



School District No. 51
(Boundary)

BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Date: December 13, 2011

Regular Board of Education Meeting held at the School Board Office

1. All classes in the District are in compliance with Bill 33.
2. The Superintendent's Annual Report for 2010-2011 was approved. The final report can be found on the District web site at <http://www.sd51.bc.ca/aboutus/index.htm>
3. The Director of Instruction's report was approved. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee is in the process of launching a course of action for renewing the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer's report indicates that spending is in line with expectations. Enrollment is holding steady since September 30, 2011. There is an overall an increase of 5 students.
5. Board Chair, Teresa Rezansoff gave an oral overview of the Board's activities for the calendar year 2011. (copy attached)
6. The Board elected:
 - a. Cathy Riddle - Provincial Councilor
 - b. David Reid - Alternate Provincial Councilor
 - c. Cindy Strukoff - BCPSEA Representative
 - d. Vicki Gee - Alternate BCPSEA Representative
 - e. David Reid - Okanagan Labour Relations Council (OLRC)
 - f. Cindy Strukoff – Recreation Commission Liaison for Grand Forks and Christina Lake
7. The Board approved for circulation a new and extensive policy on "Child Protection". The Policy Committee is looking for feedback from partner groups and the public on this policy.
8. The Policy Committee is looking at developing a Sexual Orientation Policy or Direction. The Board has decided to have the policy committee develop a new policy rather than integrating with other existing policies.
9. The Secretary-Treasurer outlined the process she will be following in the development of the 2012-2013 budget.



School District No. 51 Board of Education Activities – 2011 in Review

(as presented by Teresa Rezansoff, Board Chair
at the December 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting)

The Board of Education started out the New Year talking money and course selection with students from Boundary Central Secondary and Grand Forks Secondary Schools. It was a great conversation with many insights for Trustees. Our consultation on the budget for the coming year helped us to determine priorities that included among other things, greater course selection, a focus on aboriginal learners, the early years, green initiatives, and continued technology implementation.

The Board's Procedural Bylaw was finalized in late January after many, many hours of debate. We also spent time throughout the year talking about personalized learning and the implications for our students, staff and the District.

The Board also made some significant money decisions from outside of our budget. For instance, a motion was passed to allocate up to a maximum of \$40,000 to Boundary Central Secondary School to directly address student counseling and timetabling issues (this came about because of our conversation with students and the administration at BCSS). Early in the New Year we started to talk about wireless technology and the pros and cons. In February we passed a motion to take \$63,000 from local capital to support the implementation of wireless technology. All of our schools are now wireless and the uptake by students has exceeded our expectations!

Education presentations and talking breaks at Board of Education meetings have been very positive and well received this year. The Board has determined that we will continue with the talking breaks, but unfortunately we have not had many education presentations since school startup due to job action. We are looking forward to a presentation from BCSS by Louise Bayles and some of her Spirit Club students in January.

In March, Trustees met with teachers at the Boundary District Teachers' Association office for a roundtable discussion around 21st century learning. 17 teachers and 5 Trustees were in attendance. It was a great conversation and we are hopeful that when job action is over, we will be able to meet again.

Succession planning was a recurring topic throughout the year; we had numerous discussions with our District leadership team and will be participating in a facilitated session in February.

In April, the Board met with Ministry of Education staff at the BCSTA annual general meeting. We discussed funding protection and our concerns around its uncertainty, Annual Facility Grant dollars, Big White Community School and the potential of having two enrolment counts.

May was all about the budget and the Board heard from the Secretary Treasurer and our leadership team on their recommendations to the Board for the 2011 - 2012 budget year.

Parents and the Boundary District Teachers' Association brought forward issues for us also. Parents talked to us about the ice rink at Big White and its future; both union and

parent groups questioned us about health concerns with wireless technology, technology in general, recording of votes taken at the Board table, video conferencing and what it means, and more.

The Board approved the relocation of the library, fitness room, Ab Ed room and study area for students at Grand Forks Secondary. Although there have been some concerns voiced by the public, it appears to be successful for GFSS and the students.

Happily, we were pleased to not have to enter into debate regarding Beaverdell School as their enrolment is up and looking very positive for next year.

School opening in September started under teacher job action that has continued to date and with no end in sight. It is the longest teacher strike in B.C. history.

All of our committee work has been going strong. In particular the policy committee has done a lot of work this year, thanks to the committee chair Vicki Gee and support from the Superintendent.

This fall we received great news about our graduation rate. It has been steadily climbing and is now 94.2%, up over 10% in 6 years, well over 15% higher than the provincial average. Our Ab Ed students are also doing extremely well, with an increase in their overall graduation rate from 69.8 to 86.7%.

Then came November and school board elections. We have a new Board in place with three new faces. I am excited and looking forward to the next three years and feel that we have a very strong team in place. I am feeling positive and energized after our sessions in Vancouver at the New Trustee Academy. Judging by the smiles from everyone when we were at the academy, I would guess it is safe to say that we are all feeling that same positive energy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our office staff – Susan, Charlene, Lynn and Alex for their support. They are always there for us with a smile and a helping hand. Huge thanks also to Michael, Jeanette and Maxine for their contributions to the District and to the Board. You put in many late hours with us with no complaints. You are critical to our success and we appreciate all you do for the students of this school district.

Putting students at the core of what we do is critical and as I went back through my notes to pick out highlights I was able to confirm that we do do that. Although when we were in the midst of debate about our Procedural Bylaw, students seemed very far away, but they were close by when we discussed the changes at GFSS, different policies like the proposed one on active transportation, the implications of wireless technology and web conferencing and expanding options for students. Certainly our conversations on personalized learning had students right up front.

Governance has many sides to it, but the one we will always take the most joy from is when we are talking about our kids and their success. My wishes for the New Year is that we will have many productive positive conversations about students, their needs and how we can best meet them.