



SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
District Office, Oromocto

Council Members Present:

Debbie Blyth – Sub-district 1
Jason Randall – Sub-District 3
Blair Cummings – Sub-district 4
Marty Forsythe – Sub-district 5 and Chair
Carol Ward – Sub-district 6
Elizabeth Nason – Sub-district 7
Mark Noël – Sub-district 8
LeRoy Washburn – Sub-district 9
Anne Marie MacDonald – Sub-district 10 and Vice-chair
Tom Barrett – Sub-District 11
Dustin Taylor – Student Rep

Regrets:

Stephanie LeFait – Sub-district 2

District Office Staff Present:

Philip Cliff – Manager of Facilities
Kayla Giesecke – Literacy K-12
Sue Haanstra – Director of Human Resources
Mark Fisher – Director of Finance and Administration
Rick Demmings – Director of Education
David McTimoney – Superintendent
Cathy Buck – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and DEC Secretary

Guests:

Media (3)
Public (2)

I. Call Meeting to Order

As Marty Forsythe was going to arrive late, the Vice-chair, Anne Marie MacDonald, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

One member questioned how Policy IV.C, Healthy Living, Nutrition and Physical Education, would be monitored; would the DEC be seeing a presentation from Robin Buchanan, the physical education mentor? David McTimoney responded that physical education falls under the portfolio of Learning Specialist, Kathryn Downe, and would be covered at the April meeting. That being said, the agenda and the January minutes were approved by consensus.

III. Presentation

David McTimoney introduced Kayla Giesecke, Learning Specialist for Literacy K-12.

Kayla walked through her portfolio and highlighted some areas in particular such as:

- English Language Proficiency Assessment
 - Now printed in colour.
 - The reading passages are no longer from Alberta.
 - The passages were vetted by provincial teachers.
- Implementation of cross-curricular activities; new resource at the middle level
- Support for new teachers
- District Literacy assessments
- School-based Literacy Leads – 13 full-time, 4 part-time

Some of the questions and answers that took place:

- Have there been any changes noted with the assessment being more visually pleasing?
 - Won't have the results of the assessment until May
 - Teachers have said that students like them better; appeared more interested
- Where is the District with 21C?
 - The glossy document is no longer what guides us. The District is certainly still ensuring that technology is introduced to students.
- How many of the 300 with literacy training are still with the District?
 - Most of them.

At this point Anne Marie turned the chair over to Marty.

IV. Budget

Third Quarter Review

Marty mentioned that with all of the discussion last month surrounding the budget, the motion to approve it was forgotten.

Mark Fisher, Director for Administration and Finance, had presented a balanced budget.

Motion

...to accept the third quarter budget review as presented.

Motion: Jason Randall

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

M/C

DEC members commented that Mark Fisher and his team did a great job in balancing the budget, especially given the extra challenge of being cut by 1.0% so late in the year. It should be noted that 0.2% was returned to the District.

Discussion took place on what the District had to "give up" in order to find the initial 1.0%. Some of the accommodations were:

- Two vacant positions were not staffed
- Locksets on classroom doors would not be completed
- Loss of service
- Professional development
- Minimal effect on schools

David commented that it was not easy finding places to cut; however, he felt it was very important to work with the Department and meet the Minister's request. Department 19 funds were not used to help balance the budget.

Discussion took place on School District 01 and their reaction to the budget cuts. D17 members did not support their actions.

Barring a crisis, i.e. fuel costs, snow removal, etc, it is expected that the District will balance.

DEC Budget

Marty reported that there will be roughly \$700 left in the DEC budget. Extra costs were incurred this year because of the hiring of the new Superintendent.

MOTION

... that the remainder of the DEC budget go towards school supplies, paper, pens, etc, and be divvied up among the 18 schools.

MOVED: Jason Randall

SECONDED: Blair Cummings

M/C

V. Infrastructure

Mark Fisher, Director of Finance and Administration, reported that District 17 has been approved for \$1.4 million in capital improvements. The DEC had previously approved the list that was submitted to the Department. The DEC commented that it was confusing to the public when the approved list is posted alphabetically in the newspaper rather than by priority or urgency.

There was discussion once again about the ranking but the DEC was reminded that they had approved the list back in the fall. The DEC asked questions and made comments, with the following motion ensuing:

MOTION

... that the DEC look at the sustainability of schools and, therefore, begin by engaging Policy 409, "Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning", to study the sustainability of Burton Elementary School.

