

Committee of the Whole Meeting

June 6, 2017 6:00 pm

Fraserview Learning Centre, 32444 – 7th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present:

Chair Tracy Loffler
Trustee Rick McKamey
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Jim Taylor

Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Derek Welsh
Executive Assistant Tracy Orobko- Recorder
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska

Absent: Trustee Shelley Carter

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being held on Stó:lō Territory. There are four First Nation Bands within the boundaries of the Mission School District: Leq:a'mel, Sq'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

Regrets: Trustee Carter

The Chair highlighted the meeting proceedings and expectations for the meeting. Mention of a sign-in sheet which circulated the room. Presentations from Staff and Stave Falls Community Association will be conducted. The Chair expressed that this is not a decision making meeting, but a Committee of the Whole meeting, and that the intention is for everyone to be heard. The meeting was noted to last approximately two hours adjourning at 8pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

**MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.
CARRIED**

The Chair acknowledged Municipal and Legislative members present.

3. Delegations/Presentations

3.1 District Staff Report on Stave Falls – Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent provided information about the site and options. Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation. Considerations have been made to various communities affected. Stave Falls school site is not a turnkey operation.

Highlights of Options Included:

- Expenditures to re-open and bring the Stave Falls building to code (approx. \$300K) would include; equipment/resources (books, computers, staff);
- Ministry will fund with a ratio of distance from District Office; after first year of operation, the school would receive \$164K/year – if another school is more than 5 kms away from the nearest school;
- Ongoing cost considerations (utilities and staffing);
- Enrolment implications;

- Ministry expectations of facility capacity prior to building a new school (ie: Secondary);
- Enrolment report provided from School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows);
- Reviewed the Silverdale/Stave Falls – School Enrolment Analysis;
- Leases and Hybrids;
- Renting or leasing / shared space / administrative costs;
- Sale of Property - Ministry of Education decides;
- Sale proceeds are returned for capital use (not operational);

Conclusion:

- Not financially advantageous to re-open the school;
- May be other considerations for a 'win-win' scenario;
- The needs of Board and students of Mission must be balanced.

3.2 Stave Falls Community Association

Julia Renkema, Treasurer: Read a report.

- Supports reopening Stave Falls school;
- Built in '94; easily expanded and up to earthquake standards;
- Open concept entrance, offices, library, gym with stage, classrooms;
- 9.4 acres of level land on quiet dead end street;
- Declining enrolment – closed in 2008;
- 2016 – Expressions of interest for four properties;
- Fire Hall is the only public building;
- Submitted proposal to Board; proposed a hybrid school/community model;
- Marketed proposal; conducted a survey; potential 734 respondents. Received over 250 completed surveys; #1 – public school desired;
- 150 children 0 – 12 in area; 60 newborns; 91 6-12 yr old.(250 responses)
- Conservatively counted: over 300 school age children;
- Many groups interested in renting space: District of Mission, Mission Parks and Recreation; Stave Falls Community Association; Stave Falls Scottish Dancers; Mission Rod and Gun; Fraser River pollinators and more;
- One resident interested in opening a daycare;
- Kept School Board apprised; indicated desire to keep as school;
- February – School Board was negotiating to lease to an outside party; when asked would not declare who;
- Tax dollars – public school. Issued a press release relating to the issue;
- Nov. 2016 supreme court ruling; more teachers and classroom space;
- Add given the value - \$300K seems minor cost to make the school ready to open;
- 70 elementary students from SF enrolled outside MPSD;
- Report you saw – Mission student analysis: 472 students were lost to other SDs;
- How do we entice students to return?
- Whonnock is overcapacity;
- Letter to DoM planning dept; years of declining enrolment “in past three years, enrolment has increased”. Long range facility plan – may need a site for a third middle school and one or two elementary schools as well as expansion or new secondary;

- District Planning Dept. data. 216 housing units to be built; 560 housing units pending approval. 19 acres to be released from ALR in process;
- Stave Falls is zoned to have multiple housing developments;

Housing developments are on the rise. Potentially 2600 more units. Look to the west side; formally request the SD conduct a registration for Stave falls for 2018 and beyond. Registration should be open to SD 42 and 75.

Formally request SD abandon offers to tie it up in lease agreements and only entertain offers that involve our students.

Paula Blamey, Director

Read a personal statement. Spoke to growing community of Stave Falls. Lack of options for schooling; majority either home school or drive to Maple Ridge district. Continue to have children attend Webster's Corners. Had option to bus within SD75. SFCA intention was to create awareness of equal opportunity just as the east parts of Mission do.

Would help restore provincial funding; \$640K injected into the school if children returned from SD42. Participated in parental campaign supporting rural communities. Stave Falls – local place children can learn and grow in. SF school could be sustainable. Defined “community”. Ask the SD to have intent to enroll for this September to determine exact numbers.

