

MINUTES OF THE BOARD EDUCATION AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

PRESENT

Trustee Rob Hutchins, Chair
Trustee Candace Spilsbury
Trustee Elizabeth Croft
Trustee Johanne Kemmler
Trustee Randy Doman
Trustee Barb de Groot
Trustee Joe Thorne
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Erin Egeland, Associate Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Russell, Director of Communications
Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Hutchins called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Motion to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Spilsbury

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the agenda of the September 28, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee meeting."

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the May 25, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting

Moved by Trustee Croft
Seconded by Trustee Kemmler

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the Minutes of the May 25, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."

CARRIED

4. ACTION LIST

4.1 Action List

Rainbow crosswalks have been painted at all schools with the exception of Thetis Island, which has a gravel parking lot. Thank you to the Operations Department for their hard work completing this project.

Trustee de Groot joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

5. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6. EDUCATION

6.1 International Education Update - Alison Keple, Temporary District Principal of International Education

- Enrollment: September 2020 started with 60 students (2019-2020 students who remained in Canada over the summer due to COVID) with 20 students added in January 2021 and an additional 20 in April 2021. There are currently 157 students enrolled, which is the maximum capacity of home stays presently available in the District. An additional 70 students will be arriving in January 2022. The District is looking to add to the number of home stays as it lost some due to COVID. International students are coming primarily from Europe (Germany, Norway, France, Belgium and Turkey) and Japan. Enrollments from China are down due to COVID and strained relations between Canada and China. The District has a consultant working behind the scenes in China to look for ways to increase the market.
- Goals: When she started her position eight months ago, her goals were to modernize the department (which has since moved from paper applications to online); incorporate a new logo with an Indigenous presence; and produce new marketing materials. The new website and brochure were shared with Trustees.
- What's next: Stabilize enrollment by capitalizing on existing markets and being wise about developing new ones; be more explicit in promoting Canadian culture; and establish a buddy/ambassador program to help students make friends and find opportunities.

6.2 Food Programs - Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent

The Associate Superintendent advised that since last year's presentation, work has been ongoing to build the program's capacity to store and cook food. Twenty of the District's 22 schools are served through partnerships with Nourish Cowichan and/or the Starfish Backpack Program. Nourish Cowichan's morning program provides breakfast, snacks and/or lunch to 15 schools, while over 400 hampers a week are delivered to the homes of families from 20 schools through the Starfish Backpack Program. Last year the Board allowed Nourish Cowichan to expand into another room at Ecole Mount Prevost, which now houses a new walk-in freezer. Community Link (CLINK) funds provide kitchen staff at four sites, as well as funds to schools in various amounts depending on their needs, which have enabled the purchase of stoves, refrigerators and freezers, as well as tables, chairs and umbrellas that allow students to gather out of the rain and eat. The teaching kitchen at Frances Kelsey Secondary School provides food for students who participate in programs as well as students at the school.

Trustee Thorne joined the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

6.3 Outdoor Learning - Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction

Last year's federal COVID funding supported the building of outdoor learning spaces at twelve schools. The projects ranged in cost from \$1K - \$70K, with some projects subsidized and supported through school-based and PAC funds. Outdoor projects included picnic tables, outdoor learning circles, rock gardens, play areas with natural elements, covered seating areas, raised garden beds, and a covered carving area. Cowichan Secondary's Indigenous Technology Class partnered with District employees to create an outdoor seating area with wooden benches and a speaker's chair outside the School Board Office. 215 orange hands were also placed on the fence to acknowledge the Kamloops 215.

7. **BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

7.1 2021/2022 Restart Funding Plan

The Board added \$70K to the 2021-2022 Budget to maintain hand washing/sanitizing stations and add two additional custodians to maintain the electrostatic sprayer program. Recently the District received \$204K from the Province for COVID restart funding. The Secretary-Treasurer presented a plan to utilize the funding including:

- 84,000 masks at a cost of \$25K (a combination of reusable and disposable masks);
- Two additional electrostatic sprayer custodial positions to provide an enhanced level of cleaning;
- Upgrading of HVAC systems in seven older portables;
- Increased number of air filters upgraded to MERV 13 standards.

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That the Board Education and Business Committee recommends to the Board approval of the 2021/2022 Restart Funding Plan."

CARRIED

8. **POLICY**

8.1 Policy 8: Climate Change Committee

At the May 4, 2021 Open Board meeting, a resolution was passed directing staff to prepare a draft Purpose, Powers and Duties, Membership and Meetings for review at BEBC. A draft of the Climate Change Committee section of Policy 8 was presented, and Trustees determined that further discussion was warranted.

Moved by Trustee Hutchins
Seconded by Trustee Croft

"That the Board Education and Business Committee defers Policy 8: Climate Change Committee to the next BEBC Meeting."

CARRIED

9. COMMITTEES

9.1 Highlights of the June 15, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting

9.2 Highlights of the September 21, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Trustee de Groot

Seconded by Trustee Kemmler

"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.