MOVED: Anne Marie MacDonald

SECONDED: Elizabeth Nason

The following discussion/questions took place:

- Would all schools be looked at in the same fashion?
 - Begin with Burton, as Anne Marie had suggested.
- What is the procedure?
 - Begin with the DEC.
 - A letter needs to be written to Department officials to advise them that DEC will be starting the 409 process.
 - DEC will hold and run meetings; will be supported by District Office staff.
- Is Burton aware that this will be happening?
 - Marty attended a PSSC meeting and reported that it was a possibility that the DEC would be beginning a sustainability study.
 - If the Department approves of this, the capital funding that was approved for Burton will not be used for that purpose.
- How is the public informed?
 - There will be three public meetings
 - * One to inform the school community of the DEC's intentions and the steps to be followed;
 - * A second to provide opportunity to make a presentation (either orally or in writing);

- * A final meeting to provide the public with the results of the consultation and resulting recommendation that will be submitted to the Minister.
- The public can ask for time on a DEC agenda in order to make a presentation.
- In the end, the study can include one of several outcomes: maintaining the status quo, repairing the school, or closing the school and placing students elsewhere.
- How many DEC members can be involved in the process?
 - As many as want to participate; however, there has to be a commitment to attend all project team meetings for consistency purposes. The final decision will be made by a vote at a public DEC meeting. All DEC members vote even if they have not been a part of the project team.

Discussion ended and the motion was re-read.

MOTION

... that the DEC look at the sustainability of schools and, therefore, begin by engaging Policy 409, “Multi-year School Infrastructure Planning”, to study the sustainability of Burton Elementary School.

All in favour? Eight members approved. Blair Cummings and Jason Randall wanted their names written as being opposed. **The motion was carried.**

VI. Policy Review

- I.C – Councillor’s Code of Conduct – The provincial DEC Chairs approved a policy for the DEC Code of Conduct. The D17 DEC was asked to review this to see if they would like to have it replaced or added to their current policy. Members felt they required more time to review.

MOTION

... that the policy on the Councillors’ Code of Conduct be tabled and brought back to the meeting in March.

MOVED: LeRoy Washburn SECONDED: Mark Noël M/C

- I.E – Communications – No changes to the policy.
- IV.C – Healthy Living, Nutrition, and Physical Activity – There are no changes to the policy. David highlighted several areas of activity in schools related to this policy. Appendices are available for any DEC member who wishes to review them or have a copy
 - Members said they would like a presentation on a program called “Roots of Empathy”.
 - Would like to know the number of students enrolled in physical education.
 - Are the required minutes for physical education being followed?
 - Is the District in compliance with Policy 711?

VII. Correspondence

- Letter from Jody Carr re Review of Sub-district Boundaries – The DEC Chair responded that there were no changes required to the sub-district boundaries.
- Letter from Gagetown School re Community School Application – Marty hand-delivered a request to the Minister that Gagetown School’s application be considered.
- Letter from Geary Elementary Community School re Invitation to Hold Meeting – After a short discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION

... that the DEC hold their April 26th Public Meeting at the Geary Elementary Community School.

MOVED: Dustin Taylor

SECONDED: Mark Noël

M/C

VIII. Information Items

- Lincoln Elementary Community School Update
 - DSS is to go to the proposed sites. When the District has DSS approval, they will be advising DEC, parents, and staff of the plans.
 - The cost of moving portables from other school sites will be born by DSS.
 - Will likely be a ground breaking or ribbon cutting ceremony in the summer.
 - Good idea to have Carol Ward, as the DEC representative for the Lincoln area, involved in parent consults.
- School News – Handout distributed. David highlighted some school events.
 - The Lieutenant Governor has visited three schools in District 17.
 - Susan Silliker (Geary) and Travis Drillen (Summerhill) each received an NBACL Inclusive Education award.
 - February 23rd was National Anti-bullying Pink Day. Students, school staff, and District Office staff were encouraged to wear pink.
 - Eat for Education – Geary Elementary Community School, February 26th.
 - Cops for Cancer Run – District Office raised just over \$1400.
- Superintendent’s Report – David reported on the past month.
 - David and Rick have begun their mid-year visits to schools.
 - Attended a professional development session, along with 2 other districts, on “Dealing with the Media”.
 - Demonstration schools – projected roll-out of netbooks.
 - Public meetings regarding French Second Language.
 - Teacher Appreciation
 - Continuing with NBELA.

IX. Other

The DEC Chair asked if there were any questions from the audience.

- Jason Pickard, PSSC Chair from Burton School, asked the following questions?
 - Where does Burton School rank on the capital improvements list? – number 11.
 - What about the septic system and how that relates to health and safety? – The system has not had to be pumped out yet but if it does, it will be looked after.
 - What happens with the \$154,000 that has been approved for Burton? – That funding can be deferred to another area.
 - How would the closing of Burton School affect the 2% reduction that is expected in the new fiscal year budget? – There would certainly be a financial saving but the budget scenario would not be causing the closing of a school. David reminded everyone that there is a process to be followed with the sustainability study. He listed them again as earlier in the meeting.

X. Self-monitoring Checklist – Form Completion

Members took a few minutes to complete the form.

XI. Next Meeting – March 22nd, 6:00 p.m., District Office, Oromocto.

XII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Marty Forsythe, Chairperson
District Education Council

Date

Cathy Buck
Secretary, District Education Council

Date