Courtney Cardy, Director

Thanked School Board for open discussion. Growing community; deserve equal treatment. No school, no usable centre/community hall. Asking you open a registration for Stave Falls. This should be wide open for all students. Options beneficial: choice (outdoor, Montessori); hybrid (community/school) K-12 or K-9. Parents are waiting for a less crowded option. Quoted a statement of Superintendent Wilson. Believes Baragar are inaccurate. Open a registration process this September for 18/19 school year.

4. Unfinished Business

5. Staff Reports

Committee chair opened the floor and asked for any additional information. A reminder was made for a two minute speaking recommendation per speaker; not a forum for debate. Also noted that this meeting is a gathering process and would like to allow an opportunity for everyone to speak at least once before taking comments for others who have already shared.

Anna Murray (Stave Falls). Reading an email from another Alicia Harper. Forced to homeschool as they were forced out of a MR school as they could not manage their five-year-old son's diabetes.

Jana Schultz (Stave Falls). Do we have a commitment from the SD to do an enrolment for 2018/19. Was referred to committee. Question: Is there a timeline? Response: At this time, we are inundated with Budget; Supreme Court decisions. Item will need to be added to a future COTW meeting; possibly for discussion in September.

Roberta Lindsay (Stave Falls). No Children; was a teacher at Thomas Haney.. Here in support of the SFCA. Would love to see more families move in. You build it they'll come. Leap of faith. Not looking at bean counting a regular school.

Amber Chung MTU President – Question: “Would it cost \$300K to make the school leasable? Would this be the same as re-opening as a school?” Reponse: Not quite the same; you wouldn't have to

restock the library, etc. There is the possibility of opening one room which is different than opening the whole school. Once grounds are available, they're currently not safe.

Secretary Treasurer. Septic need upgrading; heating upgrades; building needs to meet current building codes. Ballpark of \$300k may be on the light side; lots of repairs are required.

Councilor Jim Hinds: When a building has been closed and unoccupied, specific codes apply

Ms. Chung. If leased, those costs would still exist. No matter which way you go, there will be costs to bring it up to opening stage. Potential income generating is the attraction of re-opening. Cannot say balancing one over the other is not a good comparison. ST Response: Our business is in education.

Ms. Cardy. Because student enrolment is a factor vs. leasing for \$150K – realistically, you would be getting more than if leasing. Response: When you open as a school, you pay for operational costs.

Pam Alexis, Councilor. What is the average number of children per household? Response: Staff does not currently have the numbers but could look into this.

Liza Morse (Stave Falls). Moved to the area in 2006 however, the school closed shortly after she moved here; is a Librarian with FVRL; Outdoor school visits library. People are chomping at the bit to have an outdoor education facility; alternative or traditional school.

Phil Cooper (Stave Falls). Everyone's leaving. We do not have that type of school in Mission, we could attract Maple Ridge students to an outdoor school.

Kerri Booth (Stave Falls). Children attend Maple Ridge schools. Silverdale is a huge school however, it's 'falling apart'. Stave West community – bringing new people into the area.

Trustee Jim Taylor (Stave Falls). Conflict in common. Probably consider ourselves as an afterthought with Mission. Should be asking: how can we best service that community? We are bound by rules set by the province. Stave River would be the geographical boundaries. Maple Ridge needs the space. They're not interested in Stave Falls site. Province could dictate public boundaries. Don't care who we belong to – just concerned about the services provided. Assuming province doesn't change the boundaries; a chance to lobby regardless of government. Early fall – we need numbers. Agreed he would like to open up registration. We have a remarkable staff, however, it would take some sort of hybrid.

Trustee Cairns. Need numbers and no problem with having a hard registration in the Fall.

Phil Cooper. Has spoken with Mike Murray, SD42 Chairperson. Read a statement from an email from Mr. Murray. Mr. Cooper handed Chair Loffler a copy of the email.

Chair McKamey (Deroche). Spoke to the importance of small communities.

Phil Cooper. Reminded the important part that the District of Mission plays.

Trustee Jim Taylor. Committee of the Whole meetings are open to the public.

Question: What sort of numbers do we need to feasibly open a school? Response: Depends – broadly speaking when a school hits around 75 – you ask why it's there. Around the Province, there are small schools in unique situations. It might be useful to think that each classroom, viably to run, 25 – 28 students. Building itself is designed for 200. Board's decision balances the needs of students for all of the schools in the district.

How many classrooms are in the school? Approximately eight.

Minutes



Larry Jepsen. Determining registration would define feasibility. Current class size / composition rules and new contract negotiations in 2019 will possibly impact.

Question: Did we take into account Valley Christian as well as others? Response: it was specified under "private school".

The Committee Chair thanked everyone for their presentations and notes their support for pre-registration process.

- 6. **New Business**
- 7. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
- 8. **Information Items**
- 9. **Adjournment**

**Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.
CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Rick Mckamey

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

September 12, 2017

Date

September 12, 2017

Date