



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN)**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011  
AT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE, OLIVER BC**

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**PRESENT:**

June Harrington, Chairperson  
Debbie Marten, Vice Chairperson  
Myrna Coates, Trustee  
Michael Petersen, Trustee  
Sam Hancheroff, Trustee  
Marieze Tarr, Trustee  
Tamela Edwards, Trustee

Bev Young, Superintendent  
Lynda Minnabarriet, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jim Isley, Assistant Superintendent  
Mitch Van Aller, Director of Facilities  
Susan Trower, Manager of Human Resources  
James Pocher, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Merrill Bjerkan, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**R11-061 MOTION:** Petersen / Coates

That the agenda for the September 28, 2011 regular meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

**R11-062 MOTION:** Tarr / Edwards

That the Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 22, 2011 be approved.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

District staff reported on various administration items. A summary of these items will be produced in the Board Report and posted on the district website following the meeting.

**Highlights from Report from Administration:**

**Enrollment** – Due to increased enrollment and class size average obligations, teachers were hired at Okanagan Falls, Oliver and Osoyoos elementary schools; this additional staffing is funded through existing revenue. Current enrollment indicates an increase of 80 students from projections. Enrollment numbers will be finalized and provided to trustees on September 30, 2011.

Minister of Education Abbott, is visiting the district on October 14, 2011. A preliminary agenda will be sent to the Minister's office and will include a meeting with the Board.

**Southern Okanagan Secondary School Update**

The Board commended staff for their work in bringing students back to school so quickly. District staff provided an update on discussions with insurers and ministry staff. Three building designs will be submitted to the Ministry and after review will be submitted to Treasury for approval. The options will include a school capacity of 550, an auditorium and Neighborhoods of Learning space.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Management Committee Report**

A copy of the September 14, 2011 Management Committee Report is attached and forms part of these minutes.

**2010/11 Audited Financial Statements**

Secretary-Treasurer Minnabarriet reported on restricted amounts in Note 9 of in the financial statements. The Board received approval to underspend the Aboriginal education target of \$42,325, provided the funds are carried forward to the 2011/12 Aboriginal education program. District staff recommended an amount of \$473,362 remain unrestricted. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Pocher was thanked for his work in producing the financial statements.

**R11- 063 MOTION:** Hancheroff / Marten

That the 2010/11 audited financial statements be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2010/11 Audited Internally Restricted Dollars**

**R11- 064 MOTION:** Petersen / Marten

That the 2010/11 internally restricted dollars be designated as presented.

**CARRIED**

**OTHER REPORTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Watering Costs – Town of Oliver**

District staff reviewed a meeting with members of the Town of Oliver regarding watering costs and options. A copy of the memorandum is attached and forms part of these minutes. Discussion followed regarding metered water on school property and options to consider for reducing costs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Input to Funding Formula for Allocating Operating Grants**

Chair Harrington reported on an opportunity through BC School Trustees Association for boards across British Columbia to provide input into the funding formula for allocation of operating grants. This district's submission by the board will include: continuation of support for small schools and small communities; predictability and stability in funding to ensure student achievement remains in the forefront; low socio-economic consideration; and transportation funding as it relates to student extracurricular activities.

### **Class Size and Composition Report**

Superintendent Young reported on the organization of classes as of September 28, 2011 and noted numbers are subject to change in the next few days. The district currently is in compliance with Bill 33 for all grades. A copy of the report on the organization of classes for School District No. 53 is attached and forms part of these minutes.

**R11- 065      MOTION:**    Petersen / Coates

THAT the Board verifies that the organization of classes in School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) is in compliance with the class size provisions of the School Act and is, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Education, appropriate for student learning.

**CARRIED**

### **Ministry – Curriculum**

Superintendent Young reported on the summer leadership academy with the BC School Superintendents Association and ministry staff. Ministry goals focus on teacher excellence, flexibility and choice, learning: curriculum and assessment, learning: technology, and accountability and open government. Design, piloting and implementation will take place in stages over the next few years.

### **Roots of Empathy**

Trustee Tarr reported on her attendance at the Roots of Empathy meeting for mentors held in Vancouver this summer. This district's board was specifically thanked by the Ministry for urging the reinstatement of funding which was cancelled last year. The government has since reinstated funding for training Roots of Empathy mentors at the Kindergarten level. Six instructors will be trained for 6 programs. The projection is for the program to run in seventeen elementary classrooms across the district this year. Trustee Tarr and Principal Lisa McCall were acknowledged for their work and commitment to the Roots of Empathy program.

### **Change to School Calendar**

In discussion with the President of South Okanagan Similkameen Teachers Union, assurance could not be given that teachers will be available for parent-teacher interviews on the scheduled early dismissal days during the teacher strike. The Superintendent made a recommendation that the Board amend the school calendar to remove the fall early dismissal days.

**R11- 066      MOTION:**    Edwards / Marten

THAT the 2011/12 school calendar be amended to remove the fall early dismissal days due to the teachers' strike.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Harrington received correspondence from a member of the public acknowledging the fire of Southern Okanagan Secondary School.

**Reading File – June and July 2011**

**R11- 067 MOTION:** Hancheroff / Petersen

That the information contained in the trustee reading file be received and filed.

**CARRIED**

Chair Harrington thanked district staff for the way in which they have handled the days following the high school fire and the leadership they have shown.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

A question regarding insurance at Southern Okanagan Secondary School.  
A question whether the auditorium will be rebuilt.  
Clarification regarding students in portables.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on October 26, 2011 at the Board of Education Office in Oliver at 7:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

**ATTACHMENTS**

Agenda  
Enrollment Report – September 2011  
2010/11 Audited Financial Statements  
Memo re Town of Oliver Watering Costs  
Report on the Organization of Classes

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
Chairperson of the Board

  
Secretary-Treasurer