

Revelstoke Board of Education

Special Board Meeting February 1st, 2013 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Chell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees:	Chell, Nicholson, Morrone, Rorstad, and Dubasov
Senior Administration:	Superintendent Hooker and Secretary-Treasurer Ross
and:	Confidential Secretary Magarian
Delegates:	Stephanie Melnyk and Vanessa Morrow
Guests:	One member of the media, 15 adult members of the public and 6 children
Regrets:	Associate Superintendent Cooper and Director of Operations & Technology Woodhurst

DELEGATIONS

Early French Immersion Presentation by Stephanie Melnyk and Vanessa Morrow

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Chell thanked Stephanie Melnyk and Vanessa Morrow for their work in Early French Immersion and introduced them to those present.

Stephanie Melnyk began the presentation by thanking trustees, parents, school district staff and the media for coming to the presentation.

Vanessa Morrow introduced herself advising that she is a graduate of a French Immersion program in Thunder Bay, Ontario and feels that through French Immersion she had more job opportunities and that having French Immersion has been an advantage in learning a third language.

Stephanie Melnyk then introduced herself advising that she too is a graduate of a French Immersion Program and she also feels that she has had many more job opportunities due to French Immersion.

Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Morrow then provided a power point presentation outlining their view of the factors they believed have changed since Early French Immersion was researched by the school district in 2008. They reviewed the projection model that they prepared to assess sustainability.

In conclusion, they requested that Trustees vote to implement an Early French Immersion program for both kindergarten and grade 1 starting in September 2013.

Trustee Chell thanked Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Morrow for the presentation and reiterated that trustees understand the value of French Immersion. Trustee Chell noted that when the Board considers Early French Immersion, there are many considerations, including sustainability and the Board's responsibility to ensure the same level of service can be delivered to students in a French Immersion program as we currently experience in the English program. He noted that the Ministry of Education would expect a 13-year commitment, which means that there must be the numbers of students enrolled to sustain the program through to graduation.

Superintendent Hooker thanked Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Morrow for their support in developing the survey. He added that the survey results for the numbers of parents indicating interest to the school district do not match the numbers provided by Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Morrow. He suggested that they continue to work together to ensure an accurate accounting of interest. It is necessary to confirm the number of families committed regardless of location, and those only committed for a program at a specific school.

The floor was then opened to members of the public attending the meeting. Some of the comments from parents were:

- Paper survey was archaic – is electronic submission possible for future
- Perhaps an Early French Immersion program to grade 6 could be considered
- In Quebec, they have an English Immersion program that is for Grades 1 to 6
- A Parks Canada employee advised that she would not have a job without French Immersion
- The location of the Early French Immersion program is crucial
- The survey didn't request catchment areas

Trustee Chell concluded the meeting acknowledging the hard work being done by parents Stephanie Melnyk and Vanessa Morrow. He confirmed that the next board meeting is Wednesday, February 6th, 2013 and that the board would not be making a decision on Early French Immersion at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m. on the motion of Trustee Nicholson.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

DATED: February 1st, 2013