss topics.

Andrea Beaubien requested clarification on why we refer to Dogwood completion and not overall completions? Magy advised that the goal is to have as many students as possible graduate with a Dogwood as it gives most students the opportunity to move on. Dogwood completion is provincial and recognizes graduation with 120 credits. Completion rate means you complete grade 12. Dogwood is recognized by many institutes across Canada.

Dave Walden thanked Magy for her work on the Superintendent's report.

Rick Erickson noted that approval of version 2 was required as amended to be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

**“THAT the Board approve version 2 as amended.”** CARRIED

6. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. BCSTA Provincial Council and AGM Motions  
Dave Walden commented on Provincial Council and BCSTA meetings at the end of February. The only motions to be dealt with, are things that cannot wait until the BCSTA AGM in April.
- B. Climate Action Charter Revenue Incentive Program  
Nancy Edwards noted that the BCSTA had circulated the draft Climate Action Charter and are asking Boards to review and provide input before January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Charter has to be signed by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Trustees raised a number of questions which will be forwarded to the BCSTA.
- C. Second intake of the “*School Community Connections*” funding program  
Nancy Edwards advised that the Province of BC has announced a second intake of applications for “Strengthening the Connections” grants. The District has received a capital grant in the amount of \$125,000 towards upgrade of the field between Howe Sound Secondary and Squamish Elementary schools. This is a joint project with the District of Squamish. We have also received two more grants of \$8,000 each for small projects at each of Valleycliffe and Pemberton Secondary Schools. District Management will bring forward a recommendation for applications for this next intake of applications.
- D. Olympics – Update (Magy)  
Magy Odorfer provided two hand outs regarding the 2009 World

Cup Sliding event and the CALOC Biathlon School Program and suggested they be shared with PACs and parents. These events are taking place in March. There are two workshops available for teachers on preparing students for these events. The Teacher Biathlon guide is being distributed throughout the program. Schools can register at CALOC web site.

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

9. **ADJOURNMENT  
MOVED/SECONDED**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

---

Chairperson

---

Secretary-Treasurer